Proverbs - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

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Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to Jeremiah chapter 10 and verse 23. Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. And then could we also turn to the 27th Psalm, Psalm 27? And verse 4. One thing have I desired of the Lord. 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? Remember to turn also to Proverbs chapter 1. And the seventh verse. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. By fools despise wisdom and instruction. And 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 path. 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 you now for seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts, she hath mingled her wine. She hath also furnished her table, she hath sent forth her maiden, she crieth upon the highest places of the city. Whoso is simple, let him turn in, hit her, ask 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. We 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, I thinking particularly of how important the whole. 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. 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 assemblies 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 this 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 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 and do you realize your young people that we are kings and that we are going to reign with Christ and. 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 steps 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 be 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 dead 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 had a. 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 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 ran 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 not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Some of us are a little older and 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 earnest 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 grow older, I value this precious book more and more. What God has given to us just exactly and altogether what we need for our whole pathways. It says His divine power has 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. And 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? Do 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 pathway. Well, 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 has 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. But nevertheless, there is such a thing as the fear of displeasing one who has done so much for us. Use that expression commonly ourselves when there's someone that we love very much and someone asks. 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 dread, but it's a fear that is begotten of love. Then, too, 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 waketh. His sight is never dimmed. He knows the way you take us. And I would walk with him. Aren't you afraid to choose a different path from that that has been marked up by your dearest friend? The one who knows infinitely more than I do? Or. You do Who looked 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. Isn't it good to have someone like that? Dear 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's 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. Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. For, as the new translation reads, keep your heart above everything that is guarded. We dart 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 go and like this?

Like that and let that like that we have or that love that we have. All our 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. 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, in 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. 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, 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 is that one purpose in their life, one thing of I desire. Of the Lord and not only desire at their young people seek after it day by day. Pray that prayer of the 16th Psalm preserve me, O God, for indeed 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.

And then it says that all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord. That is, what is it that will keep us? A sense of duty? Oh no, A precious Savior, one who's altogether lovely. One who 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 is the best friend. Altogether lovely. None with Him can compare. Well, 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. 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, do 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. 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 express desires. 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 I seek after that takes diligence, takes purpose of heart, 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, and how patient. He is with us. He wants to bless us, I say. Another brings us to what we've read here in this 9th chapter of Proverbs. It says Wisdom hath builded her house, he hath hewn out her seven pillars. Maybe some young people have heard me make this comment before, but perhaps. There 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 here who have. Our 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 about everything else for you. And so God has given this responsibility to parents. And may I just pause to say a word to those. To our 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 the 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 Karen's 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. 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 chapters my son keep my words and so on. But notice the 8th chapter does not. Wisdom, cry, and understanding put forth her voice. She standeth in the top of the high places. Because by the way, in the places of the paths she crieth 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 left home, they've. Gone somewhere to school and they perhaps have 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 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 of all things. Wisdom is mine sound counsel. He said he understands all the things that you're going to have to meet and now and no longer hear the voice of parent. Don't forget the voice of wisdom still cry. 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 wrong with his own soul. 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. May the Lord grant that we might follow then 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. 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 come involved in all these kind of things. Because the whole life is the background of the assembly. 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 and 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 their 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. And I 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, or rather Isaac was forced upon Rebekah. 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 that 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 of 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 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. I don't 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 and 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 of 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. He used to bring that verse before us. He that trust us in his own heart is a fool. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool. I've seen it happen. Young people will go out and they say, oh, I didn't mean anything by 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 been saved 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. Don't you say? But 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 that come from very small meetings and you say, but there aren't any that I can think of. 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. 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 sevens? 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've 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 Lord's. We had a little bit in this morning too, not just. Profession but reality. By their fruits he shall know them. Don't be satisfied. With just a little 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 it was sad to think I talked to that man many times about the Lord. He 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. And 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 can, if 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. 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. 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 glow together, what do you talk about? You talk about the Lord. Do 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. Now, 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. Now 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 will often say in connection with that verse in First 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 do you let your emotions go. That's the soul. And not until the wedding day do 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 will say you can see. A 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. 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. Right now, would I 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 to 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. They're 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, for 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 assume 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, in all that she saith unto thee, and a man being. 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 has 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 take 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 of 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 man who was I met this man, he was a missionary in China at one time and he told me that a Chinese lady 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. Why? He's a he'll be so angry because he has no use for Christianity. This was the number of years back when there wasn't as much established order as there perhaps is even now. And so this Christian man, his 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 to win your husband, I'd like to ask you a few questions. He said who gets the breakfast in your house? Or 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, do 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 are you willing? Well, she said, I guess I haven't been very cooperative. Well, he said, as 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 has happened to you. And she said, well, I can't tell you. You'll be angry if I tell you. So it went on for a few days more and she still was acting this way. And he said, he said, you have to tell me because I like you this way. And he. 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, as Mr. Becker told me, within two weeks the man was saved and got baptized. Well, this is 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. But 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 wife that's fulfilled. Place in the home, but there'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 you now her 7 pillars. And I would beseech of you. To hew 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. Direct the pillars, you can still direct 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 assembly. Praise of God because 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 a happy home. He wants to bless you and it. If He doesn't bring a partner into your life, he can bless you another way. And I say again how 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 less in marriage than having a house with 7 pillars. Take that which God has for you. He's not asking you to accept something that second rate, He wants to.

Give you the best. The best of 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.

Gospel—G.H. Hayhoe

Where there's love and light and song. I'm turning to that father. After you may now be home. From 7 still Sunland of farmers. Darling, neither. To our Father's House of planting. And the Father's welcome, Tom. Come for tiny village gathering quickly. Are the world's best pleasing day. Here you linger till the darkness. You will shortly miss your way. I still waking sadly when it is. Killed. Our damned cars has run. With his station son of a Beijing. He's lost lingers for you. Come for Angel hosts, are you saying? Are their sights so strangely sad? God. Using. To be made forever glad. From the world lasting delusion. All our voices rise as one. While we shall gossip the patient. And self reactors come. Shall we ask the Lord's blessing and prayer? Our blessed God and our Father, we look up to Thee and thank Thee for the privilege of announcing Thy wonderful love and thy way of sin. Salvation to whosoever will we thank thee for thy long-suffering patience that still waits over the world that crucified thy Son, who set away with him. We will not have this man to reign over us, but oh our God, thy heart is still full of love and grace. Thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And we pray tonight. As the gospel message is sounded out. That in my goodness, thou wilt speak to hearts and consciences, that if there are those here tonight. Who do not yet know thee is Lord and Savior, that they might be drawn to thee by those cords of love. They might see their need and that they might receive the Lord Jesus while it's still a day of Thy grace. We thank Thee for the privilege of telling out the message, and we pray that it might indeed be in simplicity and sincerity. We ask Thee for Thy help and guidance. We commend the time to Thee and give thanks in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. I'd like to read first of all two passages first in Proverbs chapter 8, Proverbs chapter 8, and verse 6. Here, for I will speak of excellent things, and the opening of my lips shall be right things. Then if you'll turn to Jeremiah chapter 12.

And verse 15. Hear ye and give ear, be not proud, for the Lord has spoken. Give glory to the Lord your God, before he caused darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains. And while he looked for light, he turned it into the shadow of death. And make it gross darkness. But if he will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride. And mine eyes shall weep sore and rundown with tears, because the Lords flock is carried away captive. Well, dear friends, tonight this is a gospel meeting and the word gospel means good news. It's the telling forth of the heart of God. It's His love to those who are still in their sins, His willingness to bless, His desire that you might be saved. That's the purpose of this meeting. And I just like, with the Lord's help, to look at different scriptures that tell us about ways that God uses in speaking. Because, you know, He desires to have our ear. He wants us to listen in order that we might be blessed. And so He has told us very many different ways how He speaks through creation, through conscience, through troubles, through all kinds of things that God uses because he wants to get your ear so that he can bless you. You know, the very first words that God spoke after sin entered this world are these. Adam, where art thou? That is, God became a seeking God. And he has been seeking man ever since. Many of us in this room rejoice that he has found us with some of us. He sought us for a long time. We wouldn't listen to His entreaties of love. But he didn't give up on us. He kept on like the shepherd. He sought the sheep until he found it. And he has different ways of speaking, dear friends. And I hope tonight that you'll hear His voice. He wants to tell you of right things. He wants to tell you of good things. He wants to bless you, you know. And sin entered this world. It became spoiled. And all around us we see the sad results of sin. One time I was in a large audience like this and I heard a brother say, supposing everybody in this room started to tell us of the troubles that they had had in life, He said what a tale of woe and sorrow it would be. It would be almost. Unbearable to listen to a few 100 people. Tell about their troubles and their sorrows. And friends, the world is full of it. This world has been spoiled by sin, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin. So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned, and all the tears and the sorrows that are here. But to me, brethren, the wonderful thing is just this, that when sin entered this world and spoiled it. God said I love my creature so much that I'm going to provide a better place than what he spoiled. I'm going to open the door of heaven and invite him there, and I'm going to provide a way that he can be there at no cost to himself. And friends, that's just the gospel. Your life has been spoiled with sin, I'm sure. I'm sure that if you alone were to tell some of the troubles and sorrows that you had had, why it wouldn't be a very pleasant thing to repeat. But all how wonderful God tonight, friend, is inviting you to a place that you can't spoil. The cost was great to Himself. He could create this world by just speaking. He spake, and it was done. He commanded and it stood fast. He only had to speak the Word, and this world came into existence. But in order to fit you or I for heaven, in order that we could be in those courts of glory where God Himself shall wipe away all tears, where there will be no more sadness, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain, His blessed Son, God's beloved Son, had to go to Calvary.

Had to take the place of the Sinner and bear the judgment of God before. He could open the door of heaven to sinners like you and I God is light and God is love. He hates sin, but He loves the Sinner. And so tonight, as I say, I just like to speak tonight about some of those instances in God's Word where we see the different ways in which He speaks. Surely they are excellent things as He tells us what He desires for you. This afternoon, our brothers spoke of the glorious future that's ahead for the believer. How wonderful to be blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies, to know that we're going to be in that home. I've sometimes thought how wonderful it'll be. I can hardly imagine it that everybody I meet in that glory and say, well, how did things go today? There will be no complaints. Everything will be perfect. No one will have any tears. However, things yesterday and how will they be tomorrow? Friends, that's the home that the Lord is inviting you to. But if you choose to go on in your sins, then instead of being your savior, he will have to be your judge. The one who tonight is saying, come unto me will another day assume another character. He'll have to take the place of being your judge. And instead of receiving you into those courts of glory, to say, depart from me. And this gospel meeting is a tremendously important thing because you know. If it was a political meeting, you might be interested in politics. If it had to do with financial matters, it might have a great interest to you. But your soul is worth more than this whole world. What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Well, here in Jeremiah the prophet says. Hear ye and give ear. Be not proud. The Lord has spoken. Are you going to be proud and harden your heart against your Maker who hath hardened his heart against him and hath prospered friends, if you harden your heart against him, as the Prophet could say here, he said, I'll just have to weep in secret places for your pride. And I see my blessed Savior when he was here upon earth with his heart full of love and grace, healing the sick, cleansing the leper. Blind eyes on his way to Calvary, and then at the end of his life, being so rejected and not wanted by those he had come to bless, he stands above that city of Jerusalem. And it says He beheld it. And he wept over it, and said, If thou even thou only have known the things that belong to thy peace, but now they are hid from mine eyes. Oh friends, the things that belong to you, if you will receive Christ, the unsearchable riches of Christ. Are you going to say no to them all? Are you going to listen to the devil's lie and reject the Savior? They often say, What have you got to lose by receiving the Lord Jesus? Your sins? Won't you be glad to get rid of them? And what will you gain? Everything that's worthwhile for time and for eternity. I've known the Lord Jesus

as my Savior for many years. And even though there have been ups and downs in life, I wouldn't trade places with anybody in this world. That doesn't know the Savior, friends, He is his friend for this world and for all eternity. Oh, if you'd only know His love. As another has said, you couldn't help but trust him if you knew him. But you don't know him, and Satan is doing his best to keep you from knowing him too. Well. I'd like to look at a few scriptures that show us the different ways. Let's turn to Romans chapter one. Verse 18. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, because that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things which are made, even his. Eternal God, power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God. Neither we're thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Well, this I perhaps could speak of as the first testimony that God gives to man, and that is the testimony of His creation.

It says in the 19th Psalm there's no speech in their language where their voice is not heard. You can go to the darkest place in Africa, or you can go to India, or you can go to South America and all have this wonderful testimony from God. He left not himself without witness that he did good, sending rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling men's hearts with food and gladness. Think of this wonderful creation. As someone else has said, God could have made your food all taste alike, but He's given. A lot of variety so that we can enjoy eating. He could have made this world all one color and it would have been drab, but he's made an endless supply of color, beautiful flowers and everything. He set the stars up above so we can look up and see them there. His mighty handiwork to declare the glory of God. And are you living in a world like this and say I'm not interested in knowing anything about my creator and you're inventing an idea that. All just flew into place without the hand of a Creator because you don't want to have to do with him. You don't want to meet him, and yet He wants to meet you. And he's seeking you, my friend. He's seeking you in love. He's seeking you to bless you, not to punish you. Indeed, He's seeking you so that you wouldn't have to be punished for your sins, but that you might be saved. And I asked you, how are you using your creation, the his creation? Are you just enjoying all those wonderful things of His creation and forgetting about the Creator and giving him no glory? You sit down and eat your food without ever giving Him thanks. You use your body as you like, and if anybody tells you you're dishonouring God in the way you use your body, you say it's none of their business. But God is the one to whom you're responsible. And if you read on in this first chapter. It tells about how men abused their bodies and dishonored them. And yet they were the handy work of God. They used their souls, their affections in all kinds of vile ways. And then they allowed their imagination to go out. And they'd rather have a philosophy, They'd rather have an idol. They'd rather have anything than the true knowledge of God. And when they did receive it, they turned their back upon it. Oh, friends, did God give up? Oh no. He's still in his wondrous grace seeks man. Seeks His blessing. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save. And that which is lost. Are you living in a world with all these wonders of God's creation and trying to find some other way than having to do with your Creator? You don't want to recognize Him, so you try to invent some way to do away with Him. Oh, I say, as it says in the 22nd chapter of Job. Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace. Thereby could shall come of it. I am glad I have become acquainted with my Creator. I know him as my father, as the one who sent his son to die for me. Oh how blessed God has made himself known. Couple of men were standing on the side of a ship looking over admiring the sunset and one said to the other, Isn't it wonderful just to look at a sunset at sea? It's so beautiful. The other one said, oh, I know something more wonderful than that. I know the person who made the sun. I know his love, I know his grace. I know Christ as my Savior. Friend, You say, well, I admire the creation, but I don't want the Creator. And he still seeks you, my friend. He still after you. He brought you to this gospel meeting tonight, perhaps so that you'd become acquainted with him, so that you would get to know him as a Savior God, one who is able to. Away your sins and fit you, so you can be in that home above that can't be spoiled by sin. For this wonderful world is one of the poets wrote, where every prospect pleases, and only man is vile. Man spoils it all, in spite of all the wonders of God's creation. Are you despising the testimony that He gives you as in creation, and just using your spirit and your soul and your body?

Exactly the way you like, with no reference to your Creator. Well, He still loves you. He still seeks you, my friend, and He wants you to be blessed. Turn over to the second chapter in the 14th verse. For when the Gentiles which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these having not the law, are a law unto themselves, which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing them with us, and their thoughts, the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another. Here we find there's another testimony from God, and that is. Conscience. Conscience. Every man, whether he's seen a Bible or not, has a conscience and knows that he has sinned. He knows that he is guilty. He may not know how guilty he is, but he still knows that he's guilty. So he invents some way of trying to save his conscience some way. Are you trying to do that? Some way of saving your conscience? Perhaps you think that religion will take care of that. But friend, it's Christ that you need. Perhaps because you have a guilt complex, you go to a psychiatrist to help get rid of that guilt complex instead of coming to the Savior and having your sins washed away in His precious blood. The devil has all kinds of excuses, you know, and whenever your mind gets troubled. The lady was invited to come to the gospel meeting, and she said no thanks. It makes me feel too guilty. All dear friends, the purpose of the gospel meeting is. So that your guilt would be gone in the blood and that you'd have peace. But she preferred to turn to somebody else to get rid of her guilt complex instead of turning to the Savior whose precious blood cleanses from all sin. Oh, how wonderful those words, friends. I hope they're precious to you. One dear old preacher who was dying, someone said to him on his death. Bad you have any doubts now? And he said I have no doubts about the value of the blood of Christ. A little boy who was a 7 years old and the doctor told his father that he was going to die. The father was quite concerned and he at last broke the news to the little boy that said that he didn't expect him to recover. And his father said but you haven't got very many sins, you're just a little boy. The little boy looked up. With a smile on his face, he said, Daddy, I have no sins. His father said, well, not very many. He said, Daddy, I have none. The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. Isn't that better than trying to get rid of your guilt complex? Isn't that better than trying to, some way or other forget your sins? It says in the Book of Job that if I try and forget my trouble, He'll plunge me into the ditch and I'll be all covered in mud. And dear friends, isn't it true that the more you try to get rid of it, the worse it seems to come until you throw up your hands? You don't need to. The Savior invites you. He gave you that conscience as a link with Him so that you'd feel what was hindering. From being blessed and that you'd come to the Savior and be pardoned and be saved. So God speaks in through conscience. He surrounds you with all the wonders of his creation, and then he speaks to you through your conscience. It's interesting that both of these have the message from God quite apart from the Bible, because I've heard people say, well, what about the heathen? What about the heathen? But God gives them those two testimonies. They have creation. They have the testimony of their conscience. And because the heart of man is so hard, you know, I remember our brother who labored down in Bolivia telling on time that when he went down to Bolivia that as far as he knew, the infant mortality rate in Bolivia was over 60%. That is, of all the babies born in Bolivia, about 60 of them died before they grew up at all just. When they were tiny babies and I thought, isn't that wonderful? If we're not sending the gospel to those people? God has his own way of taking people to heaven, right from Bolivia. There may be more people going from those heathen countries up to heaven than from enlightened America. Because you know, where we've learned to value human life. Then we grow up and come to the age of responsibility.

A baby who dies below the age of accountability goes to heaven because Jesus died. But you who are older and able to express your own will, what are you saying to Jesus? Are you saying no I won't have him or friend? How sad it is. God, in His goodness and in His grace is still doing what is right. He's blessing, He's saving. He gives a testimony to man. I say, what are you doing about His testimony? You trying to deny the facts of creation? Are you trying to quiet your conscience without the blood? Oh, don't try any longer. Come to the Savior tonight. His blood will cleanse you. And you will go out of this room with peace in your heart. Peace. It says He made peace through the blood of his cross. It says in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. Well, let's turn over to Job and we'll see other ways that God speaks. Job chapter 33. Chapter 33 Verse. Verse nine. I am clean without transgression. I am innocent, neither is there iniquity in me. Behold, he findeth occasions against me. He counteth me for his enemy. He putteth my feet in the stocks, He marketeth all my paths. Behold, in this thou art not just. I will answer thee that God is greater than man. Why dost thou strive against him? For he giveth not account. Of any of his matters, how many people you've heard say, what have I done? What did I do to deserve this? Why did this happen to me? Well, what they're really saying is I'm not a Sinner. I didn't deserve any punishment from God. But God has a record. Every idle word that man shall speak, he shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding. Evil and the good, that darkness and the light are both alike to him. And the psalmist said, Thou hast set my secret sins in the light of thy countenance. You can't hide anything from God. Are you striving against Him? Why do you strive against him? He wants to bless you. He wants to save you. Saul of Tarsus was kicking against the ******. In his grace was following him. He kept the clothes of those who stoned Stephen. But God didn't give up. And he kept on until finally that light above the brightness of the sun shone down upon him and told him that he was just kicking against the ****** of his conscience, fighting against God. But God was seeking his blessing, and he found the Lord, or the Lord found him. Oh, what a moment that was. Yes. And so I beseech you tonight to not take that attitude towards your Creator. He wants to bless you, He wants to save you. He doesn't want to be your judge, He wants to be your Savior. So notice what it says here, the 14th verse. For God speaketh once, yeah, twice. Yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night when deep sleep falleth upon men in slum rings upon the bed, Then he opened the ears of men. And sealeth their instruction that he may withdraw man from his purpose. And hide pride from man. Well, here's another way God often speaks. He often speaks through dreams. I've met quite a number of people. I've met boys and girls that have said no, I was saved because one night I had a dream and I thought the Lord had come and left me behind. My Sunday school teacher, when I was a boy, told me that that was how he got saved himself. He said he had a dream, he thought he was left behind, that he opened his Bible. And read that verse in Proverbs one, because I have called and ye have refused. I stretch forth my hand, and no man regarded. I also will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your fear cometh. And he really shook. And the Lord used it to bring him to himself. Oh, you say they've done a lot of research on dreams. Yeah. The devil doesn't want you to hear the voice of God. He's going to do everything he can. If you look at creation, he'll try and deny that.

If your conscience bothers you, he will have some other way of trying quiet your conscience other than the blood. If you have a dream that God speaks to you, he'll do his best to try and get you reading something. A little research on dreams and everything to try to do away and hinder you from hearing the voice of God. Isn't that a very gentle way? I always enjoy this chapter because it talks about other things that God what uses. To us. But the first one is something so gentle. A dream may not be pleasant, but at least it's not painful. I've had bad dreams and then wakened up to find they're not true. And how glad I was. And so a dream is a warning, friends from God. And so I ask you tonight if God has spoken to you, Perhaps some of you boys. Perhaps some of you girls, perhaps you. I know another man. He's now with the Lord in glory. And he had a dream that he attended his own funeral. And he said, I knew I wasn't ready, but he said I was terrified when I thought, here I am. It's not my friend that's died, it's me. And they're carrying me down to bury me. He woke up, found, thank God it wasn't true, but he turned to the Lord. Put his trust in the Lord Jesus. Friends, God speaks in different ways. He said, Adam, where art thou? Jesus said, come unto me. He says here, for I will speak of excellent things he said here, and don't be proud because I it's the Lord that's speaking and I ask you, are you hearing his voice? Well, you say, I don't know whether I heard his voice in the dream. Listen to what it goes on to say. In the 17th verse, that he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. You know what is man's purpose? Usually just to go on in life his own way. All we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Yes, the natural purpose of man. Children would just love it if parents would just let them do what they liked, but you know, that would be the worst thing possible to lead them to do just what they like. I'm glad the Lord didn't leave me to do just what I like because I would have just gone on down the Broad Rd. I'm glad he arrested me. And perhaps somebody here tonight will say, like I heard a young man say at a gospel meeting some years ago, he said to the friend who brought him he. Glad you dragged me to this meeting. He didn't want to come, but he heard the voice of God and he got saved. And perhaps the Lord has brought you here for a purpose of blessing too, that he may withdraw man from his purpose and hide pride. Are you so proud that you won't hear the voice of God? You're afraid to let a friend see you? Shed a tear. Friend, I want to tell you this. You die in your sins. Your friends will see your tears. In hell there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. And it won't come to an end either in that awful place. I hope you won't be there. And God doesn't want you to be there. That's why he's speaking to you tonight. He doesn't want you to go on in pride. He doesn't want you to go on in your own way. And it says in the 18th verse. He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. Seems to me that that refers how. God often brings you into perhaps a very serious accident and then spares your life. Perhaps I'm talking to someone here and you were just a moment, just a moment between you and death. You were in an accident and when they came to. See what had happened? They just marvelled that you were alive and God spared your life because He wanted to give you another opportunity. Are you going to be indifferent to? It was a man that I knew and he had a little testament that he showed me. He had it in his tunic pocket in the war and he pulled out this when I was visiting in his home. He had he was at home and he pulled out his drawer and he said, I want to show you something. And he had this testament and he said that was right in my tuna pocket, right over my heart, he said.

See that bullet mark? He said. That testament saved my life. I looked at it and the bullet went right through right to the 22nd chapter of Revelation and staff to the verse. Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely, I said, Mr. Burnett, and are you saved? He said no, No. God saved his life, but he rejected the Savior and as far as I know he went on that way. My dear friend, maybe you've had a narrow escape. God has kept you from perishing with a sword. God has saved you from going into a lost eternity. And you, maybe you're still going on, indifferent and careless, just saying to your friends, oh, it was just my good luck. That I didn't get killed in that accident. It wasn't good luck, friend. It was the goodness of God, the goodness of God that spared your life so that you'd have another opportunity perhaps. So you'd be in this gospel meeting tonight and open your heart and receive the Lord Jesus and then you will thank him. You will thank him that he spared your life and gave you this opportunity. So here he speaks through dreams. People don't listen. He speaks a little louder. They're in a serious accident, close to death. Their life is saved. And do they hear his voice? God speaketh once, yay twice. Yet man perceiveth it not. He says, oh it was just luck, just that I it wasn't my time to go all friend. It was the voice of God. The Lorde voice crieth unto the city. The man of wisdom shall see thy name, hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it? He speaks through sickness. Notice the 19th verse. He has chastened also

with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain, so that his life abhorreth bread, and his soul dainty meat. His flesh is consumed the way that it cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out. Yeah, his soul draws near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers. God speaks through sickness. Just before I left to come on this trip, I had the pleasure of going to the hospital and visiting a man who don't even say for three months. He was apparently in good health and his wife enjoying what men would say, a good time as far as this world is concerned, living in his sins. And then he got an incurable disease. He went to the doctor and the doctor told him, I'm afraid we can perhaps delay things a little bit, but I'm afraid that we can't spare your life. He knew it was the death sentence, so to speak, and he knew he wasn't ready. And God, in his goodness and mercy, spoke to his soul, and he was brought to know the Lord Jesus. It was a happy experience to visit him. He was glad that that sorrow had come in his life. God didn't want to have to speak to him that way, but he had spurned everything else. And at last God brings him right as it tells us here, right down to the point where he knew that his life was having a way. And he had. Opened his heart and heard the voice of the Savior put his trust in him. His wife was sitting there. She'd been brought to the Lord through too. And I'm sure that when I meet that man in glory, because I am going to meet him in glory, He's going to say Gordon. I'm so glad that the Lord put his hand upon me. I wouldn't listen in any other way, but He brought me to Himself. I talked to a man some years ago down in Kentucky. Sitting in a wheelchair with a broken back. And this was his comment to me. He said God had to break my back to save my soul. And there he sat in that wheelchair singing the Lord's praises like someone wrote a little poem. A shattered wreck of my enjoying now a chair to sit and sing the whole day long to him who placed me there. Content a shattered wreck to be, because my God it pleased with thee. Going to wait and reject him until he has to speak louder and louder.

He speaks in creation all the wonderful things, the good things that he gives you. He gives you a conscience and you try to dull your conscience or sear it. He speaks you in a dream and you say, well, I have to do some research about that. So then he scares your life and you say, oh, that was my good luck. And then you get sick. Are you still going to refuse his loving voice? He is still going to say no to the Savior. Notice what it says here in this 23rd verse. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one another thousand, to show unto his, unto man his uprightness, then He is gracious unto Him, and Seth deliver him from going down to the pit. I have found a ransom. His flesh will be fresher than the child's. He shall return to the days of his youth. He will shall pray unto God, and he will be favorable unto him, and he shall see his face with joy, for he will render unto man his righteousness. He looketh upon man. And if any say, I have sinned and perverted that which is right, and it profiteth me not, he will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light. Lo, all these things worketh God, oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living. Well, here's the other way. God has a messenger, a messenger. And what does this messenger say? Turn over a new leaf and try and do better. Keep your chin up and don't feel too down. Oh no, the true messenger doesn't do that. The true messenger tells the person to be upright, to tell God just what he is. So not to say I'm going to turn over a new life because a new leaf, because turning over a new leaf will never remove the past. It says, you know, God requires that which is past. A man 80 years old told me, he said when I was young I lived a sinful, wicked life. But I think I've lived a pretty good life for quite a few years. Do you think God will forget the past? Said no, not unless it's under the blood. Not unless it's under the blood. Oh no, my friend, it's no use. And I wouldn't be a faithful messenger if I stood here and said. Just turn over a new leaf and live better and join a church and do some good deeds. It'll help outweigh the bad ones on all friends. What is the upright thing for you to do to look up to God and acknowledge what you really are? Tell Him that you have sinned. That's what God is listening for. Two men went up into the temple to pray. The one man told God what a good man he was, that he was better than most of his fellow men. And nothing happened because God knew all about him. But the other man says he wouldn't lift up his eyes to heaven. He just smiled on his breast and said, God, be merciful to me. A Sinner friend, will you take your place as a Sinner tonight? Will you just acknowledge that you're what God says you are, a Sinner, a lost Sinner, and your road to a lost eternity to be banished from his presence? Oh, you say, I don't like that. I don't like to. I think I'm not as bad as other people, but friends, why compare yourself with other people? It says they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise. Be just comparing yourself with another. What good would it be for two men in jail to compare themselves one with the other? They're both there bearing the penalty of their crime. No use comparing themselves with the other man and friend. There's no use doing that. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We just acknowledge this to God. He's listening to hear you say this tonight. Have you ever said it? King Saul said it to David one time. He said it to Samuel one time, but he never said it to the Lord. And maybe you say, well, I know I've told other people. I know I'm not perfect. Friends, have you ever got into the presence of God and told God that? Sinner, you are a lost Sinner on your road to hell. Have you taken that place, friends? That's what repentance is. That's what repentance is. Do you know what repentance means? Repentance is a change of mind. And I want to tell you this, that you've got wrong thoughts about two things. You've got wrong thoughts about God and you've got wrong thoughts about yourself. If you're not saved, you don't know how much God loves you, and you don't know how holy He is if you're not saved.

And you think you're not as bad as God says you are until you believe what he says? And repentance is that someone has said to take sides with God against yourself, to acknowledge that what God says about you is true. When you go to the doctor, you know the doctor can diagnose your condition. You go to him because he knows more than you. And I went to God and he knew more than I did because I've forgotten some of my sins, but God hasn't until I accepted the Lord Jesus, and then he could say. There are sins and iniquities. Will I remember no more? Dear brother used to say the work of Calvary has affected the memory of God. What a grand thing it is to know that God can blot out your sins and put them all away in that precious blood. Well, the messenger tells him that it says. The Lord says I have found a ransom. Friends, you don't have to find a ransom. God found it. You know who it was, was his own son says in Timothy he gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time. The Lord Jesus came down and you say, well I'm going to try and do the best I can, but God rendered to me his righteousness. My own, the brother said. My own was only filthy rags. But God rendered to me his righteousness, and listen to this lovely verse. He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. If you will take your place as a Sinner, God will place you in Christ, and Christ himself will be your righteousness. Then you can say, as it says in the Epistle of John, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment. Because as he is, so are we in this world. And so you can know that. You can know that blessed assurance for yourself. And so it says. All these things worketh God, oftentimes with man friends. I'm nothing myself but a Sinner saved by grace. God speaks, as it says, in different ways. I have the privilege to be a messenger for him to bring his message to you and to tell you. That he loves you, that he has found the ransom that your soul needs, says he gave himself a ransom for all that precious Savior was a ransom. He paid the price and he paid it in full. And now when you come to the Savior, will you receive him? Well, let's turn over to Hebrews chapter one and. Hebrews chapter one. First, one God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time passed under the fathers by the prophets. Have in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the world's, Who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His Person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins. Sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high. Well, as I said, friends, I'm just a poor messenger at best. But God spoke by his Son. The Son of God came down into this world, that one who always did his Father's will and walked through this

world perfectly. And all his heart was so full of kindness that he healed a second. He cleansed the lepers, and he opened the blind eyes. And then he went to Calvary, and by himself purged our sins. Oh, there's none less than God's beloved Son who could meet the claims of a holy God and become your Savior and mine. Oh, friend, I ask you, God is speaking to you tonight through his son. I'm just a poor, feeble messenger, but God's Son came into this world. The manager in the place where I used to work. And tried to say a little feeble testimony to him about the Lord. He said, you know, I'm interested in what's going on in the world today. I'm not interested in what happened 2000 years ago. I said 2000 years ago the creator of this world came down, walked through this world. That was the most important time of its history. And friend, that Savior went to Calvary.

By himself purged our sins. Oh, surely God has accepted the work that He has done. If I tried to do it, it would be imperfect because I'm an imperfect person. But my salvation was accomplished by God's own Son, and he died for our sins. He was buried, He rose again. He's at the right hand of God. And as I stand here talking to you, there's a living Savior, and it says Christ died for our sins. He was buried, He rose. The third day, and there he is. God has exalted him to his right hand, as the Scripture says, to be a Prince and a savior. He wants to be your savior tonight. He wants to be your savior. God spoke through the prophets. He speaks through poor creatures like me, but he spoke by his Son. You look at me and you say, Oh yes, I know preachers and they're not perfect. That's true. But I'm not trying to sell myself to you or present myself to you. One time in the DL, Moody was walking along the street and there was a man and he was drunk by the side of the street and someone said, Moody, there's one of your converts. He said he looks like one of my converts. Dear friends, when God saves a man, he saves his soul. He's able to save and he's able to keep what a Savior he is. Yes, we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord and ourselves. Your servants, for Jesus sake. Well then it tells us too in John chapter 16. John chapter 16. In the seventh verse, nevertheless, I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away, right? If I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you, and when he has come, he will reprove the world of sin. And of righteousness and of judgment of sin because they believe not on me. Of righteousness because I go to my Father and you see me no more. Of judgment, because the Prince of this world is judged. And the Lord Jesus had accomplished redemption. He went back to glory. He seated at the right hand of God, and he sent down the Holy Spirit. And for those of us who are believers, he sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts. He's our comforter. He abides with us forever. He'll never leave one of his own. But to the world, He's something else. He's a reprover. A teacher asked her girl and son of the girls in the Sunday school class to read. This chapter and I asked them what they had learned about the Holy Spirit. One of them who was not a believer. He said he's not a comforter to me. He reproves me and friend. Perhaps the Spirit of God is speaking to your heart tonight. The scripture says my spirit shall not always strive with man. And if tonight. He's catching a hold of your coat sleeve, as it were, and saying, won't you come? If you feel inside that the Spirit of God is stirring a feeling, are you going to? Spurn those strivings of the Spirit of God as he speaks to you of righteousness and of sin and of judgment to come, and you say I won't listen. I won't listen. Oh, I plead with you tonight. While the Spirit strives, yield and take your place at the side of the Savior. He may not always strive with you, He may not always. I heard a man, his wife told me that after the gospel meeting, he made this comment to to his wife who was a believer. He said he almost got me tonight and yet he went out unsaved old friends, I plead with you, don't go out of this room refusing all these different ways that God speaks. He loves your soul. He couldn't do more to win your heart than he has already done. He couldn't have done more to meet your need than He has already done. Because let me say it again, the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. And tonight you can come. Tonight you can know Him in a new way. Know the Spirit of God, not just as a reprover who makes you uneasy about your sins.

But who sheds abroad? The love of God in your heart fills you with gladness and rejoicing. That you can sing like the young people do. You ask me why I'm happy and I'll just tell you why. Because my sins are gone. Oh friend, are you going to say no to the Savior? Perhaps in some way we've learned tonight the different ways that God speaks. And yet how many are still refusing God, beseeching man, refusing to be made forever glad? The last chapter in the Bible, God couldn't close his word without saying. And not him, not hear us say come, let him. That is a first come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely, God couldn't close his word without giving a last invitation. Oh, what wonderful grace, my friend. But I, I must say that if you refuse all these ways that he speaks, the very one who tonight is saying, come, who's putting, as it were, his arm upon you and saying, won't you come? We'll have to say that the Great White Throne. Or in that awful day of judgment, depart from me. He cursed into everlasting fire. You're making a choice tonight, my friend. You may say, well, I'm not. I'll think it over. But you are making a choice. You're either an acceptor or a neglector or a rejector. A friend. Which is it going to be with you? I remember talking to some children. School a good many years ago and I spoke about those 3 verses. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Now is the accepted time. Behold, now is the day of salvation. He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him. So I said, everybody here is either an acceptor, or a rejector, or a neglector. And I was glad when one girl raised her hand and she said I'll be an acceptor. I hadn't met that girl for many years and just a very short time ago I met her and I was so glad to find it was real. She had truly received the Lord Jesus as her Savior that night in the little hobby class. Oh friend, will you be an acceptor tonight? God is going to record your answer inherits judgment, Hall, it was said. What shall I then do with Jesus, which is called Christ and God records the answer. I hope your answer will be I'll take him tonight as my Savior.

Calgary Conference: 1994, Where There Is No Vision

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to Proverbs chapter 29. And verse 18 where there is no vision, the people perish. Mr. Darby translates it, cast off restraint, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. We find in the Scripture that the Spirit of Prophecy came in as soon as there was a breakdown in man, and God always pointed on as soon as sin entered. He made the promise of the coming seed. Over and over again we see in Israel's history, as things broke down, God pointed on to a time when He could bless them without any hindrance. And that's what he delights to do for our hearts, brethren. He would have us to be looking beyond. What we see now may often grieve us and perplex us. I was just reading a little bit in Habakkuk and noticing how he was so discouraged. He couldn't understand why God was allowing things to go on when he was so holy. How could he allow those kind of things to go on? And then when he got into the Lord's presence, he says, I'll stand on my watchtower and see what? Lord has to say to me when I'm reproved. And he was the answer the Lord gave to him. The judge shall live by his faith. The judge shall live by faith. If we didn't know that God was going to set everything right in his own time and way, every one of us would be discouraged. We'd be just like the men of the world. It says men's hearts failing them for fear and looking after those things that are coming. And the men of the world don't have they looking for some great man to do it. And there will be a man who will arise called the beast,

and he will give them a certain measure of confidence that. In disappointment and in the judgment of God. But, brethren, you and I have laid our hands upon one, laid our eyes upon one, our hearts by faith, upon one who's mighty, who not only tells us what is going to take place, but is able. That which He has promised, he is able also to perform. And so how blessed this is for us. And I say this for each one of us, young and old, perhaps particularly for those who are young, because. I'm sure that everyone of the young people feels sort of disappointed as they look out and see the prospects in this world and sometimes see our own weakness too, as those who seek to go on in the path God has marked out. But there's one that I would like to, by the Lord's health, fasten your eyes upon who never fails. Who is a friend that sticks closer than a brother? A friend. And I always love that verse in the, I think it's the 62nd Psalm. It says trust in him at all the times. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. There are few people you can pour out your harps. You feel they wouldn't understand and if they didn't understand, they might not be true to you, but there's a person that you can pour out your heart to. There's a person you can talk to who understands. Perfectly and not only understands perfectly, but he has all power. And one has enjoyed that passage in First Peter chapter 5, it says, casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. And perhaps you've had the experience like I have. You come to the Lord with a care, you want to cast it on him, but you seem to carry it away again. You can't seem to leave it there. And I suppose perhaps you, like all of us, we wonder why this is. We really wanted to leave it there, but we couldn't, and it seemed that we carried it away. And I'd just like to turn over and look at that passage, and perhaps it'll help us to see the impact of that portion first. Peter 1, chapter 5. And I'd like to read the verse before as well as after, because the first before is part of the sentence. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. This is not a new sentence, casting all your care upon him, or he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, has a roaring lion. Walketh about seeking whom he may devour, whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Perhaps you say, well, Brother Gordon, why did you read that verse before? Well, first of all, because it's part of the sentence. And I believe, brethren, if I might put it in this way, I think it solves the difficulty. I think it solves the difficulty when you and I come with a care to the Lord. Sometimes the reason we can't take the care, leave the care there is because we haven't submitted to His hand. We haven't submitted to His hand. And sometimes I've had to say to myself.

When I came with a care and found it difficult to leave with the Lord, I said to myself, Now supposing the Lord came to you, Gordon, and he said I could remove that problem. I could make it just the way you'd like it to be. But it isn't my will for you. It isn't my will for you. Would I say, well, please, Lord, make it the way I would like it. It would solve a lot of problems if you just make it the way I'd like it to be. Or what I say, Lord help me to accept it from my hand. Then you can leave it there. Not till then I found it. I couldn't leave it there until I first humbled myself under His mighty hand. Submitted. The Lord has allowed that circumstance. He has all power in heaven and in earth. He could have prevented it, but He allowed it. And He allowed it because He saw that I needed it, and that it might be to His praise and glory that I might profit by it, by what He has allowed. And then it says here that we have somebody who's working. From the other side, your adversary, the devil, the devil was the first thing the enemy does is always raise a question as to the goodness of God. He started that in the Garden of Eden. As soon as. Adam was given the command of Eve not to eat of that tree. Then he tried to make them think that God was withholding something good from them. He that he was holding back the best thing in the garden, and that it only reach out for what was forbidden, they would find something that would satisfy. They listened to the enemy instead of to the Lord. They reached out. Well, what did it do? Did it bring happiness into their lives? No sorrow. Sorrow had brought into their lives. And it's had its effect on the whole human race. And I'm afraid it's because we all are tending to do the same thing and think that we're going to get something good by reaching out our hands for our own wills. Mr. Darby once said. How often does one forbidden thing hide from our view? 1000 blessings we read out. Reach out for something that God has forbidden, thinking we're going to gain something by it. But oh brethren, and you'll understand. I'm talking to myself as well as to you. We find it hard to humble ourselves under His mighty hand when we can't understand. But God's ways are past finding out. Where no vision is the people perish if we don't look beyond what we see. Is an obstacle or a hindrance and see that as we just mentioned in the previous meeting in the coming day, the whole 4 and 20 elders are going to say Amen to all God's ways. They're not growing to not one of us. When our lives pass into review. I'm going to say Lord, if that just had been different. Now we're going to see the wisdom of his ways, the failure of our own, but the wisdom of his ways. In all that he has allowed to take place. In our lives, and I believe that when by grace we seek to learn this lesson, why then there can be that joy and happiness as we look on. Because, brethren, what's ahead of us is so glorious, so bright for all eternity. Men of the world don't have this hope. I was just mentioning to a brother, we once took a motel out in British Columbia and we get up in the morning and we started to move on. To where we're going to visit the dear Saints. And as we moved on, we saw a sign in front of another motel nearby. This is what it said. Have a good day. Don't turn on the news. Have a good day. Don't turn on the news. The news of this world is disappointing. It's grieving. And the dwell might be too, because there's trouble ahead. But you and I can turn on the news from heaven, brethren, and we'll have a good day if we do, for an old vision is the people perish. You and I can wake up in the morning. This may be the day when the Lord will come. This may be the day to the answer to all my problems and is not going to be that I get the answer and then the next day is going to be a difficulty because that's the way life often is, but not self. In my presence is fullness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore. God shall wipe away all tears from off of all faces. But we're still living in this world, and there are still difficulties. It was on my heart just to look a little bit at what we have in the Book of Revelation, because John was given a view of future events. I just also like to turn before we do to second Peter. Second Peter chapter 1.

Verse 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made no unto. The power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His Majesty, For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven, we heard when we were with Him in the Holy Mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy, or the prophetic word made sure. For unto ye do well, that ye take heed is unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until a day dawn, and the day star or the morning star arise in your hearts. Paul was right, at least. Peter rather was writing to the remnant, the scattered people of God, of the nation of Israel. And they saw all their national hopes dashed. Because they saw that they were not going to. The Lord wasn't going to establish the Kingdom then, and I'm sure many of them were disappointed. But he said the Kingdom is going to come. Yes, the Kingdom is going to come. God is not slack concerning His promises. God is going to fulfill all the promises. And he said prophecy is a light that shines in a dark place. It's just like as if some event that you've been looking for, somebody says to you. You're looking in vain. That's never going to happen. And somebody says, oh sure, I know what's going to happen. I saw a preview of it. I saw a preview when they were on the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw a preview of the coming glory. And Peter said, he said that makes it all sure to us. We know. But he said we have to go through as it were. A dark tunnel now, but there's a light that shines at the end of the tunnel. It's a it's a blessed thing that the day of course, is for Israel and God is going to fulfill his promised blessing to this earth. The desert is going to blossom as the Rose. But as we've had very specially in these meetings, your hope and mine is not that this world in the setting of things right in this world. We're going to see it, but we're going to see it from heaven because before those awful judgments that come as a prelude to the setting up of the Kingdom. He's going to give the shout and take. Home and that's why he says here

until the day dawn prophecy is to tell us what's going to happen in this world until the day that is, until the time the day of blessing comes for this world. But the morning star comes before the day. And so he says as we look out on this world, we have the lamp of prophecy. It shines in this Dark World. We see what's happening in Europe. We see what's happening in the Middle East. We see these things and. Men of the world, their hearts fail them for fear they can't see a solution to the problems. But you and I, we have a light that shines in this dark place. God has told us. He's brought us into his secrets and told us what is coming. And prophecy is a light that shines in a dark place. And what does it do? Are we waiting for the dawning of the day? Well, not first of all. It says the morning Star, arise in your hearts and brethren, if we go away from. This meeting encouraged and with a morning star arising in our hearts, the hope of the Lord's coming as the only answer to all that's coming, then we will be encouraged. We will be. We won't cast self restraint. We won't say, oh, that's no use. No, you're trying in that little gathering where I am to go on. There's something left and there's so many disappointing things. No, we're going to say, Oh well, it's just for a little while. The Lord's coming. And when he comes, everything's going to be set right, and I'm going to see all those brown again, and they're all going to be just like Christ. And that's what gives us hope. That's what encourages us. But in the meantime, that we might value the precious privilege that we have of keeping his word and not denying his name. And so here Peter is talking about this. Well, I'd like to turn on to the prophetic book and to Revelation. And the first chapter. Perhaps you'll begin at the fourth verse. John To the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace be unto you in peace. From him which is, and which was, and which is to come, and from the seven spirits which are before his throne, And from Jesus Christ to his the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth, unto him that loves us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God.

Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Now John is given a view in these chapters 2 and three of the church as a Candlestick. But before he's given that view, he is given to think of the Blessed One, the Lord Jesus. And it's beautiful to see the contrast that is brought out here in these things. He says in the. Fourth Verse Grace be unto you in peace. What is often commented that the measure in which we enjoy peace is the measure in which we enjoy grace. And that is, there are many sinners and when they come to the Lord, they still cling somewhat to their feelings and things like that. And they don't have settled peace. They don't see in the work of Christ that God has been fully satisfied and glorified. And they thinking of something in themselves. Did they make the right kind of a commitment? Not that we do have to, but I mean, that's where the what is in the mind of many people. Do they have enough faith? They're looking in. But it's all of grace present. It's all of grace. The work was finished by the Lord Jesus and I don't have anything to do. It doesn't depend on my feelings, it doesn't depend on my attitude. It depends upon whether I take God at His Word. As we saying God is satisfied with Jesus, I am satisfied as well. And you will never have that peace of salvation until you give up looking in your feelings and thinking of any worthiness or fitness of yourself, or whether you have made the right kind of a committal or what, until you see that it all depends upon the grace of God that has brought salvation through the finish, the glorious work of the Lord Jesus. And so in the situations of life. Very often our piece is disturbed because why does this happen to me? Why would they make an expression like that? Why does this happen to me? Because I thought I was a little better than that. That should have happened to me. It might have happened to somebody else, but why should it happen to me? Oh, you see, we're looking in a little bit himself. Every good thing that God bestows, not only salvation, but everything in our lives, everything that we're going to enjoy for all eternity is totally undeserved. And if he allows things in our lives, it isn't it isn't that he doesn't isn't dealing with us in grace. He wants us to appreciate his grace to know that it's all of grace. And I say. Measure in which we see that every blessing that we're going to enjoy. For time and eternity is undeserved. Founded upon the work of Christ. And so he says, Grace unto you in peace. And this was to the seven churches. We'll see how everything broke down as to the Candlestick that they should have been in the earth, but Grace is going to bring every true believer safely home. But now I just like to notice here from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, because the Church has failed as a faithful witness in the earth. So instead of looking at the church and its failure, isn't it lovely to see the faithful witness? The one who is faithful, God is faithful. By whom you're called under the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ. Our Lord God is faithful. So the church has failed, but the Lord Jesus is the faithful witness. Let's have our eyes upon Him. He's the first begotten from the dead. Death came in through sin, but the Lord Jesus triumphed over death. He's the first begotten from the dead. Everything committed to man and responsibility. The kings of the Earth government that's been committed to man, it's all failed. But there's one who's the Prince, who's King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He's going to take everything in hand and set everything right when he comes out of heaven written upon him. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So and then it says, and I think this is so beautiful unto him that loved us or loves us, brethren, He's not only. Paid for our sins, shed his precious blood, brought us into this place of blessing, but he loves us, he loves us. A person might turn around and pay some debt that I couldn't pay, but that wouldn't be an assurance that he loved me. Bless the Lord Jesus loves us and how long I've loved thee with an everlasting love. For no vision is the people perish. If you're looking at the kings of the earth and expecting a new government to make things better, you may be.

Disappointed. But if you think of the one who is going to set everything right and all government has been committed to him, then you won't be disappointed. You'll be encouraged as you say, well, when he's comes, he'll set everything right. You see the church failing as a Candlestick who say, well, there's one faithful witness. I want to have my eyes upon him. How blessed this is. And so he says unto him that loves us and washed us from our sins in his own blood. Oh, what a cough. Let's never forget what it cost the Lord to bring us into this place of blessing. And has made us kings. That is when he takes the Kingdom, we're going to reign with him. We're going to reign with him. What a place people try to get involved in setting things right in this world. You and I are going to reign in the first righteous government. The world has never had righteous government. It's failed at every time. But you and I are going to reign in the first righteous government. Isn't it worth waiting for? Yes, he's made us kings and priests access into. His presence access into His presence in Israel only the high priest once a year could go inside the veil. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way. So before this Book of Revelation, with all its warnings of coming judgment, the failure of the Church, He gives him to see our own portion, the unsearchable riches of Christ, how blessed we are in him. And then we see the record of the seven churches here. And you know, to me this is a very solemn thing when we see what what happens when things are committed to us in responsibility. But it is encouraging brethren to see that in each one there is what the Spirit of God speaks of as the overcomer, the overcomer. What does it mean to be an overcomer? Well, I look at it very simply. You can go under the condition. Things or you can get above the condition. Are you under the condition? Am I under the condition of things in the assembly where I am? Am I under the condition of things in my home or something like that? Well, God wants me to be overcomer to be able to go up. I think that's why it says in Havok about He maketh my feet like Hind's feet. If you read that at the end of the prophet Habakkuk it says. Though there is no herd in the stall, there is no figs on the vine and the. Tree and there's no grapes on the vine, he says yet will I rejoice the beer. You don't have to open the gate for the deer. It's got a loft spring to just spring right up and go over the problem and ask what the Lord would have us to be overcomers. Thing was made not always improve. We see it's a downward grade in most of these assemblies only when God intervenes in grace as he does. He he brought about a recovery and his wondrous match. Spiritualist grace and just like he did in Israel and brought some back to his center at Jerusalem and I believe he gratitude recovery when the blessed

truth that we have enjoyed in some measure here today was recovered for the Saints of God and we were brought in. But how has and what has happened? Have we continued in the blessed enjoyment of that we have to hang our heads and say no we failed, but can we be overcomers in spite of. What we see in Christendom and among ourselves, yes, the Lord Jesus is the one who is the same yesterday and today and forever. His word doesn't change. He still provided the path for faith. We can hold fast. We can keep His word. We can be kept from denying, not denying His name. And so how precious this as we go through here, we see, if I can put it this way, John being shown how he can look out on the breakdown of the church as a testimony in the world. He can see everything go to pieces in the world and he's still an overcomer. Why all he's learned and all the one who's the Prince of the kings of the earth, he's learned to know the one who is going to set everything right and best of all. Knows that he's been washed in his blood and he's going to have part when the Lord Jesus takes that rightful place. And so we see this brought out and each one of the assemblies there's an encouragement given. And so you might say, well, brother Gordon, you don't know what the condition of things in the assembly where I come from, but you can be an overcomer. You can see grace from the Lord to go on.

And walk in that path of keeping his word and not denying his name. And then before he has any view of the judgment that's coming on the world, he sees this blessed fact. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. But. Isn't it beautiful here after reading the last church here, how they had become rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing and the Lord had to warn them that he was on the outside knocking and that he was going to have to spew them out of his mouth Immediately the door opens in heaven and what does he see? All the redeemed up there. In the glory the door was opened in heaven, and he sees the Lord. Jesus as the one who is going to take his rightful place. He first sees the Lord Jesus, who as the one who has rights, as the creator, the redeemed. You're acclaiming him as that one who created all things and for his pleasure. They were, are and were created a lot of movement in this world to try and save the earth, protect the environment. They're trying to do it without the Creator. He's gonna set everything right. The desert's gonna blossom as a rose, and they won't need it All man's efforts to do it when the Lord Jesus takes his rightful place, we, we can leave those things. We're identified with the one who's going to set everything. I'm not saying that we should be careless in connection with the earth as God has given it to us, but I mean, we don't have to get involved in all this, this problem that's facing man. How blessed to know. I don't expect that all the movements they make are going to protect this earth. No, brethren, there's one who is. Thou hast made all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. God is going to find his pleasure in the creation and a people. You know, it's nice to read a little bit about that millennial scene when God will find his pleasure and it says they won't bring forth for trouble. That's a nice little word for parents, isn't it? No. Is the day coming for this earth when parents won't bring forth for trouble? Sometimes parents have children and have a lot of trouble, but in the Millennium it says they won't bring forth for trouble. It shall not hurt nor destroy. The streets will be full of boys and girls playing in the streets, and there won't be any accidents. Oh, what a what a day is coming. Who's going to do it, man? By all his power? No, we know the one who's going to do it, brethren. Let's lift up our heads. Our redemption draws nigh. Let's be a rejoicing people looking to the one and the only one who can do it. Of course I'm not saying that we don't try and fit in as best we can with. Being careful for the world that God has made. But I mean, we don't join. They expect that man is going to do it. We look beyond all that. We see the one who's going to do it. And so this 4th chapter shows his rights as creator. He's going to take them. He's going to take his rights as creator and he, and he only is going to set things right in this troubled world. Then in the 5th chapter, we see his rights as Redeemer. And oh, how blessed this is. I'm going to be there. You're going to be there. To join in that song thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue. And people and nation won't have to look around and see the failure of the failure in Thyatira and the failure in TARDIS and so on. Now we'll see all the redeemed there, the Old Testament Saints and the New Testament Saints. All recognizing the Lord Jesus as the. One who is the Redeemer and who's going to bring about for us eternal blessing. And as I was mentioning, and I just mentioned it again, we're going to look back on our ways here and see that all His ways were perfect and wisdom and in love. Well, does that give us peace as we look on to the future. It's the light that shines in the dark place until the day, dawn in the morning. Arises in our hearts. I don't need to go over the intervening chapters because they bring before us how God is going to bring judgment. I'd just like to mention one thing that I especially enjoyed in the end of the 11TH chapter. I read from the 15th verse and the 7th Angel sounded and there were great voices in heaven saying the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And the four and 20 elders which sat before God.

On there's on their seats fell upon their faces, and worshiped God, saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and was an art to come, because I was taken to thee, thy great power, and were hast reigned. And the nations were angry, And thy wrath is come the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants, the prophets, and to the Saints, and to them that fear thy name small and great, and shouldest destroy them, which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of His testament, and there were lightnings and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. The time has come. The Lord Jesus is about the Kingdom. Of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever time has come 4 and 20 elders fall in their faces and rejoice and give him the glory that's due to him. I think this is so beautiful. But what I especially wanted to notice the nations. They were offended about this interference. They they were looking to the beast and the Antichrist. They thought that they could set things right and they could. Improve this world and they're angry because the Lord is stepping in. But what I want to notice was particularly this 19th verse. And the temple of God was opened in heaven and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament. To me, brethren, this is so touching. Time has come that God is going to act in the character. He doesn't want to act in the character of the judge. And So what does God let this world see? There was the mercy. See, there was the blood. He is the propitiation for our sins, but not only for our sins, but for the whole world. The propitiation is the mercy seat. The blood was there and God said you made me be a judge. I didn't want to be your judge. The blood was there for you. Let's never forget the heart of God. Whenever we tell out the gospel, God wants to bless the Sinner. His heart is full. The only reason he resorts to, shall I say, to election is because man left to himself, would never choose Christ unless God acted. There be no blessing because our hearts are so bad, so wicked. So he has to act that way because of the righteousness of our heart, but he doesn't want to act that way. I think this is beautiful. Here, right in the midst of the time when he's about to bring those crushing and awful judgments upon this world. He says I didn't want to act. Judgment is God's strange work. And I say this for us as Christians. The Lord doesn't want to have to deal with us in discipline. He wants to encourage our hearts. He loves us too much to let us go our own way. He loves us too much to not step in. Just like that man when he saw that Mister Hart was missing his way. The Indian guide was there and he said I'm coming and he wants to. He doesn't. He doesn't want. Us to miss the way brother, and he's willing to guide us. He's the captain of our salvation, bringing many sons to glory. Picture and then we have another little picture in the 14th chapter. I won't go into it in detail, but says in the 14th chapter in the first verse. And I looked, and lo, a lamb stood in on the mountain Zion, and with him in 140 and 4000, having his father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of great Thunder. And I heard the voice of Harpers harping with their harps. And they sung, as it were, a new song before the throne. Before the four beasts and the elders. And no man could learn that song but the 140 and 4000 which are redeemed from the earth.

Then the 13th verse. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yeah, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their laborers, and their works do follow them. Even amidst all these judgments, God has those whom He has parked out for blessing. And in this 14th chapter we have those who are martyred for Christ during the Tribulation there. And we know that when the Lord Jesus comes, all who have heard the gospel and rejected it will be doomed. There's no other second opportunity given to them.

But there will be those who will. Be born and those who perhaps had never heard the gospel of the grace of God and God will pick out from them for those who will be brought into blessing. And so we have in this 14th chapter. Those who were faithful wouldn't receive the mark of the beast wouldn't go on. And as it were John, as it were, it says in judgment, remember mercy. This awful severe judgments are calling that God has those whom He's purpose to bless. And John gets a little view of them, so encouraging for them, gets a little view of them up up there and singing Lord's praises. And they're the ones who have died in the Lord, and they're brought into blessing. And so we see the grace of God shining out. How encouraging this must have been for John when announcing those awful, awful judgments. They're going to fall upon this world. He he has a little view of the goodness of God. But even in the midst of this, then in the next chapter, we have. Another company brought before us. 15th chapter in the first verse and I saw another sign in heaven. Great and marvelous. 7 angels having the seven last plagues. For in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw, as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire. And then that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the hearts of the hearts of God. And they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are thy ways, thou king of Saints, who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name. For thou only art holy, for all nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy judgments are made manifest. Here we see those who are going to be brought into the earthly blessing. When the Lord has dealt in this world in judgment, there's going to be a preserved remnant, and when the Kingdom is set up, there's going. To be a great company that have been saved through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom in the Millennium, and they're going to be blessed upon the earth. Well, how wonderful. In the midst of all His judgment, I think the reason I seek my grace to bring these thoughts before you is to see. What will cheer us when we see everything that might tend to discourage is the view of God's wonderful grace. Failure of the church, but all the redeemed are seen in heaven singing his praises. And John realizes that he's the object of his love and he's given us this place of access into his presence might feel, oh, everything's over now that awful judgment is going to fall. Now even in the midst of the judgment, he remembers mercy. And there will be that preserved remnant who will be blessed on the earth, and there'll be those who are martyred for Christ for his testimony in in the tribulation. Period. And they're brought into blessing in heaven. Oh how. Brethren, God wants us to have a view of the bright side, so I can speak in that way. He doesn't want us to be discouraged. I believe many of God's people are being discouraged. They see everything going to pieces in the world. They see so much that grieves us even in Christendom and in the assembly. But all, brethren. If we lose sight of what is ahead for us and what is ahead through the grace of God, we're going to get discouraged. We'd say there's no use. There's great use, brethren. Let's keep His word. Let's not deny His name. Let's keep our eyes upon Him and know that if I can use the expression, we're on the winning side. We belong to the One who has all power, and we can walk in the midst of it all in the enjoyment of Himself and the. Assurance that His grace is going to accomplish it. The man of God's counsels is going to fulfill all that God has purposed. Let me see more of the judgments of God. And then we come to the 19th chapter, And in the seventh verse let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, For the fine linen is the righteousness or righteousnesses of Saints. And he saith unto be right. Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not, I, thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren, which have the testimony of God, of Jesus, worship God for the testimony of Jesus.

Is the Spirit of Prophecy here He gets another view. Oh brother, this is what's ahead of us. You and I are living in a very, very wonderful time in the history of this world. If we had the choice of the time that we could live in, could we choose a better time than right now? Would you say with all the things that are happening? Yes. The Lord may come at any moment, and this event that we're reading about here in the 19th chapter may not be many years away. And all the church presented A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. He'll joy over us with singing. He'll rest in his life. Marriages don't always turn out the way they begin with all the happiness. But this is a marriage that never, never will end its fullest and eternal enjoyment. The bridegroom and the bride. Brethren, what a prospect is before us. He, he saw this. I just viewed a whole lot of judgment and he was so overwhelmed. He fell down at the feet of the breath of the Angel that showed him, and he said, don't worship me. Let's get not get our eyes on man, not even on an Angel. Don't get her eyes on man. Let's get her eyes on the Lord, David said. I've seen an end of all perfection. You've got your eyes on any man, you're going to get disappointed. You're going to get disappointed. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. And we all, as our brother brought out to us, we still have it in us, sad to say, and it's not one bit improved when we're saved, but thank God we're going to be rid of it forever. And this wonderful event. Is perhaps much closer than many of us think. Well, might John be encouraged as he saw what was ahead for the Church of God? I just say another thing is to me it's quite interesting that when we read in the 4th and 5th revelation, we read about the elders, but after this event we never read about the elders. And I believe the reason for this is that the elders represent all the redeemed, the Old Testament Saints as well as the new and that is. Represented but after this event then we always see the bride she's the center of the whole scene there's others there there's going to be many families in heaven and Mary but the brine that of which you and I form a part occupy that unique place that wonderful place that we're going to occupy brethren for all eternity. So how it love me this is. The heavenly city is seen as the bride, the Lamb's wife. What a what a glorious future. Well, this sustained the heart of then there was judgment followed again, and we see Satan has to be bound. But then we have brought before us first of all, a view of the eternal state and the beginning of the. Of the 21St chapter. And then he goes back to the millennial picture, the blessing that will come to this earth when Christ takes his rightful place. We have also the solemn picture of the judgment that's going to come upon those who have rejected the grace of God. Oh, I hope there's no one here that's going to stand at that great white throne. Why is it a white throne? There's no blood there. That's the only way that our sins. Could be put away. There's no blood at the Great White Throne. There's anybody here that's not saved. Now is your opportunity. Him that cometh to me, the Lord Jesus said I was in no wise cast out the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us small sin. I say again as if heaven was opened and God said I don't want to be your judge, but if you won't have my pardon, then I'll have to be your judge. Well, this is Solomon yet a blessed thing. And so we see this view of the heavenly city. And then in the closing, I'd just like to notice a little bit in the closing, in this last chapter, the 22nd of Revelation, the seventh verse, the Lord says, behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book, the 12TH verse, and behold, I come quickly. And my reward is with me to give. To every man, according as his work shall be. And in the 16th verse. And I, John, I Jesus, have sent mine Angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root of the offspring of David, and the Bright, and the morning Star, and the Spirit, and the Bride. Say, Come, and let him that heareth say, come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever

will, let him take the water of life freely. 20th verse.

He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly, Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Someone has made the comments and I must say I enjoyed it. The three times in this chapter we have behold, I come quickly. The first one he says, behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. John doesn't reply. He says in the 12TH verse, behold. They come quickly and my reward is with me. John doesn't reply. But in the 20th verse where he says surely I come quickly. John immediately replies and says Even so come Lord Jesus and his brother suggested I rather enjoyed his thought. He said when it says blessed behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of this prophecy. I think John how many said he said I'm a failure. I'm afraid I haven't always kept this and when he says behold, I comfortably. My reward is with me, he says. What have I done to merit a reward for one? He just said, Behold, I come. He said, ah, he himself come, Lord Jesus. And perhaps that's the way we feel that we couldn't say that we want him to make manifest everything in our lives. We want to hang our heads if we think about that. But when he says I just want to be with you, I want to have your company for all eternity. John says Even so come Lord Jesus, that's what he wants, brethren. He wants our company. His heart will never be satisfied until he has our company for all eternity. And so. I just. Comment also here. The Spirit and the Bride say come, let him hear us say come. I think this is lovely too. Spirit of God indwells the believer. He's like the servant bringing us through the wilderness and so he says come. But we lookout on this world and brethren, let's never lose a warm heart for the gospel. Let's never lose a warm heart for the gospel. As soon as he thought of the Lord's coming, that he thought, Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely. How long are we to occupy or to give up? Because it's hard to get people into gospel meetings and it seems that people don't want to listen. It says Occupy till I come, and so here he says, let him that is a thirst come. And whosoever will that word is never going to lose it sweetness until every ransom St. of God. Save to send no more. Let's not give up. I think that's why, and I've enjoyed this thought, that in Second Timothy we see the breakdown of the church. Everything fails. And it's in that epistle that he says through the work of the Angelus. Do the work of the evangelist, just say everything is going to pieces. Do the work of an evangelist. Let's never flag that wonderful message that we have. It's filling the heart of God ought to fill our hearts. The sinners whosoever will that and take the water of life freely. And so when the Lord Jesus says surely I come quickly he says. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus. And could I also make a little comment on those two verses? This is a day when it seems very often the Word of God is losing its authority over the hearts of even some of God's people. Isn't it rather solemn to you that just before the closing of this book says don't add, don't take away from what God is saying, Don't add, don't take away from what God has said. It's the Word of God. It lives and abides forever, and a lot of our problems forever come because we either add to or take away from what God has said. But the Lord valued in Philadelphia, they kept His word and didn't deny his name. So we have these precious things before us. There's much to encourage us. There are warnings, too. May the Lord keep us. May we have a vision of that coming time, and may we be living in view of us. I believe there's four things the Lord has asked us to do until He comes. He's asked us to occupy till I come. That's Luke 19. He's asked us to remember him until he comes. He's asked us to be patient until he comes and he's he's asked us to remember him until he comes.

Precious privilege occupied holdfast. Remember him and. Remember him, and also to hold fast his precious word and be patient, because we'll always have something to bear. I always like what our brother Brown said. He said if my brethren can be patient with me, he said I ought to be patient with them. Let's not forget our growth and have something to bear with it in US. And if we think we have something to bear within them, let's think a little bit of the other side. There's nothing for us them to bear in us too. And so he says, be patient there for my brethren under the coming of the Lord.

Calgary Conference: 1994, There shall be a Result

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to Proverbs chapter 29. And verse 18. Where there is no vision, the people perish. Mr. Darby translates it, cast off restraint, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. We find in the Scripture that the Spirit of Prophecy came in as soon as there was a breakdown in man, and God always pointed on as soon as sin entered. He made the promise of the coming seed. Over and over again we see in Israel's history, as things broke down, God pointed on to a time when He could bless them without any hindrance. And that's what He delights to do for our hearts, brethren. He would have us to be looking beyond. What we see now may often grieve us and perplex us. I was just reading a little bit in Habakkuk and noticing how he was so discouraged. He couldn't understand why God was allowing things to go on when he was so holy. How could he allow those kind of things to go on? And then when he got into the Lord's presence, he says, I'll stand on my watchtower. And see what the Lord has to say to me when I'm reproved. And he was the answer the Lord gave to him. The just shall live by his faith. The just shall live by faith. If we didn't know that God was going to set everything right in His own time and way, every one of us would be discouraged. We'd be just like the men of the world. It says men's hearts failing them for fear and looking after those things that are coming. And the men of the world don't have they looking for some great man to do it. And there will be a man who will arise called the beast, and he will give them a certain measure of confidence. But it'll all end in disappointment and in the judgment of God. But, brethren, you and I have laid our hands upon one, laid our eyes upon one, or our hearts by faith upon one who's mighty, who not only tells us what is going to take place, but is able. That which He has promised, He is able also to perform. And so how blessed this is for us. And I say this for each one of us, young and old. Perhaps particularly for those who are young. Because I'm sure that everyone of the young people feels sort of disappointed as they look out and see the prospects in this world and sometimes see our own weakness too, as those who seek to go on in the path God has marked out. But there's one that I would like to, by the Lord's health, fasten your eyes upon who never fails. Who is a friend that sticks closer than a brother? A friend. And I always love that verse in the, I think it's the 62nd Psalm. It says trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. There are few people you can pour out your harps. You feel they wouldn't understand and if they didn't understand, they might not be true to you. But there's a person that you can pour out your heart to. There's a person you can talk to. Who understands perfectly, and not only understands perfectly, but he has all power. And one has enjoyed that passage in First Peter chapter 5, it says, casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. And perhaps you've had the experience like I have. You come to the Lord with a care, you want to cast it on him, but you seem to carry it away again. You can't seem to leave it there. And I suppose perhaps you, like all of us, we wonder why this is. We really wanted to leave it there, but we couldn't, and it seemed that we carried it away. And I'd just like to turn over and look at that passage and perhaps it'll help us to see the impact of that portion first. Peter 1, chapter 5. And I'd like to read the first before as well as after, because the verse before is part of the sentence. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. This is not a new sentence, casting all your care upon Him, for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant,

because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion. Walketh about seeking whom he may devour, to whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Perhaps you say, well, Brother Gordon, why did you read that verse before? Well, first of all, because it's part of the sentence. And I believe, brethren, if I might put it in this way, I think it solves the difficulty. I think it solves the difficulty When you and I come with a care to the Lord. Sometimes the reason we can't take the care, leave the care there is because we haven't submitted to His hand. We haven't submitted to His hand. And sometimes I've had to say to.

When I came with a care and found it difficult to leave with the Lord, I said to myself, Now supposing the Lord came to you, Gordon, and he said I could remove that problem. I could make it just the way you'd like it to be. But it isn't my will for you. It isn't my will for you. Would I say, well, please, Lord, make it the way I would like it. It would solve a lot of problems if you just make it the way I'd like it to be. Or what I say, Lord help me. To accept it from My hand, Then you can leave it there. Not till then I found it. I couldn't leave it there until I first humbled myself under His mighty hands. Submitted. The Lord has allowed that circumstance. He has all power in heaven and in earth. He could have prevented it, but He allowed it. And He allowed it because He saw that I needed it, and that it might be to His praise and glory that I might profit by it, by what He has allowed. And then in itself he says here that. We have somebody who's working from the other side, your adversary, the devil. The devil was the first thing the enemy does is always raise a question as to the goodness of God. He started that in the Garden of Eden as soon as. Adam was given the command of Eve not to eat of that tree. Then he tried to make them think that God was withholding something good from them. He that he was holding back the best thing in the garden, and that it only reach out for what was forbidden, they would find something that would satisfy. They listened to the enemy instead of to the Lord. They reached out. Well, what did it do? Did it bring happiness into their lives? No sorrow. Sorrow had brought into their lives. And it's had its effect on the whole human race. And I'm afraid it's because we all are tending to do the same thing and think that we're going to get something good by reaching out our hands for our own wills. Mr. Darby once said. How often does one forbidden thing hide from our view? 1000 blessings we read out. Reach out for something that God has forbidden, thinking we're going to gain something by it. But oh brethren, and you'll understand. I'm talking to myself as well as to you. We find it hard to humble ourselves under His mighty hand when we can't understand. But God's ways are past finding out. Where no vision is the people perish if we don't look beyond. What we see is an obstacle or a hindrance and see that as we just mentioned in the previous meeting, in the coming day, the whole 4 and 20 elders are going to say Amen to all God's ways. They're not going to not one of us, when our lives pass into review, are going to say, Lord, if that just had been different. Now we're going to see the wisdom of his ways, the failure of our own, but the wisdom of his ways in all. All that He is allowed to take place in our lives. And I believe that when by grace we seek to learn this lesson, by then there can be that joy and happiness as we look on. Because, brethren, what's ahead of us is so glorious, so bright for all eternity. Men of the world don't have this hope. I was just mentioning to a brother, we once took a motel out in British Columbia. And we get up in the morning and we sent the started to move on to where we're going to visit the Dear Saints. And as we moved on, we saw a sign in front of another motel nearby. This is what it said. Have a good day. Don't turn on the news. Have a good day. Don't turn on the news. The news of this world is disappointing. It's grieving, and it well might be too, because there's trouble ahead. But you and I can turn on the news from heaven, brethren, and we'll have a good day if we do for an old vision, as the people perish, you and I can wake up in the morning. This may be the day when the Lord will come. This may be the day to the answer to all my problems and has not going to be. That I get the answer and then the next day is going to be a difficulty because that's the way life often is, but not self in thy presence is fullness of joy at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore. God shall wait the way all tears from off of all faces. But we're still living in this world and there are still difficulties. It was on my heart just to look a little bit at what we have in the Book of Revelation because John was given a view of.

Future events. I just also like to turn before we do it, a second Peter. Second Peter, chapter one, verse 16. For we have not followed comingly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven, we heard when we were with Him in the Holy Mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy, or the prophetic word made sure. For unto ye do well, that ye take heed is unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until a day dawn, and the day star, or the morning star arise in your hearts. Paul was right. At least Peter, rather, was writing to the remnant, the scattered people of God, of the nation of Israel. And they saw all their national hopes dashed because they saw that they were not going to. The Lord wasn't going to establish the Kingdom then, and I'm sure many of them were disappointed, But he said the Kingdom is going to come. Yes, the Kingdom is going to come. God is not. Concerning his promises, God is going to fulfill all the promises. And he said prophecy is a light that shines in a dark place. It's just like as if some event that you've been looking for, somebody says to you, oh, you're looking in vain, that's never going to happen. And somebody says, oh sure, I know it's going to happen. I saw a preview of it. I saw a preview. When they were on the Mount of Transfiguration, they saw a preview of the coming Glory and Peter S. Said he said that makes it all sure to us. We know, but he said we have to go through as it were, a dark tunnel now, but there's a light that shines at the end of the tunnel. It's a it's a blessed thing that the day of course is for Israel and God is going to fulfill his promised blessing to this earth. The desert is going to blossom as the Rose, but as we've had very specially in these meetings. Your hope and mine is not this world in the setting of things, right? In this world. We're going to see it, but we're going to see it from heaven. Because before those awful judgments that come as a prelude to the setting up of the Kingdom, he's going to give the shout and take us home. And that's why he says here until the day dawn prophecy is to tell us what's going to happen in this world until the day that is, until the time the day of blessing comes for this world. But the morning star comes before the day. And so he says, as we look out on this world, we have the lamp of prophecy. It shines in this Dark World. We see what's happening in Europe. We see what's happening in the Middle East. We see these things. And the men of the world, their hearts fail them for fear they can't see a solution to the problems. But you and I, we have a light that shines in this dark place. God has told us He's brought us into His. Secrets and told us what is coming and prophecy is a light that shines in a dark place and what does it do? Are we waiting for the dawning of the day? Well, not first of all, it says the morning star arise in your hearts. And brethren, if we go away from this meeting encouraged and with the morning star rising in our hearts. The hope of the Lord's coming as the only answer to all that's coming. Then we will be in courage. We all be. We won't cast self restraint. We won't say, oh, that's no use. No, you're trying in that little gathering where I am to go on. There's something left and there's so many disappointing things. No, we're going to say, oh, well, it's just for a little while. The Lord's coming and when he comes, everything's going to be set right. And I'm going to see all those bread and again. And they're all going to be just like Christ. And that's what gives us hope, That's what encourages us. But in the meantime, that we might value the precious privilege that we have of keeping His words and not denying his name. And so here Peter is talking about this. Well, I'd like to turn on to the prophetic book and to Revelation and the 1St chapter. Perhaps he'll begin at the fourth verse. John to the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace be unto you in peace. From him which is, and which was, and which is to come.

And from the seven spirits which are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ to His the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth, unto him that loves us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Now John is given a view in these chapters. Two and three of the church as a Candlestick. But before he's given that view, he is given to think of the Blessed One, the Lord Jesus. And it's beautiful to see the contrast that is brought out here in these things. First of all, he says in the. Fourth verse Grace be unto you in peace 1 is often commented that the measure in which we enjoy peace is the measure in which we enjoy grace. And that is, there are many sinners and when they come to the Lord, they still cling somewhat to their feelings and things like that. And they don't have settled peace. They don't see in the work of Christ that God has been fully satisfied and glorified. And they thinking of something in themselves. Did they make the right kind of a commitment? Not that we do have to, but I mean, that's what is in the mind of many people. Do they have enough faith? They're looking in, but it's all of grace, brethren. It's all of grace. The work was finished by the Lord Jesus and I don't have anything to do. It doesn't depend on my feelings. It doesn't depend on my attitude. It depends upon whether I take God at His Word. As we saying God is satisfied with Jesus, I am satisfied as well. And you will never have that peace of salvation until you give up looking in your feelings and thinking of any worthiness or fitness of yourself, or whether you have made the right kind of a committal or what, until you see that it all depends upon the grace of God that has brought salvation through the finish, the glorious work of the Lord Jesus. And so in the situations of life. Very often our peace is disturbed because why did this happen to me? Why would they make an expression like that? Why does this happen to me? Because I thought I was a little better than that. That should have happened to me. It might have happened to somebody else, but why should it happen to me? Well, you see, we're looking in a little bit himself. Every good thing that God bestows not only salvation, but everything in our lives, everything that we're going to enjoy for all eternity is totally undeserved. And if he allows things in our lives, it isn't it isn't that he doesn't isn't dealing with us in grace. He wants us to appreciate his grace to know that it's all of grace and I say measure in which we see that every. The last thing that we're going to enjoy for time and eternity is undeserved. It's founded upon the work of Christ. And so he says grace unto you in peace. And these this was to the seven churches. We'll see how everything broke down as to the Candlestick that they should have been in the earth, but Grace is going to bring every true believer safely home. But now I just like to notice here from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, because the Church has failed as a faithful witness in the earth. So instead of looking at the church and its failure, isn't it lovely to see the faithful witness? The one who is faithful, God is faithful. By whom you're called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ. Our Lord God is faithful. So the church has failed, but the Lord Jesus is the faithful witness. Let's have our eyes upon Him. He's the first begotten from the dead. Death came in through sin, but the Lord Jesus. Triumphed over death. He's the first begotten from the dead. Everything committed to man and responsibility. The kings of the Earth government that's been committed to man, it's all failed. But there's one who's the Prince, who's King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He's going to take everything in hand and set everything right. When he comes out of heaven, it's written upon him, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

So and then it says, and I think this is so beautiful unto him that loved us or loves us, brethren, He's not only. Paid for our sins, shed his precious blood, brought us into this place of blessing, but he loves us, He loves us. A person might turn around and pay some debt that I couldn't pay, but that wouldn't be an assurance that he loved me. But the Lord Jesus loves us and how long I have loved thee with an everlasting love. For no vision is the people perish. If you're looking at the kings of the earth and expecting a new government to make things. You may be disappointed, but if you think of the one who is going to set everything right and all government has been committed to him, then you won't be disappointed. You'll be encouraged as you say, well, when he's comes, he'll set everything right. You see the church failing as a Candlestick who say, well, there's one faithful witness. I want to have my eyes upon him. How blessed this is. And so he says unto him that loves us. And washed us from our sins in His own blood. Oh, what a cuff. Let's never forget what it cost the Lord to bring us into this place of blessing. And has made us kings. That is when he takes the Kingdom, we're going to reign with him. We're going to reign with him. What a place people try to get involved in setting things right in this world. You and I are going to reign in the first righteous government. The world has never had righteous government. It's failed at every time. But you and I are going to reign in the first righteous government. Isn't it worth waiting for? Yes, He's made us kings and priests access into his presence, access into his presence in Israel. Only the high priest once a year could go inside the veil, having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way. So before this Book of Revelation, with all its warnings of coming judgment, the failure of the Church, he gives him to see our own. The unsearchable riches of Christ, how blessed we are in Him. And there we see the record of the seven churches here. And you know, to me this is a very solemn thing when we see what what happens when things are committed to us in responsibility. But it is encouraging brethren to see that in each one there is what the Spirit of God speaks of as the overcomer, the overcomer. What does it mean to be an overcomer? Well, I look at it very simply, if you can go under. The condition of things or you can get above the condition. Now are you and I under the condition, am I under the condition of things in the assembly where I am? Am I under the condition of things in my home or something like that? Well God wants me to be overcomer to be able to go up. I think that's why it says in have a **** about he maketh my feet like Hinds feet. If you read that at the end of the prophet Habakkuk he says. Though there's no hurt in the stall, there's no figs on the vine. In the in the Fed tree and there's no grapes on the vine, he says yet will I rejoice, dear, you don't have to open the gate for the deer. It's got a lot of spring to just spring right up and go over the problem and ask what the Lord would have us to be overcomers. Things made not always improve. We see it's a downward grade in most of these assemblies only when God intervenes in grace as he does. He he brought about a recovery in his wondrous naturalist grace and just like he did in Israel and brought some back to his center of Jerusalem. And I believe he granted a recovery when the blessed truth that we have enjoyed in some measure here today was recovered for the Saints of God and we were brought in. But how has what has happened? Have we continued in the blessed enjoyment of that? We have to hang our heads and say. Not only failed, but can we be overcomers in spite of what we see in Christendom and among ourselves? Yes, the Lord Jesus is the one who is the same yesterday and today and forever. His word doesn't change. He still provided the path for faith. We can hold fast. We can keep His word. We can be kept from denying, not denying His name.

And so how precious this as we go through here, we see, if I can put it this way, John being shown how he can look out on the breakdown of the church as a testimony in the world. He can see everything go to pieces in the world and he's still an overcomer. Why all he's learned and all the one who's the Prince of the kings of the earth, he's learned to know the one who is going to set everything right. And. First of all, he knows that he's been washed in his blood and he is going to have part when the Lord Jesus takes that rightful place. And so we see this brought out and each one of the assemblies there is an encouragement given. And so you might say, well, Brother Gordon, you don't know what is the condition of things in the assembly where I come from, but you can be an overcomer. You can see grace from the Lord to go on. And walk in that path of keeping his word. And not denying his name. And then before he has any view of the judgment that's coming on the world, he sees this blessed fact. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. But isn't it beautiful here after reading the last church here, how they had become rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing, and the Lord had to warn them that he was on the outside knocking, and

that he was going to have to spew them? Out of his mouth, immediately the door opens in heaven and what does he see? All redeemed up there in the glory. The door was opened in heaven and he sees the Lord Jesus as the one who is going to take his rightful place. He first sees the Lord Jesus who as the one who has rights as the Creator, the redeemed, your acclaiming him. As that one who created all things, and for his pleasure they were and were created. A lot of movement in this world to try and save the earth, protect the environment. They're trying to do it without the Creator. He's gonna set everything right. The desert's gonna blossom as a rose, and they won't need an all man's efforts to do it. When the Lord Jesus takes his rightful place, we, we can leave those things. We're identified with the one who's going to set everything. I'm not saying that we should be careless in connection with the earth as God has given it to us, but I mean, we don't have to get involved in all this, this problem that's facing man How blessed. Oh, I don't expect that all the movements they make are going to protect this earth. No, brethren, there's one who is. Thou hast made all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. God is going to find his pleasure in the creation and a people. You know, it's nice to read a little bit about that millennial scene when God will find his pleasure and it says they won't bring forth for trouble. That's a nice little word for parents, isn't it? No, it's a day coming for this earth when parents won't bring forth for trouble. Sometimes parents have children and have a lot of trouble, but in the Millennium, it says they won't bring forth for trouble. It shall not hurt nor destroy. The streets will be full of boys and girls playing in the streets, and there won't be any accident. Oh, what a what A day is coming. Who's going to do it? Man by all his power. No, we know the one who's going to do it, brethren. Let's lift up our heads. Our redemption draws nigh. Let's be a rejoicing people looking to the one and the only one who can do it. Of course I'm not saying that we don't try and fit in as best we can with. Being careful for the world that God has made. But I mean, we don't join. They expect that man is going to do it. We look beyond all that. We see the one who's going to do it. And so this 4th chapter shows his rights as creator. He's going to take them. He's going to take his rights as creator and he, and he only is going to set things right in this troubled world. Then in the 5th chapter, we see his rights as Redeemer. And oh, how blessed this is. I'm going to be there. You're going to be there to join in that song. Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. We won't have to look around and see the failure of the failure in Thyatira and the failure in Florida and so on. Now we'll see all the redeemed there. The Old Testament Saints and the New Testament Saints all recognizing the Lord.

Jesus as the one who is the Redeemer and who's going to bring about for us eternal blessing. And as I was mentioning, and I just mentioned it again, we're going to look back on our ways here and see that all His ways were perfect in wisdom and in love. Well, doesn't that give us peace as we look on to the future? It's the light that shines in the dark place. Day, dawn in the morning, star arises in our hearts. Well, I don't need to go over the intervening chapters because they bring before us how God is going to bring judgment. I just like to mention one thing that I especially enjoyed in the end of the 11TH chapter read from the 15th verse. And the 7th Angel sounded and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And the four and 20 elders which sat before God. On their on their seats fell upon their faces and worshiped God, saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art and was an art to come, because I was taken to thee, thy great power and were has reigned. And the nations were angry, And thy wrath is come the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants, the prophets, and to the Saints, and to them that fear thy name small and great, and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven. And there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament, and there were lightnings and voices and thunderings, and an earthquake and great hail. The time has come the Lord Jesus is about the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever. Time has come 4 and 20 elders fall in their faces and rejoice and give him the glory that's due to him. I think this is so beautiful. But what I especially wanted to notice the nations they were offended about this interference. They they were looking to the beast and the Antichrist. They thought that they could set things right and they could improve this world, and they're angry because the Lord is stepping in. What I want to notice was particularly this 19th verse. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament. To me, brethren, this is so touching. Time has come that God is going to act in a character He doesn't want to act in. The character of a judge. And So what does God let this world see? There was the mercy seat. There was the blood sprinkle. He is the propitiation for our sins, but not only for our sins, but for the whole world. The propitiation is the mercy seat. The blood was there and God said you made me be a judge. I didn't want to be your judge. The blood was there for you. Let's never forget the heart of God. Whenever we tell out the gospel, God wants to bless the Sinner. His heart is full. The only reason he resorts to, shall I say, to election is because man left to himself, would never choose Christ unless God acted. There be no blessing because our hearts are so bad, so wicked. So he has to act that way because of the wretchedness of our hearts, but he doesn't want to act that way. I think this is beautiful. Here, right in the midst of the midst of the midst of the time when he's above. To bring those crushing and awful judgments upon this world. He says I didn't want to act. Judgment is God's strange work, and I say this for us as Christians. The Lord doesn't want to have to deal with us in discipline. He wants to encourage our hearts. He loves us too much to let us go our own way. He loves us too much. To not step in just like that man. When he saw that Mister Hart was missing his way, the Indian guide was there and he said I'm coming and he wants to. He doesn't want us to miss the way brother, and he's willing to guide us. He's the captain of our salvation, bringing many sons to glory. Little picture and then we have another little picture in the 14th chapter. I won't go into it in detail, but says in the 14th chapter in the first verse. And I looked and low a lamb stood in the on the mountain Zion, and with him in 140 and 4000, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of great Thunder. And I heard the voice of Harper is harping with their harps.

And they sung, as it were, a new song before. The throne and before the four beasts and the elders. And no man could learn that song, that the 140 and 4000 which are redeemed from the earth. In the 13th verse. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yeah, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their laborers, and their works do follow them. Even amidst all these judgments, God has those whom He has marked out for blessing. And in this 14th chapter we have those who are martyred for Christ during the Tribulation there. And we know that when the Lord Jesus comes, all who have heard the gospel and rejected it will be doomed. There's no other second opportunity given to them. But there will be those who will. Be born and those who perhaps have never heard the gospel of the grace of God and God will pick out from them that those who will be brought into blessing. And so we have in this 14th chapter of those who were faithful wouldn't receive the mark of the beast wouldn't go on. And as it were John, as it were, it says in judgment, remember mercy. This awful, severe judgments are calling, but God has those whom He's purposeful to bless. And John gets a little view of them. So encouraging for them, gets a little view of them up. Up there and singing Lord's praises, they're the ones who have. Died in the Lord and they're brought into blessing and so we see the grace of God shining out how encouraging this must have been for John when announcing those awful awful judgments. They're going to fall upon this world. He he has a little view of the goodness of God even in the midst of this. Then in the next chapter we have. Another company brought before us. The 15th chapter in the first verse and I saw another sign in heaven. Great and marvelous. 7 angels having the seven last plagues. For in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw, as it were a

sea of glass mingled with fire. And them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the hearts of the hearts of God. And they sang the song of Moses. The servant of God and the song of the Lamb saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints, who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy. For all nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy judgments are made manifest. Here we see those who are going to be brought into the earthly blessing. When the Lord has dealt in this world in judgment, there's going to be a preserved remnant. And when the Kingdom is set up, there's going to be a great company that have been saved through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom in the Millennium, and they're going to be blessed upon the earth. Well, how wonderful. In the midst of all this judgment, I think the reason I seek my grace to bring these. Thoughts before you is to see. What will cheer us when we see everything that might tend to discourage is the view of God's wonderful grace. Failure of the church, but all the redeemed are seen in heaven singing his praises and John realizes that he's the object of his love and he's given us this place of access into his presence might feel. Oh, everything's over now that awful judgment is going to fall no, even in the midst of the judgment he remembers mercy and there will be that preserved remnant who will be blessed on the earth and there'll be those who are martyred for Christ for his testimony in the in the. Tribulation period, and they're brought into blessing in heaven. Well, how? Brethren, God wants us to have a view of the bright side, so I can speak in that way. He doesn't want us to be discouraged. I believe many of God's people are being discouraged. They see everything going to pieces in the world. They see so much that grieves us even in Christendom and in the assembly. But all, brethren.

If we lose sight of what is ahead for us and what is ahead through the grace of God, we're going to get discouraged. We'd say there's no use. There's great use. Brethren, Let's keep His word. Let's not deny His name. Let's keep our eyes upon Him and know that if I can use the expression, we're on the winning side. We belong to the One who has all power, and we can walk in the midst of it all in the enjoyment of Himself. And the assurance that His grace is going to accomplish it. The man of God's counsels is going to fulfill all that God has purposed. Well, then we can see more of the judgments of God. And then we come to the 19th chapter and. Seventh verse. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, For the fine linen is the righteousness, or righteousness of Saints. And he saith unto be right. Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb. Thank you. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren, which have the testimony of God, of Jesus, worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Here he gets another view. Oh, brethren, this is what's ahead of us. You and I are living in a very, very wonderful time in the history of this world. If we had the choice of the time that we could live in, could we choose a better time than right now? Would you say with all the things that are happening? Yes. The Lord may come at any moment. And this event that we're reading about here in the 19th chapter may not be many years away. And all the church presented A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. He'll joy over us for singing. He'll rest in his love. Marriages don't always turn out the way they begin with all the happiness, but this is a marriage that never, never will end its fullest and eternal enjoyment. Bridegroom and the bride brethren, what a prospect is before us. He he saw this I just viewed a whole lot of judgment and he was so overwhelmed. He fell down at the feet of the breath of the Angel that showed him. He said don't worship me. Let's get not get our eyes on man not even on an Angel. Don't get her eyes on man, let's get our eyes on the Lord. David said I've seen an end of all perfection. You got your eyes on any man you're going to get. Disappointed. You're going to get disappointed. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and we all, as our brother brought out to us, we still have it in us, sad to say, and it's not one bit improved when we're saved. But thank God we're going to be rid of it forever. And this wonderful event is perhaps much closer than many of us think. Well, might John be encouraged as he saw what was ahead for the Church of God? I just say another thing is to me it's quite interesting that when we read in the 4th and 5th revelation, we read about the elders, but after this event we never read about the elders. And I believe the reason for this is that the elders represent all the redeemed, the Old Testament Saints as well as the new. And that is all represented. But after this event, then we always see the bride. She's the center of the whole scene. There's others there. There's going to be many families in heaven and airy. But the brine, that of which you and I form a part, occupy that unique place, that wonderful place that we're going to occupy, brethren, for all eternity. So how it will be? This is the heavenly city is seen as the bride of the Lambs. Why? What a what a glorious future. Well, this sustained the heart. Then there was judgment followed again, and we see Satan has to be bound. But then we have brought before us first of all a view of the eternal state and the beginning of the. Of the 21St chapter. And then he goes back to the millennial picture, the blessing that will come to this earth when Christ takes his rightful place. We have also the solemn picture of the judgment that's going to come upon those who have rejected the grace of God. Oh, I hope there's no one here that's going to stand at that great white throne. Why is it a white throne?

There's no blood there. That's the only way. That our sins could be put away. There's no blood at the Great White Throne. There's anybody here that's not saved. Now is your opportunity. Him that cometh to me, the Lord Jesus said I will in no wise cast out the blood of Jesus Christ. His Son cleanseth us from all sin. I say again as if heaven was opened and God said, I don't want to be your judge, but if you won't have my pardon, then I'll have to be your judge. Well, this is a Solomon, yet a blessed thing. And so we see this view of the heavenly city and then in the closing, I'd just like to notice a little bit in the closing. In this last chapter, the 22nd of Revelation. The seventh verse. The Lord says, Behold I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. The 12TH verse. And behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give to every man according as his work shall be. And in the 16th verse. And I, John, I Jesus, have sent mine Angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root of the offspring of David, and the Bright, and the Morning Star, and the Spirit and the Bride. Say, Come, and let him that Heareth say, Come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely. 20th verse. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Someone has made the Carl Madison. I must say I enjoyed it the three times in this chapter we have Behold I come quickly. The first one he says, Behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. John doesn't reply. He says in the. 12TH verse Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me. John doesn't reply. But in the 20th verse where he says surely I come quickly, John immediately replies and says, Even so come Lord Jesus. And this brother suggests that I rather enjoy his thought. He said, when it says blessed, behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of this prophecy. I think John, how many said, he said, I'm a failure. I'm afraid I haven't always kept this. And when he says, behold, I come quickly, my reward is with me. He says, what have I done to merit a reward? But when he just said, behold, I come, he said. Ah, he himself come, Lord Jesus. And perhaps that's the way we feel that we couldn't say that we want him to make manifest everything in our lives. We want to hang our heads if we think about that. But when he says, I just want to be with you, I want to have your company for all eternity, John says Even so, come Lord Jesus, that's what he wants, Breton. He wants our company. His heart will never be satisfied until he has our company for all eternity. And so. I just comment also here. The Spirit and the Bride say come, let him that heareth say come. I think this is lovely too. The Spirit of God indwells the believer. He's like the servant bringing us through the wilderness, and so he says, come. But we lookout on this world and brethren, let's never lose a warm heart for the gospel. Let's never lose a warm heart for the

gospel. As soon as he thought of the Lord's coming, then he thought, Whosoever will let him take the water of life. Really. How long are we to occupy or to give up? Because it's hard to get people into gospel meetings and it seems that people don't want to listen. It says Occupy till I come, and so here he says, and to let him that is a thirst come, and whosoever will that word is never going to lose it's sweetness until every ransom St. God is saved to sin. No more. Let's not give up. I think that's why, and I've enjoyed this thought, that in Second Timothy we see the breakdown of the church. Everything fails.

And it's in that epistle that he says do the work of the evangelist. Do the work of evangelists just say everything is going to pieces. Do the work of an evangelist. Let's never flag not wonderful messies that we have that's filling the heart of God ought to fill our hearts to sinners. Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely. And so when the Lord Jesus says surely I come quickly, he says. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus, and could I also make a little comment? Those two verses. This is a day when it seems very often the Word of God is losing its authority over the hearts of even some of God's people. Isn't it rather solemn to you that just before the closing of this book says don't add, don't take away from what God has said? Don't add, don't take away from what God has said. It's the Word of God. It lives and abides forever and a lot of our problems rather than come because we either add to or take away from what God has said. But the Lord valued in Philadelphia, they kept his word and didn't deny his name. So we have these precious things before us. There's much to encourage us. Their warnings too. May the Lord keep us. May we have a vision of that coming time, and may we be living in view of us. I believe there's four things the Lord has asked us to do until He comes. He's asked us to occupy till I come. That's Luke 19. He's asked us to remember Him until he comes. He's asked us to be patient until he comes and he's he's asked us to remember him. Until he comes. Precious privilege. Occup. Hold fast. Remember him? Remember him, and also to hold fast his precious word and be patient, because we'll always have something to bear. I always like what our brother Brown said. He said if my brethren can be patient with me, he said I ought to be patient with them. Let's not forget our bread and have something to bear with it in US. And if we think we have something to bear within them, let's think a little bit of the other side. There's nothing for us to learn to bear in us too. And so he says, be patient there for my brethren under the coming of the Lord.

Conference, Proverbs 22:17-21

YP Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Chapter 22 Proverbs, Chapter 22. And verse 17. Bow down thine ear and hear the words of the wise. And apply thine heart unto my knowledge, for it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee. They shall withal be fitted in thy lips, that thy trust may be in the Lord. I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in Councils and Knowledge, that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of Truth, that thou mightest answer the words of Truth to them that send unto thee. And now shall we turn also to Second Timothy? Second Timothy Chapter 3. And verse 15. And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures. Which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and in Second Peter, Second Peter, Chapter One. Cool. Verse 21 For the prophecy came not in old time, by the will of man. But holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. And now in two Corinthians chapter one, First Corinthians, pardon me. First Corinthians chapter. First Corinthians chapter 2, I should say and. Verse 9. But as it is written, I have not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. For the Spirit searcheth all things, yeah, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even saw the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God, which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. Well, by these scriptures that I have read have here young people, you probably realize that I'd like to speak to you about the importance of the word of God. I believe it's a very necessary thing for us in days like this. The very first temptation that Adam brought, that Satan brought to Eve was to raise the question how God said that is, he put a doubt into her mind as to the truth of what God had spoken. The very first recorded words of Satan in the New Testament are if thou be the Son of God. So you can see that in both instances it was an attack upon the word of God. In the first instance upon the written word or spoken word, and the second one upon the living word.

Because the Lord Jesus is the living word. And it's a remarkable thing in the days in which we live that men are following this same course. It's called modernism, but it began away back in the Garden of Eden. Now that is questioning God's word. It isn't modern to be thinking that what God says is not true, or that this is not the word of God. It's the oldest attack that Satan ever made upon the human race. And dear young people, he's still making the very same attack today, and perhaps more than ever. And to me it's quite a remarkable thing that men have made tremendous advances in science and knowledge in these last days. In fact, they have made such tremendous advances that they look upon everything that they have learned in the past as being almost unimportant. They say they've come to the point of breakthrough, and so that they have. In the last perhaps five years, learned so much that the past doesn't seem important. Well, the effect of all this has LED men to question everything that they thought they knew. And I know that you young people who are going to school are being taught this very thing that it was once considered, that we know certain things, even that two and two make 4. But we must question all those things today. It's only modern that we should question everything that we have thought that we know. Now this is a very striking thing. It's quite a reflection on man that after almost 6000 years on the earth, he comes to the point where he says I don't know anything. I hope I'm going to know something in the future, but just now I can't say that I know anything. And this has led him to do it. Most foolish thing to think that God is in the same position as himself and that because he doesn't know anything after 6000 years, that perhaps God's word isn't the truth either. Now what I want to bring before you, dear young people, is this. I'm very searching in a very solemn thing that it is true that God has allowed men to make these advancements. When man was placed on the earth, God said be fruitful and replenish the earth and subdue it. And God has allowed man to make some wonderful advancements in subduing the earth. But he never, never gave him any permission to question. The the source of supreme knowledge. God himself is the source of all. He is the one who gives us life and breath and all things. And I want to impress upon you this very serious thing that just because men have come to this point and they're beginning to question everything and I don't save it. What? It's rightly so, because a lot of things they thought they knew, perhaps even 10 years ago, they have found or not facts

today. But should this lead us to question the word of God? Now, this one who is infinite in knowledge, as the Bible says, does he have to make some advancements after 6000 years of human history? Does he have to tell us that he made a mistake and didn't know? Oh no, dear young people, Never. Never. And what I want to bring before you is the blessed fact that in this book, in a precious living word of God, you have a source of information on which you can rely. You have a source of information that is going to be. Just as reliable through the eternal ages as it is at this moment. Because it's truth. It's the word of God. It's something that we can receive from our Creator, from the one who gave us life and breath and who talks to us. And this book is a revelation from God. And so again, I say Satan's attempt is to get you to question. It's nothing new. It's just the same old story. But isn't it blessed that those who have clung to this precious book, of those who have relied upon it find it just as much up to date and perhaps more suited to the times than it ever was? Because the Bible is not only a statement of facts of things that have taken place, The Bible is also prophetic. The Bible tells us the future. The Bible tells us what is coming, not only what has taken place. When Paul talked to those the philosophers on Mars Hill, he didn't enter into a discussion about their philosophies. What did he do? Why? He told them two things that their philosophies and their wisdom would never discover, two things that were the subject of divine revelation. He told them that God was the creator and he told them about the truth of resurrection, two things that man by his wisdom could never discover because the wisest man could never discover.

God as the Creator, they may discover what they think is the source of life, and if they can't discover it, then they'll just speak of the eternity of matter. But they'll never discover the true source because they reject the knowledge that God gives them. But Paul in addressing these philosophers he said, God in whom we live and move and have our being, and then he sat about Christ, that he has given assurance unto all men. In that he has raised him from the dead. Yes, those were two things that are subjects of revelation. And this book, I tell you, dear young people, is a revelation from God, and you can rely upon it, and there'll never be any true science that will in any way contravene this wonderful book. It may be that there are things that God has not been pleased to tell us, and He hasn't been pleased to tell us how old this earth is in which we live. He's been pleased to tell us when the first man was placed on it, but not how old the earth is or what took place before the 1St man was placed on it. There's many things about which God is silent. But he has told us what we need to know, and I'd just like to speak a little bit about some of these verses that we have read and perhaps some others. Notice where we began here in Proverbs 22 and verse 17. Bow down thine ear and hear the words of the wise and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. That is, there's someone wiser than ourselves who is speaking. You know, if someone talks to you who doesn't know as much as yourself, you don't feel you're going to learn very much from them. But when someone talks who knows more than yourself, then you bow down your ear and God is speaking through this book. God is speaking through this book, and He calls upon us as creatures to bow down our ears. Those haughty ears, those ears that are listening to all different things that are coming out about man's advancement, he says bow down mine ear, because he has something to say to us. And the wonderful part of it is dear young people that he hasn't just told us these things merely for information, but he has told us what he has told us because he loves us and because he seeks our blessings. Now, your school teacher may tell you some very interesting things. Many of them may be facts, because, as I remark, God has said that He was placed man in the position to be fruitful and replenish the earth and subdue it. We can expect that He is going to discover some things, and that God hasn't necessarily taken the time to tell us in His word. These things may be very interesting, very necessary for your work and for your position in life. But what God is seeking to tell you are things that are for your good. And for your happiness. He has spoken to us because he loves us. Because the very first words that God spoke, we spoke about the very first words that Satan spoke to man to bring in sin. The very first words that God spoke after sin had come in. What were they? Adam, Where art thou? Adam, where art thou? God became a seeking God. He was seeking man. He was seeking his good. He was seeking his blessing. It has been said that man's wisdom treats man as a race to be educated. The Bible treats man as a Sinner, to be either reconciled to God or to be judged. And this is where the Bible stands out, in absolute contrast with all the works of men. I don't care what kind of books they are, whether they're religious or otherwise, if they're written by men apart from the wisdom of God's Word. They'll treat man as a race to be educated, to tell him certain things and recognizing that perhaps he can act upon these things but denying really the fact that he's fallen. Because the Bible treats man as a Sinner and he doesn't like that. But it's a different thing in the Bible than any other book I say, because it treats him as such and tells him that he must be reconciled to God, that he must get a new life, and then.

If he rejects this offer that God makes that then he must be judged because God speaks to man as a responsible person. But again, I say to your young people, God addresses you because he loves you. Satan's lie was that God was holding back from Adam and Eve, that which was for their happiness, he really was saying to them. In effect, God has given you many things for your happiness in this garden, but he's held back the best. The very thing that would complete your happiness, he has held from you. And if you'll just listen to me, I'll tell you what can complete your happiness. I'll be a better friend to you than God has been. Oh, what a lie that was. But Adam and Eve listened to it, and so they fell. They received the knowledge of good and evil. But they lost the power to do what's good and the power to refrain from evil. What a sad plight to be in a world where you know good and evil, and to be unable to refrain from evil and not to have the power to do good. What a sad flight. And that's the world in which we live. But all how wonderful it is that God, after sin had come in, he begins. Then addressing himself to man, he brings before man his guilt, but he doesn't close the story without making the promise. That there was going to be a Redeemer. That there was going to be one who would come and undo the works of the devil. Yes, that precious Savior who has come and who has accomplished redemption. And so I say again before I go on, that the reason God speaks to you is not merely to give you information, although there's much information in the Bible. But He speaks to you because he loves you, because He seeks your blessing. Because he desires it more than anyone else on the face of the earth. More than your father, your mother, your best friend. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him, also freely give us all things? Yes, God is not going to be satisfied until he has a redeemed people from around himself in a place where sin can never enter. And then he is going to share with those redeemed people all that's in his heart. And as we had this morning in our Bible reading, He has called us friends. Because he has brought us into these councils and purposes. He's told us what He has for us, and he is waiting the day when he is going to share it with us forever, unhinderedly, and he wants to share it with us now, as we had in our chapter. The Lord Jesus said that he spoke those things to his disciples, that their joy might be full. Yes, the devil is telling you that it's going to hinder your joy to follow Christ wholeheartedly. To accept the Bible and to just take such a place before God is listening to his wisdom. He's going to tell you that that is foolishness, but it is happiness. It is truth. And it's not foolishness, it's the wisdom of God. It's foolishness to man, because man would rather be considered a race to be educated. He'd rather be an exalted ape than a fallen atom. Because if he's an exalted ape, why, this is something he can take credit to himself. He's climbed up. Oh, he says. Look how low I was. See those pictures? That's what I looked like in my ancient ancestry. Look how I've climbed. So he Pats himself on the back. But to be told that he was created in the image and likeness of God and that he fell from it, This is humiliating. This is something that the natural heart doesn't like. But young people, it's the truth. It's the truth. But all we have something better. Even alone, we have fun. God says I am going to lift you to a higher place than that from which you fell. You were in a state of innocence in the Garden of Eden. But I'm going to lift you to a place in association with my beloved son, and you can't do this yourself. Also, man keeps on the climb as he thinks, and

this climb in knowledge is only making him more confused and more miserable. But the truth of God shows that we're fun. By accepting Christ, we're lifted as beggars from the dunghill and placed among Princess. What a difference. Well, let us just notice this a little again and bow down. Thine ear and hear the words of the wise and apply thine heart.

Unto my knowledge, For it is a pleasant thing if thou will keep them within thee. And they should. They shall with all be feted in thy lips. Isn't this nice? It says it's a pleasant thing if thou keep them within the Oh, it says thy word. Have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee? I know when you go to school, some of you perhaps are studying for examinations, and you're studying ever so hard. You'll be glad when you can put the books on the shelf and say I'm so glad it's over. But in spiritual things, it's not this way. Because as you and I read the word of God and lay hold of it in our souls, that precious word. Dwells in us as it says that the let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, as dear Mr. Darby said, he said, Read the Bible until you learn to think in terms of scripture. All dear young people, let it get right into your heart. Word of God dwells within you. Oh, it's wisdom. This is something that's not going to require further advancement or something. You know, it's a very strange thing with man that even when he does recognize the Bible is something wonderful, he says. But at least we have to change it a little bit to bring it up to modern times. And in this sense, I would warn you of so-called new translations, you know. The so-called new translations are not all translations. Some of them are interpretations. That is, they're not making an attempt to actually translate the scriptures. They're actually trying to tell you in their own words what they think the Bible means. I warn you about some of these so-called new translations. I say again, they are not translations, they're interpretations. And the attempt to try and make them suited to this day and age is very dangerous. Because it says in the verse that we read in Corinthians which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. Remember, God didn't just give the thoughts in the Bible, He gave the very words, and he didn't give them in the words that man's wisdom teaches. He gave them in the words that the Holy Ghost teaches. And we can only be sure that we have the truth. When we have it in the very words of God. So I warn you again to be careful about the so-called new translations. Thank God there may be some that are reliable. We praise the Lord for the translation by Mr. JN Darby, which he sought to stick as closely as he possibly could to the very words in which the Holy Ghost spoke. And this, I think, is excellent. And it's a it's a translation that we can be very thankful for. We have to be careful about some, though. But let us notice this now. It's a pleasant thing. If thou keep them within thee, they shall with all be fitted in thy lips. Isn't this all so nice? Fitted in my lips so that when some subject comes up just almost unconsciously, Why, aversive scripture comes to you, and it comes out of you, It's in you. And the circumstance causes it to come out in its application to the situation. That has come before you? Well, this is the way that the voice of wisdom speaks to the young man in the book of Proverbs, telling him that these are excellent things fitted to his lips. Verse 19, That thy trust may be in the Lord. Yes, there's too much self-confidence in this day. Our natural hearts are full of it. self-confidence. I know that this is another thing that is greatly pressed in school today. Self-confidence, self-expression to get the feeling that you can do this and that you have this possibility within you. Well, isn't this blessed here that thy trust may be in the Lord? Someone asked. A great servant of God, he said. Can you tell me how I can study the word of God so I can get a good knowledge of it? He said study, study well. 5 words, the flesh, the four words I should say The flash. Prophetess. Nothing. Yes, we need to have confidence in the Lord, not in ourselves. Peter had confidence in himself, but Peter fell. Many another has had confidence in himself. It's natural to us.

That thy trust may be in the Lord all. Do you believe in him? 1. Servant of the Lord said, Why is a man an infidel? Because he believes in himself. Why is he a Christian? Why is a man a Christian? Because he believes in Christ and not in himself. I thought that was a very good answer. And then for those and then for those, because he believes in himself, he has confidence in his own mind. He says that I am able to take up God's word and I am able to say whether it's true or not. That's a great deal of confidence that man has in himself, isn't it? He thoroughly believes in himself. But the Christian doesn't believe in himself. He believes in God. He believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, that's why I'm a Christian, because I don't believe in myself. But I do believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't even believe in my feelings. They change, but I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you? Is that where your confidence is? Well, if so, you have one upon whom you can truly lay confidence with absolute certainty. I have made known unto thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in Councils and Knowledge. Now this is another thing I'd like to just mention to you. Excellent things in Councils and Knowledge. I'm amazed how many people think of the Bible as though it were only concerned with telling us the way of salvation, telling us that we're sinners, that Christ died for us. Telling us that we have a home in heaven when we receive him warning us of judgment. And I seems to me that that's about as far as they seem to look to the Bible, other things in their life. They seem to consider their matters, that they must decide for themselves. But what I want to show you is that God is interested in everything in your life. There isn't a thing from the time that you are born until you die. That is not the subject of his interest. He careth for you. He is concerned about you and I don't believe that there is a single matter that can come up in your life. Whether it's in childhood, whether it's in your teenage or whether it's in your 20s, or whether it's through your whole life that you won't find instruction in the word of God. Is it in connection with your job? Well, there's ever so much instruction in the word of God about preparing for Our Calling in life. Let every man abide in the same calling where he is called with God, and I believe even the verse that speaks about training a child according to the tenor of his ways. Is not only the thought of the way we train them for the Lord, but rather than I believe it's a responsibility of the parent to see that the child has a certain bent and to help the child prepare in life for that which is the occupation God intended him to fulfill. God has a niche for you to fill in life. And he can help the past, his parents, to help our children in this we don't have to defend just upon the guidance teacher at school. God gives us as parents this wisdom to observe our children and to be a help to them in making these decisions, even as to their calling in life. Doesn't He tell you a great deal too about the kind of partner you should have ever so many instructions about the things that are suitable and not suitable and those things that we'll make for your happiness? In your marriage life, doesn't he tell you as children how to act? And doesn't he also tell us so much about how to get along with our brethren, with our neighbors, and not to be overly bothersome and all kinds of instruction in the word of God. It's all found in this blessed book. And even as our brother brought before us yesterday, even we can find instruction about clothes because God is concerned about these things. You know, and I want to buy a new suit of claws. I like to have my wife with me. I like to please her about the clothes I buy. And I'm sure that if the Lord has said as much as He has about it, that he's concerned about it too. And that surely we can take the Lord with us, even about the clothes we buy, because he is concerned about everything in our lives. Dear young people, there's not a single thing. And then your whole life that the Lord is not concerned about. And perhaps you say, well, my friends like my hair a certain way.

Well, the Lord likes your hair a certain way too. And He tells you in His word, there isn't a thing about your whole life that the Lord doesn't give some instruction about. And if you just listen to his instruction, how much we have in His precious word, then we meet other Christians and they stand by the word of God about the way of salvation. They're so sure they know they're saved and thank God for it. But then you start to say to them, well, with what company do you fellowship? Oh, well, I think we can choose our own church. And we found a nice active little group. And so on. Well, there's the word of God. Just leave us in this matter too. Does it say, Well, I've saved you now and you can

choose the Church of your own choice? Well, men might say that, but God doesn't. God tells us about those things, too. He gives us instruction in his precious word about how we should gather. For two or three or gathered together in my name. There am I in the midst of them all. Dear young people, isn't this great, excellent things in Council and knowledge? Excellent things in counsel and knowledge. I've told the little incident before about a a girl and she was having some problem in life and so there was a column in the newspaper which I guess some of the young people have seen where you can write in your problems and. You'll get some answers from the wise people of this world. And I saw this girl, saw that there she'd read this column often and so on. This problem confronted her. She decided that she would write her problem in two, and she started to write her problem out and she didn't get it finished. At least she wasn't quite satisfied with the way she'd worded it. So she went to bed and left it lying on her desk. And her older sister came in after she'd gone to bed and asleep and. She saw this lying there on the desk and she just rolled across it. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Well, I don't think that went in. I think the request went to the Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. All dear young people, God has given you such a wonderful source of information. Unless we should find any problem in how to apply these things to our lives. He has actually filled the Old Testament with stories of young and old. Of men and women, of boys and girls who were placed in similar circumstances to ourselves. And I must say to your young people, I enjoy reading those stories in the Old Testament and just spinning myself right into the very circumstances I often see myself. Just like Joshua or just like Caleb or just like. Jehoshaphat, with the temptation to go along with Ahab. And I fit myself right into those circumstances and I just see how that's just like the things I meet in life. And not only does God tell us the wise choices, but He lets us see the mistakes that these men have made. He doesn't just write down Thou shalt and thou shalt not. He opens his picture book and he shows us the lives of these men and these women, I say, and these boys and girls, and let's us see how they acted. He opens a chapter on college life in the first chapter of Daniel and there we find 4 Hebrew boys that were going to the College in Babylon and they were faced with a situation and we're told how they acted and how God. Honored their faith? Yes, dear young people, there isn't a thing. You can just see the pictures in the Old Testament. You can see how they acted. You can see the mistakes they made, You can see the results of the mistakes they made. And you can see that when they acted, how God blessed them because it says He that honoreth me I will honor, but he the despiseth me shall be lightly esteemed. It's a bad thing. When God has to lightly esteem us, we have a great esteem for ourselves. But sometimes when we set aside his wisdom, he has to lightly esteem us, and it's because we don't listen to this wonderful instruction that he gives us all suited to our everyday life, all written down for us. I don't believe that there's a single circumstance in life that you won't find either a direct scripture or some principle, some story to give you the kind of light and the wisdom that you need.

And those various decisions of life and I would encourage you, dear young people. Read the Bible. Read it until, as it says, it's within you, it's fitted to your lips and you realize that God, who knows all about you, has written these things down to help prepare you for those problems of life that you are going to have to face. Your predecessors, before you face them, they lived in similar days, and lived under similar circumstances, not, perhaps exactly the same, but very similar. And God gives us this kind of instruction. Have not I written to the excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth? That thou mightest answer the words of Truth to them that stand unto thee. Yes, God has written these things. Well you say what is the remedy when you don't seem to have the faith you should? Well, I like that verse in Romans 10/17. It says faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. I believe that if you read the Bible carefully and prayerfully, why, you'll find that faith comes with the reading of it because God grants a blessing for reading His word and He gives us faith. Because I've often said the Bible carries its own credentials. Frankly, I'm not very interested in books that try to prove the Bible through science. I believe that the Bible proves itself. I believe that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And especially in these days when the ideas of science are changing so rapidly, isn't it better just to rest upon God's word? As a matter of fact, you young people, it's not faith. If you require some other proof, I might illustrate it like this, Supposing that you told me something and I hung my head when you told me and said well. I'm going to ask a few other people. If they say it's true, I'll believe it. Would you feel very happy about that? Or you'd say you wouldn't believe it because I said today. So I go and I ask a few people. I'm not very careful whether the people I ask are reliable or not, you know, and I wouldn't like to say that man's science is altogether too reliable. He doesn't think so himself and the present state of change, but. The people that I ask, it's not too important whether they're reliable or not. And so I come back after a while and I say, well, I believe it now, I believe it now. Well, you said you believe me or do you believe the other people? Well, dear friends, dear young people, you can safely believe God. The Bible, I say, carries its own credentials. There is no book like it in the whole world. As I said, and I say it again, it's the only book. It's the only book that treats man as a Sinner needing to be reconciled to God. All the other books carry a different character. They treat man in a way that pleases him. And that's why people don't like the Bible. They like to be flattered. They like to be told that they have possibilities. You like your teacher to say you've got the possibilities of your work. That sounds good, doesn't it? You've got the possibilities if you work, but God says you haven't got the possibilities. But I'll give you a new life. I'll give you a new life. And that's what God does. He imparts a new life. And as we have been having in our meetings, a life that runs the way of his commandments, a life that delights in obedience, a life that is able and finds its joy in pleasing God. I know that his commandment, his life everlasting. And so I say I I believe that if you read the Bible. You will find your faith will be far more strengthened by reading the Bible carefully and prayerfully.

Than by these other books, because these other books are, shall I say, they're leading you to place your faith in some other source than God who has spoken through his word. And so you find some people who believe the Bible because science proves it. And I say that's not faith in God, That's faith in science. That's faith in science. But I believe the Bible because God spoke it all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. And more than this, we don't need the, shall I say, the authority of the church to make it the word of God. When Paul stood up to preach in Thessalonica, did he come with the authority of the church? Oh, he had great authority when he was killing the Christians. He had authority from the high priest and he was killing the Christians, but he didn't have any human authority. When he stood up in Thessalonica and preached the gospel to those people, how did they know it was the word of God? While the Spirit of God applied it to their hearts and consciences, and it says they received it not as the word of man, but as it is in truth the word of God, which effectually worketh in you the belief. And so I say to your young people, this book that we have has stood the test of the ages. Think of a book, the last page of it, written almost 1900 years ago, and it's thoroughly up to date. It's more up to date than the daily newspaper. Because it tells you things that are going to happen, and it's suited to the times in which we live. The stories in it are not so land equated that they don't fit into the very affairs of everyday life right now. The instructions about what I said, clothes and hair and all kinds of things, they're all just suited to our day. Why? If man had been writing a book about such subjects, they'd be far out of date. But here God writes a book and is perfectly suited to the year that it was written, and it's suited to our day. It's God's book. It tells us things as I say that no scientist could ever discover, Tells us how God created the earth, tells us how it fell into the present state of ruin. Explains to us the reason for all the misery that's in the world, even telling us why animals suffer, and tells us about how God is going to set things right and how things are going to move toward that event when the Lord Jesus takes his rightful place. And here we find ourselves just at the time. When everything is moving for that wonderful event, when the

second man, the Lord from heaven, the one who came to undo the works of the devil, is about to take his rightful place. And God looks around the whole panorama of the world's activities and says, as this time comes, you'll see this happen here and this happened there and that happened there, and we just watch these things that God has unfolded. I asked you, the young people. Is this a better proof than scientific proofs? Is it better than all that man can give to contribute to prove to your mind that this is the word of God? Read it. Read it prayerfully. Read it until you think in terms of Scripture. Read it until your very thoughts are occupied with a blessed One of whom it speaks. For this book, this precious book is not just a revelation of truth, it's a revelation of a person who is the truth. A person I say, who is the truth, and so I've sometimes told a little story which perhaps some others have heard me tell about this man who was very busy in his study and his little child came in constantly and was interrupting him and trying to talk to him while he was trying to concentrate a little bit and. So the child kept talking to him. At last he opened the drawer of his desk and he pulled out an old map that he had. And he took Paracissors and cut the map all up. And he gave it to the child and said, here now, dear, put this together. Well, the child got down on the floor beside her daddy and started at work. And he thought he'd given her something to keep her occupied for quite a while because he didn't think she knew too much about geography. But it wasn't very long till she jumped up and she said, Daddy, it's all done. Well, of course he was expecting to see a mass or something. He didn't see how it could be, and quickly he glanced down. A child had worked it from the other side. The child didn't look at the map on the other side was a great hand, and the child had worked it from that side, and there was that hand, and if it could have been turned over, every place would have been correct. Everyone would have been in this right place. All the different places on the map would have been perfect.

Because the child understood geography, no, but it knew the hand. And all dear young people. The Lord Jesus. As he walked with the two on the road to Emmaus, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. And God has given in His word the history of two men. The first man fallen and ruined, the first man, bringing in nothing but confusion and sorrow and misery. The 2nd man, the Lord from heaven, come down into this world. Promised a way back in the Garden of Eden. Come down here. What for? Come down here, that you and I might know his heart, and I say again be lifted to a more wonderful place than if sin had never entered a more wonderful place, because he is going to have us in association with himself in glory. And when we see these things, all man's progress looks awfully dim. Looks awfully dim. I've often said. They talk about great medical progress and all that medical science has done. But did you ever stop to think, dear young people, we would have never needed medical science if sin hadn't come in? Oh man doesn't like that. This is a tremendous admission. All we've advanced so much in what we've done. But why did we need it? Why did we need it? Because sin came in, that's why. Because sin came in. Why all the ways of saving labor? Because sin came in. I'm sure all you sisters have so many helpful things in your house. And you say, isn't this a grand thing? Look how it helps me do the work. But why is all this work here? Why is it all here? Wonderful devices. But why is the work here Sin came in all there's a scene where the second man is going to bring in blessing with none of the effects of sin or its results. Isn't that worth looking for? Isn't that worth waiting for to your young people? And how shall we turn, just for a few moments, to that passage that we read in First Corinthians chapter one? Verse 9. I'd just like to call attention to a few points here in this passage which I think are important about inspiration. Tonight first, but as it is written, I have not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them, that love him. Now this verse is a quotation from the prophet Isaiah. Joy say it was the Old Testament state, that is in the Old Testament, that God was partially revealed. He had purposes of blessing for man, but those things could not fully be brought out until redemption was accomplished. And saw, and I had not seen your ear heard, neither had entered into the heart of man, the things that God prepared for them, that loved him. There were perhaps little glimpses, But the next verse is the New Testament condition, the 10th verse. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. For the Spirit search of all things, yeah, the deep things of God. Now this tenth verse is the New Testament. God took a man up to the 3rd heaven. He showed him those wonderful things. Told him some of those wonderful councils and purposes, and then he sent down his Holy Spirit, so that we might know these things, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. The Spirit of God came down, saw that we might know these things. So in the Old Testament was what was not revealed has now been revealed. Now the 11TH verse. For what man knoweth the things of a man, say the Spirit of man which is in him? Even saw the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, That we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Well, here we find a book. It wasn't written by men, it was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. Holy men of God speak as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

It says here that what man, or the things of a man say, the spirit of a man which is in him every time an unsaved person says to you nobody can understand the Bible, you say, Well, that just proves to me again that it's true. Because if a book is written by man, a man who has the spirit of a man can understand it. And the proof that this book is divine is that men who have the spirit of man can't understand it. What man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of a man which is in him? There's never been a book written by man that other natural men of equal intelligence could not understand. They could always understand that if they had the intelligence of the writer. But now here's a book, and God says it's been given by his spirit, and so he tells us now you'll never understand it either, unless I give you the same spirit that brought the book. And this is what happens when you get saved, When you accept the Lord Jesus as your personal savior, the spirit of God comes to indwell your body. And from that moment on, the Bible becomes a new book to you because God has given you the Spirit. By which this book was indicted. And so it says, Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God. Isn't this a wonderful thing? Isn't this a proof of the divine origin of this book? Inspired by the Spirit, the Spirit of God comes to indwell us and saw that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. And then to guard this very carefully in the 13th verse which I quoted before. It says which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth. Which the Holy Ghost teaches. Don't be surprised that the language of Scripture is a very precise and perhaps at times a little different, because it is the words which the Holy Ghost teacheth. These are words which are suited for man over his time upon the earth and saw God has written it in such a way that it could be received by those who were indwelled by the Spirit of God. And so it tells us here it's not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth. And that's another thing. When you read the Bible, read it carefully. So you get the very words of Scripture. You want the very words of Scripture because they're the very words which the Holy Ghost teacheth. Now the 14th verse tells us plainly. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him. Now, I'm sure that many of your friends have said why the Bible's foolishness? Well, this only should prove to you the Bible is true. It would be to be expected if they said that it was. If they said that they could understand it by then that would be very strange, wouldn't it? Because God says the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God neither, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them. He doesn't have the Spirit, He doesn't have the Spirit, so he can't know them. But now this 15th verse I think is important. But he that is spiritual Judgeth, or if you have a margin it says discerneth all things, yet he himself is discerned in the margin of no man. Now perhaps you say, well I believe I'm saved. I believe I know the Lord is my savior. But I I don't seem to get very much out of the Bible when I read it. I don't seem to get very much. Well, you get a great deal more than the unsaved people because the unsaved can't understand it. I'm sure that you get many precious thoughts, but it says he that is spiritual discerneth all things, and this is a matter of growth in the things of

God as we go on in our Christian life. And allow the Spirit of God to have His place in leading our lives. Then the word of God will be continually opening up to us with new and precious thoughts of Christ. Don't be discouraged, dear young people. God has given you the Spirit. But this book is infinite. It's God's book, and a lawyer has given you the Spirit. It's a thing we'll be all through our lifetimes still learning more of this infinite book, but as we allow the Spirit of God His place in our lives.

By then the book becomes more and more precious to us. It opens itself up to us. And it was very interesting to me to see in such a dear man as Mr. Darby that as he approached the end of his life he was still talking about new things that he saw in this wonderful book. Dear young people, again, as I close, I command it to you. I command it to you. You have the most wonderful treasure in your Bible. Don't allow the foolishness of man. Don't allow the advancement of science and knowledge today to lead you to put the science books in the same class as your Bible. They're not in the same class we expect. And I'm sure if you live a few years longer, if the Lord doesn't come, that you're going to find a lot more of men's books discarded. And set aside because it's going to be tremendous changes if the Lord doesn't come. Men are learning more and more. But this is God's book. This is God's book. You can rely upon it just as safely in 1968 as you could rely on it in 1900 and 1850 years ago. And if the Lord leaves us here 10 years more, it will be just as reliable, just as up to date, just so suited to your need. Read it, pray over it, Ask God by His Spirit to make it more precious to you and all. Value it. You'll never, never have such a wonderful treasure. In your whole life, as you've got in the possession of the precious living Word of God in your hands, God's revelation to you, there's a famine coming. A famine, not for bread or for water, but for hearing of the word of the Lord. The famine hasn't come yet. Prize it, Read it. May God make it a rich blessing to your souls, and may it reveal Christ and all his loveliness and all his glory more and more to your heart and mind, that we may see in it more of the things. Concerning himself, let's look to him for his blessing. Our blessed God and our Father, we look up to Thee.

Toledo Conference: 1985, A Sisters place in the home

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Notice that the meeting has mentioned as a meeting for families, and I hope the brand will bear while I speak, particularly perhaps to the sisters. Then, because I believe that they have so much to do with that part of the family life, I'd like to first look at Proverbs chapter 14. Proverbs chapter 14 and verse 26 in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence. And his children. And shall have a place of refuge. Well, I just thinking, brethren, of this verse, how it brings together two things so unnaturally brought together, fear and confidence. We think of fear as being the very opposite of confidence, but it's very precious to see that when there is the fear of God, then there can be a confidence in his goodness. Fear because we have no wisdom or strength in ourselves, but confidence because we know that the. Lord has said, My grace is sufficient for thee, My strength is made perfect in weakness. And so the Lord will help us when we're thoroughly cast upon him. When there is confidence in self, the the Scripture says that we're to have no confidence in the flesh, but we can have that confidence in the Lord. And then it ends with that beautiful expression. His children shall have a place of refuge. Why do we need a refuge? Well, because there are storms, because there are difficulties. And so his children shall have a place of refuge. Well, as I said, I just like to look at a few scriptures in connection with the place of the woman, in connection with the home. And I think it's very beautiful to see how very important she is. I believe that sometimes we might underestimate the importance of the sister's place in the home, I've often said. God wanted something very special to be in the home. A man cannot fill the place of a woman in the home. The woman can step out of her place and she can fill the place of a man to a large extent in the business world, she doesn't lack in the ability to assume that place, but in doing so, she leaves void a place that only she can fill. Only she has the ability from God to fulfill and to fulfill. So well, and so I believe that it's a very, very important place that God has given. 1 is often commented that if man takes the place of leadership and headship, he has no more right to it than the woman unless God has given him that place. But if God has given to the man that place, then he has fitted him for it and he can give to the man, the husband, the grace to fulfill the place. God has assigned to him. And it's a very, very difficult place when it's filled in the fear of the Lord. Any of us who are men who have sought to fulfill the place and the fear of God and to occupy the place of leadership know very well that it casts us very much upon the Lord. And so I say, it's a place assigned of God. It isn't a place that we would have chosen for ourselves. But that has been given. But there is a very wonderful place. That God has given to the sister. Let us turn back to Judges here in the 13th chapter of Judges. And this is in connection with the birth of Samson, the second verse. And there was a certain man of Zora, the family of the Danites, whose name was Menoah. And his wife was barren, and bear not. And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold, now thou art barren, and bearest not. That thou shalt conceive and bear a son now. Therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine or strong drink or nor, and eat not any unclean thing. For LO, thou shalt conceive and bear a son, and no razor shall come on his head. For the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb, and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an Angel of God, very terrible. And I asked him not whence he was, neither told. He me his name. But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive and bear a son.

And now drink no wine, nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. Then Manoa entreated the Lord, and said, Oh my Lord, let the man of God, which doubted sin, come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah, And the Angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband, was not with her. And the woman made haste and ran. And showed her husband, and said unto him. Behold, the man hath appeared unto me that came unto me the other day. And Manila arose and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that speakest unto the spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am. And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? And the Angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman. Let her beware, she may not eat of anything. That cometh of the vine. Neither let her drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe. This is a very remarkable story that is brought before us here in the book of Judges. Things were at a very low ebb in Israel's history at this time. We know how sadly they had departed from God. And now God is going to raise up a strong man. Samson, He's going to raise up. Man whom he's going to use for the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. And we notice here that the Lord, the Angel of the Lord, appears to Manoah's wife, not to him. And this shows the importance of the position that she was to occupy in regard to this child. Being a little older, I have often noticed that no matter how godly the husband may be, if there is not that support of his wife behind him, if she is not ruling the house in a way that is acceptable and pleasing to God, why? Very often there is not the blessing that we would desire to see in the home. But I have often seen where there was even an unconverted husband. Where the

mother walked in godliness. How wonderfully the Lord came in. And how He blessed in that home. And this brings before us the importance of the woman's place in the home. We see here the message came to her and there was a special word to her as to her own personal walk. How she was to be careful that she herself was to be a pattern of godliness. And all of us who are older and look back, we think of the patterns that our mothers set to us, our Father. Of course. But very often the impression that the mother has sat has been the most important and the most noticeable to us. And here the word that came to the woman was of her own personal conduct. Now we see that her husband was concerned, and that was right that he should, and we see that he was willing to assume a place of responsibility. For he asks, how shall we order the child? And how shall we do for him? He was concerned as being the head in the home, in God's place of responsibility. But again, the message points to the mother and to how she should act, because this child was to be brought up as a Nazarite, a separated 1. Doesn't this show us how very important the mother's place then is in the home? And we know how that Samson grew up. He wasn't a perfect son. There were things. That must have caused them sorrow. And yet we see how that God graciously came in and blessed Samson and made him a deliverer for the people of God. We see also another case in connection with Timothy, and I was surprised when I read that. It tells us that. The grandmother was Lois and the mother was Eunice, and Eunice was married to a Greek and I thought what a sorrow this must have been. To Lois, when her daughter married a Gentile, perhaps she might have thought it's all over now because she has married a Gentile. What blessing can I expect in the home? Well, it seems that in the ways of God that Mother Eunice was very faithful and sought to bring up her children to please the Lord. I'm not at all justifying what she did in marrying the one who was a Gentile, and we're not even.

Told that he was a man of faith. But we see how the importance of the mother comes out. And may I say to parents here, perhaps you saw one of your children make a mistake, marry someone that very much disappointed you. Keep on praying, keep on praying. That mother came in and this child, Timothy, was born and turned out to be a wonderful person in the New Testament. One whom Paul wrote two epistles to, and who walked in a great measure of godliness. Oh, how wonderful are the ways of God. How he delights to come in, brethren, in spite of our failure. But we're told about this faith that dwelt first in Laws and then in Eunice, and it was also in Timothy. Now let's turn over to Second Chronicles Chapter 29. Second Chronicles Chapter 29. Hezekiah began to reign when he was 5 and 20 years old, and he reigned 9 and 20 years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. We notice how the Spirit of God often mentions the name of the mother. Sometimes it was in a sad context. In one of the kings we know that he married the daughter of Jezebel. And that was a sad household. And it was a definite turning away from God. But here we find in the case of Hezekiah, that he married this one of Abiah the. His mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah, and we find that Zechariah was a priest. It's very lovely what it says. I think it's in the 25th chapter. If I remember correctly. There's a little mention of this man, the 26th chapter of Zechariah and the fifth verse Speaking of Amaziah. And he sought God in the days of Zechariah. Who had understanding in the visions of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper. I just call attention to see that this was a godly father, and no doubt a godly mother. And we see the result was that this reign of Hezekiah was a very wonderful reign in the history of Judah, one of the most godly of all the kings. But God traces it back to this godly mother and the. That she had upon this boy, and how he went on for the Lord, and how he followed the Lord. And now I'd like to turn over to Proverbs chapter 31, and I'd like to read here what the Spirit of God has to say about the virtuous woman. Verse 10, Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need. To spoil She shall do him good and not evil all the days of his life. Her life She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchant ship. She bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, an apportion to her maidens. She considereth a field and buyeth it with the fruit of her hands. She planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good. Her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor. Yeah, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry. Her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders. The land she maketh fine linen and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looked at the well to the ways of her household. And he doth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed. Her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates. It's quite evident that. Solomon had a mother who taught him some things. Just noticed the first verse of the 31St chapter. The words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. Isn't this interesting? In the early part we see the father fulfilling his very important role and speaking to the children and seeking to warn them about many of the dangers. But we see here that his mother also had quite a bit to say. And I was struck by the word, the prophecy that his mother taught him. Why does it say the prophecy? Well, I believe that she had foresight. She was looking on. She watched. She was thinking of what her boy was going to be later on in life, not just nursing him and doing the necessary little things that a mother is called upon to do in the household, but she was looking. On she was preparing him for the future. She was very close to him, apparently. She gives him some warnings too, substantiating what her father, what her husband had said, because she warns him too, about the danger of getting involved with women that might be a hindrance to him, the danger of wine, the danger of being an unfair person. And she tells him about those things too, because those things are so important. It says the fear of the Lord is the beginning. Of wisdom, and let me quote that verse again in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and his children shall have a place of refuge Oh, how needful then that we should always walk in the fear of the Lord. Well just to say a little bit about this virtuous woman I've noticed 7 things about her that I thought were very lovely first of all, virtue. That is, she was pure. She was, she was, she had personal. Courage in the 15th verse. He was industrious in the 16th. She had business ability. In the 18th verse he had confidence, in the 20th verse he had kindness, and in the 21St verse she had foresight. Isn't this lovely to see these characteristics? Well, you know, it's very important that. Women should develop these characteristics that God has given to them. And I think it's so lovely to see all this in the sphere of the home because even though she did. Deliver girdles to the merchant, Even although she did consider a field and buy it, we can see that all was within the sphere of the home and under the recognition of her husband. But she carried on in such a way that she didn't set herself forward. But after she had done all these things, then it says her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders of the land. I've often said behind great men. And there's usually some great woman, and you find this very clearly brought out in this chapter. And if I may speak to young sisters and young mothers, how very important your role is. God seems to emphasize it so much in His Word. And I believe when you take it to heart, you can see what a blessing you can be in the home. It says there the heart of her husband does safely trust. In her I believe that a happy marriage is founded upon mutual trust. There needs to be, and there of course must be love. But there also needs to be that feeling of confidence. If there's anything that I can't tell my wife and share with her, then there isn't that feeling of trust and confidence. Perhaps I'm afraid to tell her. Well, in there I can't. That's because I can't trust

her. Isn't it nice here to see the heart of her husband as safely trust in her? He can come and he. Find support because when God made a help meet for Adam, it says that it wasn't good for him to be alone. He needed someone to help and support him. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her.

Then it tells us here there was she was industrious. She rises while it is yet night. Many mothers know all about this better than we men do. I think now in the responsibilities of a home by the mother is often the one who is deprived of sleep. But let's not think that this is an unimportant place. You know the Lord takes notice of all those things. I've often been struck how much there is in the Bible about night seasons and about my rains and struck me in the night seasons and Paul and David said, thou holdest mine eyes waking. I am so troubled that I cannot sleep. There are often times when we learn things in the night seasons so we see this about this wonderful mother. Then I say she had business ability. Everything in the hands of her husband, but she was able to carry on when it was necessary to transact some kinds of business, and seeing her husband could safely trust in her, he could leave these things with her and say, you can look after this dear. And then it tells us here in the 18th verse, she perceiveth that her merchandise is good. That is, there needs to be a certain measure of confidence, and husbands that are wise will inspire their wives with that measure of confidence. That how often we know that they find a great deal of pleasure when we recognize something well done, something that they have done that was better than we could have done ourselves. And so we have the privilege of inspiring them with that kind of confidence. And then I think it's lovely. In this 20th verse, she stretches out her hand to the poor. Yeah. She reaches forth her hand to the needy. She wasn't too busy in the household to forget the needs of those who are outside. In Proverbs, it talks about the rivers of water running out from a happy home and how it runs out into the streets. And you know, when there is a happy home, there's always a time for outreach. There's a time when we can consider the needs of others. And the mother has a a special share in this. Often a mother can do far more in showing that little bit of kindness. We find that there are women that helped in the gospel, and I've no doubt that it was much more fitting that they should go around to the doors and invite people to come to the gospel meeting. Little acts of kindness, perhaps saying, I'll mind your children for you tonight so you can get out all those little things. The Lord takes notice. Brethren, I think we underestimate the place and the wonderful place that God has given to the woman in the world today. The idea is to step into the man's place. I often say, why is our place so wonderful? I don't know why. Women should think that the man's place is so wonderful. I think God gives. To the woman, a very wonderful place. Then she has foresight. She thinks about the future. And you know, that's another thing that women have that men don't have. They have an intuition about the future that we don't have. And I'm sure all of us who are married have had our wife say to us now watch, something is going to happen. And they point out something that we didn't notice, but they noticed it. They saw something coming. God has given them something that a man doesn't have. All these beautiful. Characteristics and you don't read anything about her husband until you come to the 23rd verse. He's sort of as it were hidden in the background for a little while behind this woman and then it says her husband is known in the gates. Why is he known in the gates? Well, he has such a wonderful wife that everybody recognizes him. He has a health. He has what God has provided for him so that he might be what he is because of the wife that God. God has provided, but she doesn't take his place. She is quite content to have him in the public aspect of things. We find that even with the women whom God used in days of great weakness in Israel, there wasn't any man that was in communion with the mind of God to know that they ought to go out against Sisera. And so God gives a message to Deborah, but Deborah didn't say now.

Listen, Barrick, if you don't go, I'll go. I'm quite capable of leading the army. No, she stirred up Barrack. She recognized the place that God had assigned to him. But the song is hers, and God takes a great deal of recognition about what she had done. But she didn't take the place of leadership again. We find in the case of Huldah, things were at a pretty low ebb in Israel's history again. How there was much closer to the Lord, the prophetess who dwelled in the college. And when they sent to ask her what should be done about that book that they had found in the House of God, why she's the one who tells about why God had dealt with Israel and that that book was very important. But she didn't say, I'll stand up and read it to the people. It's been neglected for a long time. No, but she stirred up Josiah. To fulfill his place, and he did fulfill that God-given place. And there isn't anyone of the kings that seems to stand out so brightly as Josiah. And that was a big moment in his life, shall I say, when through the prophetess Huldah, he is stirred up as to his responsibility. Well, here it returns again to the woman and what she was doing. She makes fine linen, and sells it, and delivers girdles unto the merchant. And then it tells us here in the 26th verse she opened her mouth. With wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She wasn't one who was out asserting herself. And isn't this very beautiful to see? I think there's nothing sweeter than to hear a sister open her mouth and you can say that her tongue is the law of kindness. How may I say, dear sisters, develop that in the household. Develop it in the assembly. You have a place to fulfill in the home and in the assembly. That only you can fulfill in the proper way. Now it turns again and speaks about her children. Her children arise up and call her blessed. Yes, they recognize this mother whom God has provided for them. And her husband isn't forgetful. It says her husband also, and he praiseth her. I think we as husbands fall short, I know I do, of giving that little word of praise and recognition when it should be given. But here we find that her husband is not neglectful of this responsibility. If he is going to take a place of leadership, he knows that that person who isn't in that place of headship. Was the one who helped him in his time of need. And then he closes here by saying favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. How much time is spent on trying to do something to attract attention to ourselves by our appearance? But it says here favor is deceitful and beauty is vain. But oh, how lovely to see. May I say to you, boys who are not married, look on the inside, not just on the outside. The inside is what really counts. I don't mean that the woman won't have good taste. It tells us here in. The 22nd verse, her clothing is silk and purple. She knows how to dress nicely, but she is more occupied with what's inward. And I believe these things are very, very important when they're brought before us here. And shall I say this doesn't only apply before marriage, this applies after. This applies in the household too. For it says a woman that feareth the Lord, She shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands. And let her own works praise her in the gates. Now I believe, brethren, that when the time comes that our lives are manifested, that the judgment seat of Christ, there'll be many surprises. Perhaps some who occupied a more public place will not receive so great a reward. 1 is often said, the more our service puts us in the public eye, the more danger there is of doing it for the applause of man. But I think a sister requires a lot more spiritual energy to fulfill her place. Back hidden, as it were, than the man does, because she's often unnoticed. But the results are in the children. I've often asked the question, who could tell me the name of Moses? Parents Moses and Aaron and Miriam? I find very, very few people who know their names. And yet everybody knows about Moses and Aaron and Miriam. Why?

For those two people were sort of hidden. But was there work and labor of love in the background hidden? No 3 wonderful children, two men and one women, one sister came out as a result of a work that we see entirely hidden. There's not a word about what the parents did, just that they were of the tribe of Levi. And then we see the result of a quiet work going on in the home. 3 wonderful children. Don't think it's lost time to be in the home. I've heard some say all that's that's dull, it's monotonous. Oh, but it's so important. It's so very necessary. Now let's turn over to first Timothy chapter 5. First Timothy chapter 5, verse 14. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the

house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. The reason I read this? Perhaps some will be surprised. To notice that in the J&D translation, Mr. Darby translates it rule the house. Rule a house, not just guide the house. Now this doesn't mean that she took the place of her husband, but it means that there are two who are sharing that place together. Her brother Willis pointed out one time that when Cain was born, he was named by his mother and as far as Scripture records, by his mother only. We know that Eve showed herself having a little tendency to take a place of leadership that didn't belong to her, and we know the sad result of that taking that place. But afterwards, when Seth was born, we find both the father and the mother together involved in naming Seth. And it says then man began to call upon the name of the Lord. So, you know, there's a mutual rule in the home. And it's lovely how. Mother and mother can talk over together those things that are necessary to maintain order in the home. It's so important to work together. And so it isn't just one person ruling and the other person just tailing along. It's two people together sharing and occupying that place that God intended for the home. Well, how beautiful it is to see God's order as revealed in His Word. I just like to turn to one passage before I close. In Acts chapter 16, Acts chapter 16 and verse 30 and brought them out and said, Sir is what must I do to be saved? And they said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy hosts. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. The reason I am turning to this is because. There may be parents here and. I'm one of them why we feel how we've made many mistakes and we have failed in fulfilling the place that God assigned to us as parents. But I've always taken great comfort from these verses that I have just read, brethren. These words were spoken to a father, and I suppose probably there was a mother in the home because they were brought into his house and meat was set before them. These words were spoken before these parents did any act toward training their children, before they'd even started. And it tells us here that God made a promise. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. The reason I'm calling attention to this is because. Because we do make mistakes, we fail, but in such, in such things, it's good for us to cast ourselves upon the Lord. Some people have said to me, how is it that I've seen parents that don't seem to have the desire that they should have seen their children turn out so well? And I've seen others who have tried so hard and their children haven't turned out so well. How is it? Well, I just thought of it like this, brethren. That sometimes we can get pretty confident in ourselves. And I hope there isn't anyone because of what I have said today, who's going to say, well, I think I'm going to do a good job and then my children will turn out right. Because you know, when we have that kind of pride in our hearts, the Lord may just let us see that it's all a work of His grace, that He is the one and the only one who can work in the hearts of our children.

And sometimes when our children were small. The Lord brought us to the point where we had to say, Lord, we failed and we don't know what to do, but we cast ourselves upon thee. And I like to feel that the blessing of the family is the sovereign grace of God. We ought to seek to fulfill our responsibility. It's a wonderful privilege to have direction in the Word of God. There's a joy in fulfilling those directions, but the blessing of the household depends upon the sovereign grace of God. And every one of us. Perhaps can say, well, I know I haven't just filled the place that I should, but here's this lovely promise. Cast yourself upon God's grace, count upon him. You'll be surprised how he comes in. And perhaps, as I say, in that household where the parents knew they had failed, that they hadn't done as they should in bringing up their children, they get on their knees and own their failure to the Lord owned their shortcomings and cast. Upon the Lord's grace, and He did exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Our God is the God of all grace. He gives us direction. He shows us how we should act. But how good to know that He does come in in spite of our failures, in spite of our mistakes. Let's not give up. Let's count upon Him. Sometimes we may not live to see the blessing that comes. When Elimelech took his family down into. Why, his two sons died in Moab, but he never lived to see the blessing that came when God wrought in the heart of Ruth, introduced her into the royal line, and made her such a blessing in the royal line of Israel. We may not always live to see the results, but let's cast ourselves upon the grace of God. But I say again, may I encourage the dear sisters. I speak very humbly. I'm a brother, and I feel sort of humble about talking to. Sisters, in this way, but I do trust each one of you will realize that you don't have to step out into the business world and try and make your mark in the world. God has given you a unique, a wonderful place which only you can fulfill and fulfill well to His glory and for your blessing. And you may be surprised in another day if you seek to go on for Him, but it will be to hear His well done.

A Sister's Place In The Home: A Word For Sisters, Introduction

This meeting has been announced as a meeting for families, and I hope that the brethren will bear with me while I speak particularly, perhaps, to the sisters: because, I believe that they have so much to do with family life.

I would like to look first at Proverbs, chapter 14, and verse 26: "In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge."

Well, I was just thinking, brethren, of this verse and of how it brings together two things so unnaturally brought together: "fear," and "confidence." We think of fear as being the very opposite of confidence, but it is very precious to see that when there is the fear of God, then, there can be a confidence in His goodness. Fear, because we have no wisdom or strength in ourselves; but confidence, because we know that the Lord has said: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2'd Corinthians 12:9). And so, the Lord will help us when we are thoroughly cast upon Him—when there is no confidence in self. The Scripture says that we are to have no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3), but we can have that confidence in the Lord. Then, it ends with that beautiful expression: "His children shall have a place of refuge." Why do we need a refuge? Well, because there are storms; because there are difficulties; and so, "His children shall have a place of refuge."

Well, as I said, I would just like to look at a few Scriptures in connection with the place of the woman in the home—and I think it is very beautiful to see how very important she is. I believe that sometimes we might underestimate the importance of the sister's place in the home. I have often said: "God wanted something very special to be in the home." A man cannot fill the place of the woman in the home; but the woman can step out of her place, and she can fill the place of a man, to a large extent, in the business world. She doesn't lack in the ability to assume that place, but in doing so, she leaves a void in the place that only she can fill—a place that only she has the ability from God to fulfill, and to fulfill so well. And so, I believe that it is a very, very, important place that God has given her. One has often commented that, "If a man takes the place of leadership and headship, he has no more right to it than the woman—unless God has given him that place." But, if God has given that place to the man, then he has fitted him for it. He can give to the man—the husband—the grace to fulfill the place that God has assigned to him. And so, it is a very, very, difficult place when it is filled in the fear of the Lord. Any of us who are men, who have sought to fulfill that place in the fear of God, and to occupy the place of leadership, know very well that it casts us very much upon the Lord. And so, I

say again: "It is a place assigned of God." It isn't a place that we would have chosen for ourselves, but it is the one that has been given to man.

There is a very wonderful place that God has given to the sisters. Let us turn back to the 13th chapter of Judges. This is in connection with the birth of Samson; the 2nd verse:

"And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. And the woman made haste, and ran, and spewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am. And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe."

This is a very remarkable story that is brought before us here, in the book of Judges. Things were at a very low ebb in Israel's history at this time, and we know how, sadly, they had departed from God. And now, God is going to raise up a strong man—Samson—He is going to raise up a separated man, whom He is going to use for the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. And we notice here, that the Lord, the Angel of the Lord, appears to Manoah's wife—not to him—and this shows the importance of the position she was to occupy with regard to this child. Being a little older, I have often noticed that no matter how godly the husband may be, if there is not the support of his wife behind him; if she is not ruling the house in a way that is acceptable and pleasing to God; why, very often, there is not the blessing that we would desire to see in the home. But, I have often seen that where there was even an unconverted husband, and where the mother has walked in godliness, how wonderfully the Lord came in, and how He blessed in that home—and this brings before us the importance of the woman's place in the home. We see here, that the message came to her, and that there was a special word to her as to her own personal walk—how she was to be careful, and that she herself was to be a pattern of godliness. All of us who are older and look back can think of the pattern that our mothers set before us. Our fathers were patterns, of course; but very often, the impression that the mother has set has been the most important one, and the one most noticeable to us. And here, the word that came to the woman was of her own personal conduct. Now, we see that her husband was concerned—and it was right that he should be—and we see that he was willing to assume a place of responsibility; for, he asked: "How shall we order the child? And how shall we do unto him?" He was concerned, as being the head in the home—in God's place of responsibility. But again, the message points to the mother and to how she should act; because, this child was to be brought up as a Nazarite—a separated one. Doesn't this, then, show us how very important the mother's place is in the home? We know too, how that Samson grew up. He wasn't a perfect son, and there were things that must have caused his parents sorrow. And yet, we see how that God graciously came in and blessed Samson and made him a deliverer for the people of God.

We see also, another case in connection with Timothy. And I was surprised when I read that it tells us that the grandmother was Lois, and that the mother was Eunice, and that Eunice was married to a Greek. And I thought: "What a sorrow this must have been to Lois when her daughter married a Gentile." Perhaps, she might have thought: "It's all over now, because she has married a Gentile: what blessing can I expect in the home?" Well, it seems that in the ways of God that the mother, Eunice, was very faithful, and she sought to bring up her children to please the Lord. I'm not at all justifying what she did in marrying one who was a Gentile—and we are not even told that he was a man of faith—but we see how the importance of the mother comes out. And may I say to parents here, that perhaps, you have seen one of your children make a mistake and marry someone that very much disappointed you: keep on praying...keep on praying. The Lord came in for that mother and this child. Timothy was born and he turned out to be a wonderful person in the New Testament: one who Paul wrote two epistles to, and one who walked in a great measure of godliness. How wonderful are the ways of God! How He delights to come in, brethren, in spite of our failure. But, we are told about this faith that dwelt first in Lois, and then in Eunice, and it was also in Timothy.

Now, let's turn over to 2nd Chronicles, chapter 29, and the 1st verse:

"Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done."

We notice here, how the Spirit of God often mentions the name of the mother when a new King is introduced to us, and sometimes, it was in a sad context. With one of the Kings, we know that he married the daughter of Jezebel, and that it was a sad household, and that it was a definite time of turning away from God. But here, we find that in the case of Hezekiah, his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. And we also find that Zechariah was a priest; it is very lovely what it says about him. I think it is in the 25th chapter, if I remember correctly, and there is a little mention of this man.

In the 26th chapter, and the 5th verse, speaking of Uzziah:

"And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper."

I just call attention to this, to see that this was a godly father—and no doubt a godly mother—and we see the result was that this reign of Hezekiah was a very wonderful reign in the history of Judah. One of the most godly of all the kings; but God traces it back to this godly mother and the influence that she had upon this boy, and how he went on for the Lord, and how he followed the Lord.

And now, I would like to turn over to Proverbs chapter 31, and I would like to read there of what the Spirit of God has to say about the virtuous woman. Verse 10:

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellent them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

It is quite evident that Solomon had a mother who taught him some things. Just notice the lst verse of the 31st chapter: "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him." Isn't this interesting? In the early part of this book, we see the father fulfilling his very important role in speaking to the children and seeking to warn them about many of the dangers in life. But we see here, that his mother also had quite a bit to say; and I was struck by the word: "The prophecy that his mother taught him." Why does it say, "The prophecy?" Well, I believe that she had foresight; she was looking on; she watched; she was thinking of what her boy was going to be later on in life. Not just nursing him and doing the necessary little things that a mother is called upon to do in the household; but she was looking on; she was preparing him for the future. She was very close to him, apparently. She gives him some warnings too, substantiating what her husband had said, because she too warns him about the danger of getting involved with women that might be a hindrance to him; the danger of wine; the danger of being an unfair person; and she tells him about those things too, because those things are so important. It says: "The fear of the LORD, is the beginning of wisdom." And let me quote that verse again: "In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge" (Proverbs 14:26). Oh, how needful then, that we should always walk "in the fear of the LORD."

Well, just to say a little bit about this virtuous woman, I have noticed seven things about her that I thought were very lovely:

First of all, in verse 10, she had virtue: that is, she was pure;

She had personal courage;

In the 15th verse she was industrious;

In the 16th verse she had business ability;

In the 18th verse she had confidence;

In the 20th verse she had kindness;

And in the 21st verse, she had foresight.

Isn't it lovely to see these characteristics? Well, you know, it's very important that women should develop these characteristics that God has given to them. And I think it is so lovely to see all this activity in the sphere of the home; because, even though she did deliver girdles to the merchant, and even though she did consider a field and buy it, we can see that all of this activity was within the sphere of the home and under the recognition of her husband. She carried on in such a way that she did not set herself forward; and after she had done all of these things, then it says: "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." I have often said: "Behind great men there is usually some great woman." And so, you find this very clearly brought out in this chapter. And, if I may speak to young sisters and young mothers: how very important your role is. God seems to emphasize it so much in His Word; and I believe that when you take it to heart you can see what a blessing you can be in the home.

It also says there: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her." I believe that a happy marriage is founded upon mutual trust. Of course, there must be love there; but there also needs to be that feeling of confidence. If there is anything that I cannot tell my wife and share with her, then there isn't that feeling of trust and confidence. Perhaps, I am afraid to tell her something: well then, that is because I can't trust her. Isn't it nice to see that here? "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her." He can come to her, and he can find support. Because, when God made a helpmeet for Adam, it says: "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Adam needed someone to help him and support him: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her."

Then, it tells us here, that she was industrious: "She riseth also while it is yet night." Many mothers know all about this—better than we men do. I think that in their responsibilities in the home; why, it is the mother who is so often the one who is deprived of sleep. Well, let's not think that this is an unimportant place. You know, the Lord takes notice of all these things. I have often been struck with how much there is in the Bible about "night seasons," and about "my reins instruct me in the night seasons" (Psalm 16:7). David said, "Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak" (Psalm 77:4). There are often times when we learn things in the "night seasons." So, we see this too about the character of this wonderful mother.

Then, I say, she had business ability. She didn't just leave everything in the hands of her husband, but she was able to carry on when it was necessary. She transacts some kinds of business; and seeing that "her husband doth safely trust in her," he could leave these things with her, and he could say: "You can look after this dear."

And then, it tells here, in the 18th verse: "She perceiveth that her merchandise is good." That is, there needs to be a certain measure of confidence; and husbands that are wise will inspire their wives with that measure of confidence. How often we know that they find a great deal of pleasure when we recognize something well done; something that they have done that was better than we could have done ourselves.

And so, we have the privilege of inspiring them with that kind of confidence.

And then, I think it is lovely, in the 20th verse: "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." She wasn't too busy in the household to forget the needs of those who were outside of her home. In Proverbs, it talks about the "rivers of waters" running out from a happy home and how they run out into "the streets" (Proverbs 5:16). And you know, when there ,is a happy home, there is always that time for outreach. There is a time when we can consider the needs of others—and the mother has a special share in this. Often, a mother can do far more in showing that little bit of kindness to others. We find in the Scriptures that there are women that helped in the gospel, and I have no doubt that it was much more fitting that they should go around to the doors and invite people to the gospel meeting by little acts of kindness, perhaps saying: "I'll mind your children for you tonight so that you can get out." All those little things the Lord takes notice of.

Brethren, I think we underestimate the place—and the wonderful place—that God has given to the woman.

In the world today the idea is for women to step into the man's place. As a man, I often say: "Why is our place so wonderful?" I don't know why women should think that the man's place is so wonderful: I think God gave to the woman a very wonderful place.

Then, she has foresight: she thinks about the future. And you know, that this is another thing that women have that men don't have. They have an intuition about the future that we men don't have, and I'm sure that all of us who are married have had our wives say to us: "Now watch, something is going to happen." And then, they point out something that we didn't notice. But they noticed it, and they saw something coming. God has given them something that a man doesn't have. In all of these beautiful characteristics you don't read anything about her husband until you come to the 23rd verse. He's sort of, as it were, hidden in the background for a little while behind this woman.

And then, it says: "Her husband is known in the gates." Why is he known in the gates? Well, he has such a wonderful wife that everybody recognizes him; he has a help; he has what God has provided for him so that he might be what he is because of the wife that God has provided. But, she doesn't take his place; she is quite content to have him involved in the public aspect of things.

We find in Judges, chapter 4, that even with the woman whom God used in days of great weakness in Israel—when there wasn't any man that was in communion with the mind of God to know that they ought to go out against Sisera—that God gives the message to Deborah. But, Deborah didn't say: "Now listen Barak, if you don't go, I'll go; I'm quite capable of leading the army." No! She stirred up Barak; she recognized the place that God had assigned to him. But, the song is hers, and God gives a great deal of recognition about what she had done—but she didn't take the place of leadership. Then, we find in the case of Huldah, the prophetess, that things were at a pretty low ebb in Israel's history again. Huldah, the prophetess who "dwelt in ...the college" (2nd Kings 22:14), was much closer to the Lord than others were at that time. And when they sent to ask her about what should be done about that book that they had found in the house of God, why she is the one who tells them about why God had dealt with Israel in the way that He had, and that that book was very important. But she didn't say: "I'll stand up and read it to the people—it's been neglected for a long time." No! But rather, she stirred up Josiah to fulfill his place; and he did fulfill that God given place; and there isn't any one of the kings that seems to stand out so brightly as Josiah. And that was a big moment in his life, shall I say, when through the prophetess, Huldah, he was stirred up as to his responsibility.

Well, here it returns again to the woman and to what she was doing; she makes "fine linen and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchants." And then, it tells us here, in the 26th verse, that "she openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." She wasn't one who was out asserting herself; and isn't it very beautiful to see? I think that there is nothing sweeter than to hear a sister open her mouth, and you can say that "in her tongue is the law of kindness." May I say, dear sisters, develop that in the household, and develop it in the Assembly. You have a place to fulfill in the home and in the assembly that only you can fulfill in the proper way.

Now, it turns again, and speaks about her children: "Her children arise up, and call her blessed." Yes, they recognize this mother whom God has provided for them, and her husband isn't forgetful either. It says: "Her husband also, and he praiseth her." I think that we husbands fall short—I know that I do—of giving that little word of praise and recognition when it should be given. But here, we find that her husband is not neglectful of this responsibility. If he is going to take a place of leadership, he knows that the person who isn't in that place of headship is the one who has helped him in his time of need.

And then, he closes here by saying: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." How much time is spent on trying to do something to attract attention to ourselves—by our appearance—but it says here: 'favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain." But oh, how lovely to see—and may I say to you boys who are not married—look on the inside, not just on the outside. The inside is what really counts. I don't mean that this woman won't have good taste. It tells us here, in the 22'1 verse, that "her clothing is silk and purple." She knows how to dress nicely, but she is more occupied with what is inward. And I believe that these things are very, very, important when they are brought before us here. And so I say, this doesn't only apply before marriage; this applies afterwards too; this applies in the household. For it says: "A woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Well, I believe brethren, that when the time comes that our lives are manifested at the judgment seat of Christ, there will be many surprises. Perhaps, some who occupied a more public place will not receive so great a reward. One has often said: "The more our service puts us in the public eye, the more danger there is of doing it for the applause of men." But, I think that a sister requires a lot more spiritual energy to fulfill the place given to her, as it were, than the man does, because she is often unnoticed—but, the results are in the children. I have often asked the question: "Who can tell me the name of the parents of Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam?" I find very, very, few people who know their names. And yet, everybody knows about Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam. Why? Well, because those two people were sort of hidden; but were their work and labour of love in the background hidden? No! Three wonderful children—two men and one sister—came out of this home as the result of a work that we see was entirely hidden. There is not a word about what the parents did; just that they were of the tribe of Levi (Exodus 2:1). And then, we see the result of a quiet work going on in the home—three wonderful children. Don't think it is lost time to be in the home! I've heard some say: "Oh, that's dull; it's monotonous." Oh! But it is so important; it's so very necessary.

And now, let's turn over to 1st Timothy, chapter 5, and verse 14:

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

The reason I read this, is that perhaps some will be surprised to notice that in the J.N.D. translation, Mr. Darby translates it, "rule the house"—not just "guide the house." Now, this doesn't mean that she takes the place of her husband; but rather, it means that there are two who are sharing that place together. Our brother Willis pointed out, one time, that when Cain was born he was named by his mother—and as far as Scripture records—by his mother only. We know that Eve showed herself to have a little tendency to take a place of leadership that didn't belong to her, and we know the sad results of her taking that place. But afterwards, when Seth was born, we find both the father and the mother together, and both are involved in naming Seth. And then it says: "Then began men to call upon the name of the LORD" (Genesis 4:26). So you know, there is a mutual rule in the home; and it is lovely to see how father and mother can talk over, together, of those things that are necessary to maintain order in the home. It is so important to work together. And so, it isn't just one person ruling and the other person just trailing along; it's two people together; both sharing and occupying that place that God intended within the home. Well, how beautiful it is to see God's order as revealed in His Word.

I would just like to turn to one more passage before I close, and that's in Acts, chapter 16, and verse 30:

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the Word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."

The reason I'm turning to this is because there may be some parents here—and I'm one of them—and why, we feel how that we've made many mistakes and we have failed in fulfilling the place that God assigned to us as parents. But I've always taken great comfort from these verses that I have just read. Brethren, these words were spoken to a father, and I suppose, probably, that there was a mother in the home; because, they were brought into his house and meat was set before them. These words were spoken before these parents acted in any way toward the training of their children—before they had even started—and it tells us here that God made a promise: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." The reason I'm calling attention to this is because we do make mistakes—we fail. But in such things, it's good for us to cast ourselves upon the Lord.

Some people have said to me: "How is it that I've seen parents that don't seem to have the desire that they should, and yet, I have seen their children turn out so well? And I've seen others who have tried so hard, and their children haven't turned out so well? How is it?" Well, I have just thought of it like this, brethren: sometimes we can get pretty confident in ourselves. And I hope that there isn't anyone here because of what I have said today who is going to say: "Well, I think I'm going to do a good job, and then my children will turn out right," Because, you know, when we have that kind of pride in our hearts, then the Lord may just let us see that it is all a work of His grace; that He is the One—and the only One—who can work in the hearts of our children. And sometimes, when our children were small, the Lord brought us to the point where we had to say: "Lord, we have failed and we don't know what to do; but we cast ourselves upon Thee." And so, I like to feel that the blessing of the family is due to the sovereign grace of God. We ought to seek to fulfill our responsibility; and it is a wonderful privilege to have direction for this in the Word of God. There is a joy in fulfilling those directions; but the blessing of the household depends upon the sovereign grace of God. Every one of us, perhaps, can say: "Well, I know that I haven't just filled the place that I should have." But here's this lovely promise: cast yourself upon God's grace; count upon Him. You will be surprised at how He comes in, and perhaps, as I say, in that household where the parents knew that they had failed; knew that they hadn't done as they should have in bringing up their children; they got down on their knees and owned their failure to the Lord; they owned their shortcomings; they cast themselves upon the Lord's grace; and He did "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Our God is a God of all grace. He gives us direction. He shows us how we should act. How good to know that He does come in; in spite of our failures; in spite of our mistakes. Let's not give up; let's count upon Him.

Sometimes, we may not live to see the blessing that comes in. When Elimelech took his family down into Moab, why, his two sons died in Moab and he never lived to see the blessing that came in when God wrought in the heart of Ruth; introduced her into the royal line; and then made her such a blessing in the royal line of Israel. We may not always live to see the results, but let's cast ourselves upon the grace of God. Well, I say again, and may I encourage the dear sisters: I speak very humbly; I am a brother; and I feel sort of humble about talking to the sisters in this way. But I do trust that each one of you will realize that you don't have to step out into the business world and try to make your mark in the world. God has given you a unique and a wonderful place—one which only you can fulfill—and which only you can fulfill well, to His glory, and for your blessing. And so, you may be surprised in another day, as you seek to go on for Him, what it will be to hear His, "well done" (Matthew 25:21).

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Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to read one verse in Proverbs Chapter 11. Proverbs Chapter 11, first verse. A false balance. This abomination to the Lord, but a just wait is his delight. And Romans chapter 8, Romans chapter 8 and verse 18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time. Are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in US. Now I'd like to turn to the book of Ezra the 8th chapter, Ezra chapter 8 and verse 15. And I gathered them together to the river that run us to a hava, and there aboard we intense 3 days. And I viewed the people and the priests and found there none of the sons of Levi. Now the 21St verse. Then I proclaim the class there at the river of Ahava, 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 substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way. Because we had spoken unto the King, saying. The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him, but His power and his wrath is against all them to forsake him. So He fasted and besought our God for this, and He wasn't treated of us. Then I separated 12 of the chief of the priests, Cherubaya Hashibaya, and ten of their brethren with them, and wait unto them the silver and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering. House of our God, which the King and his counselors, and his Lords, and all Israel their present had offered. I even wade into their hands 650 lbs of silver and silver vessels, and 100 towns, and of gold and 100 talons, also 20 basins of gold of 1000 grams, and two vessels of fine copper, precious of gold. And I said unto them, Ye are wholly unto the Lord. The vessels are wholly also, and the silver and the gold are a free will, offering unto the Lord God of your Father's. Watch she and keep them until you 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 took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the

vessels, to bring them up to Jerusalem under the House of our God. Then we departed from the river of the Hava on the 12Th day of the first month. To go on to Jerusalem in the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. We came to Jerusalem and above there three days. Now on the 4th day it was the silver and the gold, and the vessels weighed in the hand and the House of our God. By the hand of Miramar the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eliezer the son of Phinehas. And with them was Josephabad, the son of Joshua Noah Dia, the son of Benui Levites. By number and by weight of everyone and all the weight was written at that time. All saw the children of those that were had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity. Offered burnt offerings under the God of Israel. 12 books for all Israel. 90 and six Rams. 70 and seven lambs. Well, he goes for the sin offering. All this was a burnt offering unto the Lord, and they delivered the King's commissions unto the King's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river. And they furthered the people and the House of God. But I believe the character of the book of Ezra is well known to most of us. But there may be some here who have not thought of what we have specially before us in this book. We know that God brought his people Israel up from the land of Egypt, and gave them the promised land, Canaan. A land flowing with milk and honey. He blasts them, and yet the possession of the land was made conditional on their obedience. If they walked in obedience, God promised that He would bless them in their land.

If there was disobedience, he told them that he would roost them out of their land. And we know that that's what happened. They failed to carry out that which God had made known to them. They were disobedient, self willed. So they were carried away captive. First the 10 tribes and then the two tribes carried away into captivity. Then we remember how the God and His faithfulness gathered back a little remnant back to Jerusalem, His center, the place where He had chosen to put. Name there, And I believe that we have an analogy in that way with what has taken place in the church's history. That is, we go back to the day of Pentecost and we see there the church's birthday. We see how the God began that wonderful work gathering out of people for heavenly glory, and yet we know that the church is a Candlestick in the earth. Failed to maintain her testimony. We know how that she went in hand in hand with the world and how. As we trace the history of the Church as a Candlestick in the earth, there was departure. Until the Church grew as a system to be as something great in the earth, but having lost her true heavenly character, no longer displaying the fact that she was espoused to Christ, but settling down to the level of the world. But then how we can see to that perhaps 125 years ago God in his goodness granted the recovery. And the truth that was spoken out in the meeting this morning was recovered. The truth of the Church and its heavenly calling. The precious privilege of being gathered to the name. Of the Lord Jesus Christ, separated from this world, not part of it, not part of its improvement, not part of its religious system, but separated, waiting for God's Son from heaven. Just as that little remnant in Israel gathered back to the land, were gathered there to wait for the coming of Christ the first time. That is when he would be presented to them as the Messiah to Israel. So I believe that the exercises that these went through Indiana, the book of Ezra. Are of great importance to us and also that they form a very definite analogy with what's taken place today and the lessons that we see in this have a message for our hearts, I am sure and one thinks especially dear young people of you. Because, as I remarked, it was 125 years ago perhaps, that God granted this recovery, the older ones whom God specially used. To value and to be the means in the recovery of this truth. They've passed on. The Lord has called them home, but He has left His church here. He has left us here a little longer still waiting for that blessed moment. The Lord Jesus will come. And isn't it important then, dear young people? That we should know the privilege that is ours as gathered to the Lord's name. That we should value this privilege and that what has been committed to us that we might keep it. It's so easy for us to let it slip. It's so easy for us to lose sight of our position and privilege and responsibility. And in our efforts to make ourselves comfortable in the world. To put in second place the important things of God, to allow the thought of a calling in life, an occupation, friends, and that sort of thing, to occupy such an important place that we lose sight of the real purpose that God has left us here for. And that's why I read in Proverbs Chapter 11. It says a false weight is an abomination to the Lord. And then how the apostle Paul could say, I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared? Where the glory that shall reveal be revealed in US, We need to have a proper sense of values. We know it in life if we don't consider things as to their proper and relative value. Why? How can we expect to be able to make a proper living and get along with the means that we have? Life is made-up of knowing values and placing a proper value on things, and if we have that sense of values, it's a great assistance in getting along in life. But in spiritual things, there needs to be a proper sense of values too.

Isn't it very easy for us to hear young people? But place a great and high value upon the passing things of time, and the place of relatively small value upon those eternal things. Paul could say, I reckon, that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in all. Paul's life was one of suffering. It was one of being deprived of hardship, of giving up. He said we have no certain dwelling place by his occupation. He was a tent maker. And his life was one of hardship, but all he ever had before him. The manifestation, the time when all that had been committed to him. Was going to finally be weighed in in the chambers of the House of God. And so he valued everything in relation to the eternal glory that was ahead of him. All dear young people, how important for us, how important that we should know how to value things. And as our brother brought before us yesterday, ambition is brought to before us in the school life to get along in this world, to make a success of life. Someone was just mentioning to me the other day. All that it was said the very the best time in life, the time when you were most retentive and able to remember things was the age of 20. And when the person remade that remark, I thought, oh, how many of our dear young people are letting that important age slide by and they haven't valued, they haven't filled their minds with those things that really are worthwhile. I know how. In school life today, you are just pressed and pressed, and I don't belittle the fact that the homework is almost so much that it takes up every minute of your time and that you're whole, your whole energy is passed into getting an education to get along. But young people don't really have to have perceived the fact that there is a power that's behind this. Satan is the God and Prince of this world. He doesn't want to see a group of young people grow up who would value the precious truth of God. He doesn't want to see those growing up who would have a knowledge of the things of God and a desire to go on faithfully for him in these last days. And if one might speak plainly, I believe that the eye of the enemy of our souls is always specially. Upon that which is the purpose of God at any given time, and we find that. When the Lord Jesus was born, the whole energy of Herod and of the people in in Jerusalem was directed against that one who was the center of God's counsels, the Lord Jesus Christ. After the church is gone, the devil's great rage. Against the little remnant who will finally possess the earthly Kingdom. And what is Satan's great effort against today? Those who seek to give expression to the truth of the Church and its heavenly calling. And if the enemy can only succeed to get us like that woman whom the Lord Jesus healed. It says. This man rather, and it says he bowed himself down and put in all eyes left up himself. What was he looking at? He couldn't see anything but the earth. And it wasn't until the Lord Jesus came along that he could look up. And isn't it very easy to hear young people, for us to have the same spirit of infirmity, not to be able to see anything but earth, just looking down all the time? As if everything that we lived for was down here. Well, there needs to be an energy of faith in these things. And the reason I read in that 15th verse, it says here that he gathered these people together and now that we're going to return back to Jerusalem. This was lovely back to God center.

Valuing that place where the Lord had put his name there. And the person whose name dwelt there, but as Ezra looked over the company. He found that there was none of the sons of Levi. Why does it mention that? Well, the sons of Levi were the ones who were given to Aaron to minister in the House of God, to bear the burdens. They were the ones whose service was particularly connected with their youth from the age of 30 to 50. They were the ones who were carrying the burden. And if you read in numbers, you'll see that Aaron appointed to everyone his service and his burden. If I might speak plainly, I believe that the tendency today is to sort of shell the responsibility unto the older ones. And as we look around, we long to see the sons of Levi, the children of the Saints, who are willing to devote themselves energetically to the things of God and to seek in their youth to be a blessing among his people. And wasn't it lovely to see this company going back? But what a heartbreak. When Ezra looked the mall over, there wasn't any Levites there. There were no Levites. And so he sent for them. And I didn't read the verses, but we would find that he, he found some men of understanding and quite a number were brought and they came and accompanied this group who were going back from Babylon back to God. And would it be lovely to your young people if the result of your coming here would be that you too became exercised as to the importance of spending your youth, your youth, I say these formative years of your life. In getting the knowledge of God's precious word and to seek to throw yourself devotedly into following this precious Savior all there were far, far more natural opportunities in Babylon. Why they could look at Daniel and say. Daniel has risen to a high position and he's in Babylon. And there's the Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They have high offices. There's far better opportunities down here in Babylon, but that city of Jerusalem is just lying in ruins. There's nothing for us up there. We're young. We've got to make a start down here. We'll perhaps go up when we get a little older. It's the older ones that are going up. When we get a bit older, then we'll go along. Ah, but here we find that Ezra was concerned that these Levites might come along too. Dear young people, I say again as I look into your faces, May God in his grace and in his goodness. Stir you up with a desire while you're young to put the Lord Jesus first, to truly live for Him, To seek while your mind is retentive and while you can get a knowledge of these things, to read the precious ministry of the Word, to get out to the meetings. And don't allow the pressure of your education to hinder you from getting these precious. Of God into your heart, and in your soul, and your mind filled with them. So that you could have these things stored up, shall I say. In your memory how often I have had people say to me all I just can't seem to remember when I read. I enjoy things when I read them, but I can't remember them. But there was a time when they could. There was a time when they could remember them. There was a time when they were able to read things and remember them. But what was occupying their mind at that time? Well, May God grant that there may be a voice to us all. This meaning is especially for young people. I don't speak in any way as not understanding the difficulties. I know, as our brother mentioned in his prayer this morning, that you are faced with situations that many of us who are older were not faced with in the same way. The homework in my days wasn't as heavy as it is for you young people. I know that things are things are different, more education is required, but we have the same faithful God, Jesus Christ.

The same yesterday and today. And forever, and you know, it says in Ecclesiastes the wisest man that ever lived, he said. Not to inquire why the former days were better than these. Thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this. That just means this, that you could say, well, if I had been living 25 years ago, it would have been all right. But today I can't. But don't inquire about the former days. David served his own generation according to the will of God. And you and I have the privilege of serving our own generation according to the will of God. I'm not trying to bring you young people back 25 or 50 years. We can't turn back the clock of time, but we can serve our own generation. According to the will of God. Well, I say again, it is beautiful to my soul. To see that when Ezra saw there were none of the sons of Levi, that when he sent and called for them. That they responded and they came and they accompanied. This little remnant that went back amidst much privation and hardship. Shall I say, giving up earthly hopes which they might have had in Babylon? To identify themselves with a few people living in tents. Yes, they were living in tents. And it is rather remarkable too, isn't it, that it says? They remained in the tents 3 days, like our three days meeting here, isn't it? And the result of this, these three days was that a number of Levites came and joined the company going back up to Jerusalem. And isn't this lovely that we're here for three days and we have this wonderful privilege of dwelling in tents. We can leave our business. And other things out of our minds for this little time together. We can sit in these chairs and we can go to our meals. We can go home at night and we're living in tents, as it were. We're just away from the world and its activities to be occupied with the Lord Jesus. What a blessed privilege we have in these occasions. Now the 21St verse. Then I proclaim the fast there at the river of Ahava, 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 substance. It was because the brother mentioned this verse in his prayer this morning. It came to my mind. In praying, he mentioned this 21St verse. About seeking a right way for us and for our little ones, and for all our substance. Notice what Ezra first did. I proclaim the fast there. He didn't say now we're going to have a good time. This is a lovely journey we're going to take. It's very scenic country and I'm sure you'll enjoy this little trip as we go up to Jerusalem now that it's going to be a difficult one. They're going to be enemies in the way. It's going to be hardships and when we get there, not going to be so easy either. It's going to be a path of faith. So he set before them this fact and it's fair. They proclaimed a fast there now in the Old Testament, no doubt, and also in the New Testament. There was fasting and prayer. The fasting, I believe means that they abstain from food, but I believe that there is an application that in fact things, it's the things that are proper and right in their place that are given up and devoting this to God. Food is something that we consider an imperative necessity to our existence, but. If a person sought to be before the Lord, he might give up. Those things in order that he might have the Lord's mind for his path. So they fasted and prayed. Well, perhaps there are things. It may not be a good meal, but there are things that the flash desires and things not wrong in themselves. Food isn't wrong in itself, it's necessary for the human body, and education isn't wrong in itself. But dear young people, if there's anything that is hindering us from having the mind of the Lord for our past, it's better to set it aside.

So they fasted. They fasted. They set aside even what was necessary because they recognized that this journey. Was not going to be an easy one and if they were going to. Really go there and devoted this to God. Why? They must be humbling themselves before Him and looking up to Him for grace for every step so they thought of Him. We can go around and ask the advice of others. I remember, I remember reading this little comment about the waste in Hebrews chapter 12 Says let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us. And someone gave this explanation of what a weight really is. That there were it was had three signs. First, we are uneasy about it. 2nd we argue for it. Against conscience and thirdly, we go about asking people's advice. If we may keep it without harm, well, I thought that was a very good definition of what a weight really is. We're uneasy and gently say, I don't see anything wrong in it. But conscience says not for the glory of God. For then we try and find somebody who will tell us it's all right. If we can only find somebody who patches on the back and says, oh, it's all right. I wouldn't. I think it's all right, all how relieved we feel, but we haven't thought of the Lord. A right way This little company didn't ask the king of Babylon. They didn't ask one another. They thought of the Lord a right way. For themselves and for their little ones, and for all their substance. Are you and I seeking the right way for ourselves? I'll pause here to address myself to those who are perhaps a little bit older, those who may be parents. Are we seeking for ourselves our right way? Our example means far more than what we say others who see us. Know where our hearts really are. They know what we're really living for. Oh, May God grant that our lives will show where we have found what satisfies. Like our brother John brought before us yesterday when Isaac was enjoying. Precious things of God and others came to him,

and if others see and I that we're enjoying the things of God, they may be attracted. So a right way for us and for our little one, our little one, we may say, oh, they're young. They have to learn all. They need the right way. They need the right way. And I say for those of us who are parents. The the problems of the day out with us. They are more than we can meet as parents. No situations arise, every day difficulties. And I'm sure every godly parent has almost wrung his hands and said, I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do. God brings us to that point, dear fellow parents, that we might speak of him a right way and we might look up and say, Lord, I'm not sufficient for this situation, but Lord, show me the right way. The right way for ourselves, for our little ones, and for all our substance. Our brother mentioned this morning that it's a day of prosperity such as never, I suppose, known in this country before. There's plenty there's It's a day of wonderful prosperity. But isn't there a danger in this too? And as we receive more than our parents ever received and have more that we have to handle. And to take care of. Isn't it very easy for us to introduce into our home those things? That make our children earthly minded. Oh I feel the snare as apparent to. How easy it is. So it's for ourselves and for our little ones and for all our substance. The way we spend our money, the way we use our cars, the way we use our homes. It's all to be as directed of him.

Those little companies feeling the difficulties of the way they were much concerned before God. And they thought a right way. And it says, for I was ashamed to require the king a band of soldiers and horsemen. To help us against the enemy in the way, because we have spoken unto the King, saying, The hand of our God is upon all of them for good that seek him. But his power and his rises against all them that forsake him. Another danger that I feel that in this present day where there's so much. So much of man's solution to the various problems, and there's all kinds of articles coming out of the press trying to give us wisdom about how to conduct ourselves, how to bring up our children, how to train our children. We don't even have to subscribe to them. They're thrown in the door free of charge. All kinds of things just pour into our home, giving the world's advice about how we should meet the situation. Of growing families in these difficult days and. It says here that these people had thought of the Lord. Oh, may I commend you, dear young people and parents. This precious book, as our dear brother Brown says, we never can be wiser than God. And this precious book, that book that God has given to us, gives us his wisdom for every step of the pathway. And we ought to be ashamed to have to go to the world. For wisdom and guidance we ought to be ashamed. It's an approach to us as Christians when we have to go to the world and say, what should I do? And we have to talk over the fence to our next door neighbor and ask them how we should do with our children. And we have to buy a book put out by the psychologists of the world telling us about these things. And the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. We're not bringing up our children to be part of Babylon Babylon's under judgment. I am sure that Babylon at that time was the most beautiful city. In fact, it is one of the wonders of the ancient world, that city of Babylon, with its beautiful hanging gardens and all those things so much so that never could measure full of his hands and said, is not this great babbling that I have built by the might of my power and for the glory of my Kingdom all the time a wonderful natural progress, and those children dwelling in badly saw that. Much to attract them and now to take their children away. And bring them in a path of hardship and say we're going to Jerusalem, or what Jerusalem, like while it's in ruins, the gates are burned with fire, there are no houses that are going to have to dwell there in tents for a time. Oh, you see, there were many things that wouldn't appeal to the natural desire of children and certainly wouldn't appeal to young people, certainly wouldn't appeal to parents in a certain sense either. But they didn't ask. Of the soul of the king. A band of soldiers and horsemen. They besought the law. They besought the law and all. I say again, dear young people, this precious book, it'll never fail you. It'll never fail you. There's an answer in this book. For every situation that you and I have to meet, whether it's our pathway as individuals in connection with daily life. Our education or whether it's in connection with the assembly and the situations we beat. Oh, how wonderful, this precious book of God. And more than that, how needful that we bow often in prayer for we have those two things so often brought together, the reading of the Word and prayer, and we have them here thinking of the Lord. A right way and then counting upon him. So he had said to the King, I at the hand of our God is for good to them that seek him.

All this brings in another point, and that is that before this time Ezra had spoken to the king about his faith in God. And may I say to you, for those of us, for those of us who are in contact with the world in a special way. Let us be sure that we speak for the law, and you know the more we speak for the Lord. The last tendency there will be to go to the world for wisdom. You know, if you don't talk about the Lord. Well, in the world has got plenty of wisdom for you, but it's surprising. It really is surprising. I found that. Even in dealing with neighbors, they'll give you some advice or something. And if you bring in the Lord, why they just seem to drop their advice to the ground. You just seem to drop to the ground. They know that you've got something better when you've got the word of God. And so if you and I would do like these did just speak about the Lord, tell about what we have in him. Somebody wants to put some great ambition before us. I remember when I was a younger man. Some person wanted to set something before me of that nature. And I said, well, you know, I've been saved and I want to live to please the Lord Jesus. And it may be that perhaps you'll want me to give up my work sometime and go and serve him. You know, I can just see that color yet. His mouth dropped open. He dropped his whole proposition and he he went away and left me. I didn't need much explanation anymore. Because he saw that the things that he was presenting for me. You'd have to have a plan for your life down here. And immediately he saw that I had a plan to live as though my life were up there. Why? He said, well, my plan wouldn't interest you. He made some remark like that. He said, I can see it wouldn't interest you very much. Well, dear young Christian, if you and I speak about the Lord and what He's done for us. Our real purpose in life will soon find that we have a wisdom. Far as superior to all that the world has to offer. Well, now. We find in the 24th verse I separated 12 of the chief of the priests, Sharabaya Heshabaya, and ten of their brethren with them. And waved to them the silver and the gold and the vessels. Well, you see that these men were given the responsibility of carrying these gold and silver and blazing vessels from Babylon up to Jerusalem. And when these vessels were given to them, they were written down by number and by weight. I think that's an important expression. By number and by weight. You know, a man might get a vessel of gold and will say that that vessel of gold weighed so many ounces. But in the journey up, he decides that he is going to take off part of the goals for himself. And so he shaves off part of the gold for himself. When he gets there, he presents the vessel looks the same, but it doesn't weigh the same. Doesn't weigh the same. What has he done? Well, he hasn't preserved the thing in its proper weight. And so when it's weighed in, it's short. Our brothers spoke this morning about the truth of the Lord's coming. But this thought has come to me. What weight does it have with us? I might say, yes, I believe that the Lord is coming. I believe that perhaps before this day is over. The Lord Jesus is going to come and call his own home to be with Himself. But what weight does this have in my life? What effect does it have upon me? Am I planning my life as if I were going to be here for 25 years to come? And yet at the same time saying that I believe the Lord might come at any moment. Well, then, I have the truth of the Lord's coming, but I haven't got it in its proper weight. I've shaved off part of it, as it were. I have the truth, but not in His power. Oh, how important are often think of a dear brother said to me, you and I was a young man. Now someone had come to an older servant of God and said to him, He said, I wish that I had the knowledge of the truth that you do, or I wish I could get hold of the truth like you seem to have got hold of it. And this older brother looked at him and said, oh, he said, I wish the truth would get hold of me more.

Oh, what a sweet answer. That's what we need, dear young people. It's not only to get hold of the truth. That's precious. But all that the truth might get hold of us. It might still get hold of us. The that which has been committed to us might not only be held in its form. But that it might also have its proper weight, its proper power over us. And it seems to me that in these three articles, I shouldn't say three articles, but the three types of metal that are brought before us in these vessels, that perhaps we have three important things in connection with the truth of God. The silver peaks of redemption, and the gold speaks of the divine righteous character of God Himself, and then the copper speaks to us of God's righteousness and judgment. And so we have these different metals brought before us in the vessels, and I believe that they would bring before us the thought of redemption. Were redeemed people. We belong to Christ, just like the leopard. When he was cleansed with the blood put upon him, He was no longer his own. He was a redeemed man. And there as he looked upon his right hand when he put it down to do anything, the right hand, the hand of power, when he put it down here he saw the blood on his thumb when he went to take a step forward. He saw the blood on his great toe. When he went to listen to anything, the blood was there upon his ear. Early Dean people, as Paul says, you're not your own, you're bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God, and then the divine. The gold would perhaps speak to us of all His concerns, the glory of Christ in connection with His person. Because this is a day when the person in Christ is being attacked. We find false doctrine coming in. I was very much surprised. To hear of a certain group of Christians, prophecy gathered to the Lord's name. I just heard last weekend how they had a brother in that meeting, professedly gathered to the Lord's name, who was teaching that the Lord Jesus Christ could send. What a strong thing had a solemn thing, yet professedly gathered to the Lord's name. All dear young people, how important it is that we guard the person and the work of Christ. From all the attacks of the enemy, from all that the enemy would speak to bring against the truth of God. And then? These two vessels of copper. Precious as gold seems to me to speak of the Lord's work upon Calvary's cross, that redemption worth that He accomplished when he was made thin for us all. How we need to ever guard the preciousness. How that worked, the completeness of that work that has met all the claims of God against sin. And has brought in such blessings as our brother remarked, even such a little thing. We find the man that says, oh, but I had to have the face to believe I taken away something. He had to have something in himself. How important. Oh. God, the work of Christ alone is the ground of our eternal salvation. Police were the things that were weighed into the hands of these people. And it says in the 28th verse. And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord. The vessels are holy also, and the strovers, and the gold or free will offering under the Lord God of your Father's, we are holy. Of bathrooms are holy and the God says be holy. For I am holy. We have been brought into such a position apart from this world calling us means the abhorrence of evil. And so he said, ye are holy, the vessels are holy. That is, we are holy and the truth committed to us. It's holy. The 29th verse. What she and keep them until you weigh them before the chiefs of the priests and the Levites, and the chief of the fathers of Israel.

In the chambers of the House of the Lord, yes, there's going to be a weighing in that will take place. There's going to be a manifestation, as Paul said in Romans, 8I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in US. And when Paul speaks of that day, that day, he doesn't refer to the moment when the Lord. Jesus will come and take us home primarily, but it's the manifestation. The manifestation. And your young people. He spoke often of that day. And it's an important thing. For us to have before us that day, that day, whenever you're tempted to do anything, whenever there's anything any prospects in life brought before you, whenever there's anything that would appeal to you naturally as to success and progress in this world. Let us pause and say that day, how is it going to appear? When it is finally weighed in the scales of the sanctuary, my life, your life is going to someday be weighed in. God is going to someday manifest that which has been for Christ in your life and mine. And we may be misunderstood down here. And in some instances, God may not even vindicate us. In this world it has struck me that Uriah the Hipite is among the names names of David's mighty men. But God never vindicated Uriah in his lifetime. He died and he wasn't vindicated. But when David spoke of his mighty man, he leaves out the name of such a an important general of Job. And tells the name of Uriah the Hittite. And he seemed to die under such very sad circumstances. Oh, it's a grand thing to be able to commit the keeping of our souls to Him in well doing as under well faithful Creator, let us go on dear young people, let us speak to please the Lord. Let us on Him, and daily to have that review before us. Perhaps this may seem like a little strange analogy. But sometimes things come to your mind in a special way, and I have sometimes thought of the judgment seat of Christ as if I was sitting down. There was a there was a film passing in front of me and it was my life and the Lord was there and he was making comments about everything that happened. He was telling me what pleased him and what displeased him, as if I was sitting there and the life was passing before me. He was saying, but he thought about the different things that passed by there. Well, perhaps it's a little view. I don't want to give any thought as that how that whether that's going to be what it is when we reach there. But I do know that your life in mind is going to passenger review and the precious failure with the marks in his hands and the marks in his face and in his sides. Will lift his hand and say well done and place your reward. Every little thing that's been done for him and everything that was not pleasing to him. I believe He will tell us how grieved he was, but we will see that it's all gone in the death of Christ. Not charged against us, everything displeasing to him. I believe he'll show us how it grieves his heart. And then he'll say, But my precious blood atone for all that. My precious blood atone for all that but all the joy. That was common to His blessed face, as there is in that record those things that were for His glory and His prey, and will be His joy, as it tells us in Peter, that they might be found in the praise and honor and glory. At the appearing of Jesus Christ. So it was here the time came that these vessels were to be weighed in. The whole record was brought out. So many vessels were committed to Hashibaya, so many vessels committed to Sharabiya, so many committed to the others. And now they present these vessels and they're weighed in. And the Chamber of the House of the Law and it says.

In the 34th verse. By number and by weight of everyone, all the weight was written at that time. It's all written there. How they'd handle these vessels, the difficulties of the way through which the Lord had delivered them, how he cared for them, and then how they finally reached Jerusalem and the manifestation notice they they got there and then they waited. And I I like to think that when we get home to glory, the first scene that's brought before us is not the judgment seat of Christ. The first scene that's got before us is the three days in Revelation 5. The first scene of the redeemed in glory is the singing. Solidworthy, they cast their crowns of his faith. The judgment seat of Christ in its figurative sense doesn't come into the 19th chapter. It says his wife has made herself ready. That's relative to the judgment seat of Christ. And so here they got there and for three days. That wasn't the mention of their of how they handled the vessels at all, just the rejoicing to be there rather than when we get home, what rejoicing will be to be there. God rejoicing. That's why the Lord is coming, for His church is always connected with comfort and joy. But if the judgment seat of Christ, which will take place after we get there, is a manifestation, a manifestation? And then what did they do when everything was manifested? All the offerings are so lovely here, aren't there? It says here. 35th Verse. Also All the children of those have been carried away, that were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel. 12 bullets for all Israel. 90 and six ram. 70 and seven goats for a Sinner. 70 and seven lambs. 12 He goats for a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering under the law. Did they take any credit for anything they'd done? No. They just did what those four and 20 elders did. They cast their crowns. It will not take any glory to ourselves up there, brethren. Your young people will not take any glory. We'll thank him. And isn't it lovely here? This

little remnant was just from the two tribes, you know. When they got there, they offered 12 bullets for all Israel. For all Israel. And we're just a little company gathered out to bear testimony to the church. And its heavenly calling, waiting for God's Son from heaven. These vessels have been committed to us. And when we get to glory, all the redeemed will be there. They'll all be there. But all I don't believe dear young people that will ever know till we get home to glory. How the Lord valued any obedience and devotedness in our lives until then. I believe when we get there and see how precious it was to him. To see those who acknowledged that they were the bride of Christ in his rejection. I believe it will be our joy up there in His presence when it's all manifested. But the 12 bullets were for all Israel, and what a rejoicing company when we all get there and give Him His rightful place. Well, the result at the end of the chapter was they furthered the work in connection with the House of God. And again, I say as I close, we've been here for our three days, or we will be if the Lord leaves us here and. Then we're going to return home. May we return home realizing this precious responsibility and privilege. And when we get home, we'll further the work of God, we'll encourage our brethren, and we'll be blessed and made a blessing in the little assemblies that we come from.

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