Psalms - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

The Christian Shepherd: 1998, Deliverance or Christ?

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“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God” (Psa. 42:1).

The one here who is in a deep trial does not seem to be looking for deliverance, nor is he looking to be taken out of [the trial]. It seems that he is just looking to a Person. And that is what we need, brethren. We may not be taken out of the difficulties in which we are, but we can be sure that there is One to whom we can turn who promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is with us in the trial.

In His wonderful ways He may see fit in His time to take us out of trial, but it may not be here. He may see fit to leave us in situations where it seems He is not intervening. But He Himself is able to fill the heart! I am sure that some of us can say that the very happiest times in our lives have been when we were in deep trial, but the Lord has been near us in a way that we had never experienced before a way when He made Himself precious.

Let us ask our hearts if we are just longing for deliverance or are our hearts going out for more and more enjoyment of a Person? Even though He [may not] take us out of our difficulties, just to know that He is there, that He loves us and that the day is coming when full deliverance will be granted in that day when God’s rightful king will have His rightful place will give joy and peace.

G. Hayhoe

Toronto Conference: 1969, Transgressions Forgiven, Sin Covered

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Could you turn with me tonight to Psalm 32? Psalm 32. Verse One. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night to thy hand was heavy upon me. My moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Seal off. I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid? I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and thou forgave us the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found surely in the floods of great waters, they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place. Thou shalt preserve me from trouble. Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye. Be not as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding, whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, but he that trusteth in the Lord mercy shall encompass him about. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, ye righteous. And shout for joy all these that are upright in heart. Could we also turn over to Thistle, to the Romans and the fourth chapter? Romans, chapter 4. And the fourth verse. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness, even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord. Will not impute sin. And just one more verse in the Epistle of John, the First Epistle of John and the 1St chapter and the seventh verse. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Dear Friends, 1 feels what a solemn thing a gospel meeting is. Because every soul in this room is worth more than the whole world, the Bible says. What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? If I were here to address you about something that concerned your fortune for the rest of your life, I'm sure you'd be quite concerned. If I had a message that concerns your health for the rest of your life, I'm quite sure that you'd be concerned. But, dear friends, we have something far more important than money or health, the poet said. To lose your wealth is much. To lose your health is more. To lose your soul is such a loss as nothing can restore. If you lost your health, well, you might possibly get it back. Or if you never got it back, you could. Leave this world and go to be with Christ if you lost your money. You might live without, without means for the rest of your life. You might get along somehow and then have eternal riches with Christ. But all friend, if you lost your soul, if it should be that you stepped into eternity, having up to the very day of your departure from this world a pocketful of money. The best of health. What would it be if you stepped into eternity? Without Christ. Some of our hearts were very saddened and solemnized today to hear of four young men who were suddenly up to this time in good health, with money, but suddenly, without a moment's warning.

Carried into the very presence of God. Oh friend, we ask you to solemnly and earnestly consider this matter. If it had been you, how would it be with your soul? We read in the 1St chapter of Philippians of the Apostle Paul. He was a prisoner under the most cruel monarch that ever sat on the throne of Rome. He even said one time that he wished all the Romans had one neck, that he could kill them in one. No, that's what a bloodthirsty man he was. And Paul the apostle was a prisoner under this man. And he said, he said having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Did he fear all the power of this man? He knew that if this man brought down the sword upon his neck, and I believe he did. That it was only to usher him into the presence of the one who he knew. As his personal savior. And he said it was far better. And we ask you, dear friends, to put aside those matters that might concern you in your daily life. It's true that you are naturally concerned about your health. You are naturally concerned about how to pay your debts and your responsibilities. But we ask you to just set those things aside. Thinking of them for this hour will not do you any real good. Good, but your soul. This is the most important question of your whole existence, and we ask you to solemnly, in the presence of God, consider this matter. Perhaps you say, I don't like to think of those things. I don't like to hear the word sin. It's an ugly word. But I don't suppose you like to think about taxes. But still, one day the bill comes in the mail, demand for

the payment of taxes. And whether you like it or not, it's a responsibility. It's a responsibility. You may throw it aside and say I don't like tax bills, I think they're too high, but that doesn't change your respons. It doesn't change the demands that are made upon you. You may join in protests and say the taxes are too high, but the fact remains that you must pay them friends and those things of everyday life. I'm sure there are many things like this you don't like, but you know they have to be attended to. But dear friend, this matter of your soul, of your sins, of eternity. This is something. But you just can't afford to put aside lightly. You can't afford to say you don't care if you throw your tax bill into the waste paper basket. It doesn't change your responsibility. And if you throw your Bible into the waste paper basket, if you throw all the gospel tracts you receive into the waste paper basket, you haven't changed your responsibility to God one bit. In fact, I would say you've made yourself more responsible because of my. Says, And every idle word that man shall speak, he shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. It says, Behold ye despisers, and wonder and perish, For I were to work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe if a man declared unto you, But if I only could stand here and make a demand about your sins, and tell you what it was to have to do with the thrice holy God. Now this would hardly make it worse while for me to. Stand here, I might as well let you go on oblivious to the future if there was no remedy. But, oh, dear friend, that is in the message of the gospel. The gospel means good news. The gospel means that not only do we tell you of your responsibilities, but we tell you of one who has met your need, one who went to Calvary. And this verse in the opening verse of our chapter is so wonderful. It says blessed or it could be translated. Happy is the man. Whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered. Just the same feeling, perhaps when that tax bill has been paid and you put it on the file mark paid in full, and you look at your wife and you say, well, that's a relief. That's a relief that's settled now. Ah, dear friend, utterly to have your sins forgiven. What a relief to have your sins gone forever from the only person.

Person who has the right to make a demand upon you about those sins. And that's what we have to tell you tonight. And it's my privilege to stand up here, just a poor, feeble messenger, but to speak on God's behalf and tell you that God loves your soul so much that he has undertaken to settle this question of your sins at the infinite cost of the giving of His only begotten Son. Isn't that good news? Wouldn't it be good news if you had a debt you couldn't pay to know that someone else had paid it for you? And isn't it good news to be able to stand up here tonight and read these words? Happy is he whose transgression is forgiven. Forgiven by whom? Forgiven by God himself. Who can forgive sins, but God only and God himself is the one the wants to. Of you, unless there should be any doubt in your mind about who is eligible for this forgiveness, let let me quote that lovely verse in Acts 13. It says, Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man the Lord Jesus Christ is preached unto you, the forgiveness of sin, and by him all. Believe are justified from all things from the which he could not be justified. By the law of Moses. So this message isn't for any particular person Yammer all. It isn't for any particular nation. It is for all whosoever will may come. Happy as he whose transgression is forgiven. I am oldest friends. But in these verses there are different words used in connection with something that we have done against God. Now the word in the first verse, here the first word is transgression. Transgression is to break an own command, and that is it's possible to sin and not know it. But the first one here is transgression. There are things that you have done in your life that you knew were wrong. There's no person who can be so daring as to say never, never did I do anything. And no, it was wrong. And, and, and not know, and never in my life did I do anything that was wrong, knowing it was wrong. Dear friend, I'm sure that your conscience tells you that there have been times that you have done things that were wrong, things that were sin against God. And you know, God doesn't measure sin by our standards. God has a standard of his own. Doesn't matter what our standard may be, everything is finally going to be measured by God's standard. If you have a scale in your house and that scale actually weighs 14 ounces to the pound and six instead of 16. That isn't going to change the Weights and Measures Act. That isn't going to sum How? Miraculously mean that a pound is only 14 oz instead of 16 because your scale works that way. People talk today as if they had the right to set their own standards. They say sin is what you make it. No, friend, it's what God makes it. It's what God makes it, and the Bible says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. And I want to tell you tonight that. God has a very high standard. It's the standard of his own glory, the standard of his own holiness. And God will never, never change that standard. A man may change their weights and measures. We hear that some countries are deciding to change how their weight standards, but God will never change His standards. They're inflexible. It says forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Holiness become a fine house, O God forever, forever friends, and God is holy but. He forgives. There's a lovely verse also in the Psalms that says If thou Lord should mark iniquity, oh Lord, who should stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. That thou mayest be feared, yet there is forgiveness with thee. Another verse says, enter not into judgment with thy servant, For in thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. And perhaps there's something that's weighing in your conscience, particularly tonight, something you know is wrong, something that your best friends don't know about, something that your wife, your children don't know about. But all how often in the.

Out of your own room. It comes up before you and you wonder. You just wish that that thing could be blotted out from your conscience. Well, dear friend, we have good news for you tonight. Happy is he whose transgression is forgiven and who forgives God himself, the very God that you send against the very God who searches your heart through and through and knows everything, is willing to forgive. What did it cost him to forgive? Oh, he doesn't pass over sin, friends. It tells us in Hebrews chapter 2 every transgression and disobedience. Receives a just recompense of reward. Every sin that's everything committed by men or angels is going to be punished. God never, never passes sin unpunished. It must be punished. Well, you say, what hope is there for us then, if God must punish sin? Well, that's what the gospel tells you, that God punished sin on the person of his beloved Son so that he might offer a pardon to you. Yes, every sin must be punished, but all how grand and glorious that it says in the 53rd chapter of Isaiah and the fifth verse, but he. Was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him. And with His stripes we are healed 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. And this is the wonderful fact that in order to offer. Forgiveness to you. There was a price that must be paid. Sin must be punished. And who could pay the price? The little hymn says there was no other good enough to pay the price of sin. He only could undo the door of heaven and let us in. There was no one who could pay the price of sin, only Jesus, only God's beloved Son. Has he done it? Has he done it? Yes, friends, He's done it. He did it on Calvary's cross. He stood condemned in our place, and that we might be forgiven. And you can be happy tonight if you look back and see your sins, your iniquities, your transgressions laid upon the head of that blessed, sinless substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ. I've often mentioned the little incident. It's still precious in my mind of how I was visiting a deer Christian man in the city of Ottawa. I had often visited him in his illness, but this was the very last time before the Lord took him home. He was getting weaker and weaker each time, and this time he could barely speak above a whisper. But he looked up, and in his midst of his suffering, his face broke out in a smile and he said, Gordon, isn't it lovely to know the judgments behind you and not ahead of you? Friend, that's what it is to be saved. That's what it is to know that your sins are forgiven. At Calvary's cross, the question was taken up by the only One who knew every sin in your heart and in your life, the only One who forms the true measure of what sin really is in his holy presence. And God Himself took it up. God himself settled it, and God himself points you to that finished work. Because it is finished, it is finished. Christ finished it. Happy is he who is transgression is forgiven transgression. I say again, the things that

you know were wrong, you still did them. They bother you. You know that you shouldn't have done them. They come back in your mind. And then there's another word here, whose sin is covered? Whose sin is covered? You know there are things that are sinful and yet they're not described as transgression. The Bible. Says that before the law sin was in the world, but there was no transgression because when God made known his holy law, when a man broke and he became a transgressor before the law was given, he still sin. What do you say? What is sin? I thought it was breaking a command. Oh no, the Bible says that sin is.

Lawlessness. It's just doing my own will. My own will just doing what I like with no reference to God. That's why the Bible says the plowing of the wicked is sin. You might say, well what's what's wrong with a man plowing in his field? How could that be counted sin? Well, pardon a little homey illustration, but supposing you were a farmer and you woke up 1 morning and looked down in your field and there's a man plowing in your field. And you call your wife and you say, look, there's a man plowing out in my field. I wonder who that is? And saw you go out to him and you say, what are you doing? Well, he said I didn't know something wrong in plowing. What's wrong with plowing? Telling me what's wrong with the Oh, you say that isn't the point. This is my farm, my property. You never asked me or said anything to me about it. And you have trespassed because you didn't ask me. Well, he said I could go home and get the harrows or some other instruments and. Tell me what's wrong with it. Oh, you say. That isn't the point. This is my farm, my property. You never asked me or said anything to me about it, and you have trespassed because you didn't ask me. Well, he said I could go home and get the harrows or some other instruments instead. Would you object to that? Oh, you say that's not the point. You have come in here and started to work in my land without recognizing. Any responsibility to me, whatever. Now, dear friend, I want to tell you this, You are in God's world. The Bible says the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And for us to act in our lives as if we had no responsibility to God, his sin, its lawlessness, its independence of God. And God says they that are in the flesh cannot please God. And until you have received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, He is telling you that your life is one of independence of God. And you need this blessed Savior. You need to receive Him, to recognize your responsibility to Him, to come into His presence as a Sinner, and to find in Him your Savior. And then but not till then. Can you please him? Will he cover those sins? Will he actually put out of his sight? All those sins and all those transgressions, yes, he's found a way. He's found a way, it says. God has devised means that he's banished, should not be expelled from him. You know, if you just pass on in this chapter to the fifth verse, I just want to call your attention here, it says. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I'd just like to mention that that word translated hid in the fifth verse is exactly the same word as the one translated covered in the in the first verse. In other words, God can cover your sins, but if you try to cover them yourself, God will see under the covering. God will see under the covering. And this man when he got into the presence of God, he said I'm not going to try and cover my sins in God's presence. I'll let him cover them. That's just what Adam did. Adam sinned against God. So what did he do? He went to work to cover his own sins and he used a fig leaf aprons and those fig leaf aprons, I suppose, seem quite satisfactory to him and his wife. Probably they looked at one another and said. Yes, that's that's an acceptable covering. I'm quite sure it's all right. And this perhaps passed one another's approval that they had made a good acceptable covering. But in God's sight, it was not a covering at all. It was not a covering at all. In God's sight they were found naked. But did God make a covering? Oh yes. God in his grace and at cost. What was the cost? Death had to come in. It tells us that the Lord God made coats of skins and clothed them.

Little animals had to die. In order that the guilty pair might be covered not according to their ideas of covering, but according to God. And God can cover sin. Yes, he can put it out of his sight. He can remove it forever. Oh, what a God we have. Are your sins gone? There's a lovely verse that says as far as the east is from the West. So far hath He promoted our transgressions from us. I'm glad it doesn't say as far as the north is from the South, because you might feel you could measure from the North Pole to the South Pole. But when it says from the east to the West, where is the measuring point thought of your friend? God has put the sin so far away that He himself will never find it, because it says. Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Isn't that good news? Wouldn't you be happy to know that God had this to say about you? That your sins were forgiven, covered? Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. Here's another word used. Transgression, sin, and equity. What is iniquity? Well, I think that it perhaps brings before us the horribleness of our guilt before God, the horribleness it says in another place. Further on here thou forgave us the iniquity of my sin. Barriers have the horrible lust, the evil intent behind it, for not only do we do what's wrong, but often there's a bitter evil intent behind it. You do a mean act to somebody. It's not only the action, but it's the meanness, the bitterness that was behind that action. Ah, friends, God looks into the heart. Within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts. Yes, God sees what's behind the action. Isn't it marvelous that he takes up the whole thing from the motive to the action to the transgression, the whole thing, because he must have a clean person in his presence to be accepted. And then it says here. Imputed. Not iniquity. That is, He doesn't put it to your account. Well, why? Well, because he put it to the account of his Son. Yes, it was put to Christ's account. Yes, how wonderful. When the Lord Jesus spoke about that cross of Calvary, He said Mine iniquities are not hid from thee. How could he speak that way? Ah, because the little hymn puts it, He made our guilt his own. He made our guilt his own guess I'd guilt that should have been ours was his. It was read to us this morning in 2nd Corinthians 5. He hath made him to be sin for us made him who was the person he made sin, the one who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him and so. Unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there. There is no God. You don't have to pretend when your sins are gone. You have to pretend. If they're not, talk to people, and they like to pretend that they live pretty good lives. They like to pretend that they're a little better than they are. But I don't have to pretend anything to you, dear friends. I'm a Sinner. I'm a guilty Sinner. I deserve God's righteous judgment. I don't want to put on any pretense. I don't want you to look up to me and think, well, that person is a very wonderful, holy man. He's not like me. I want you to realize that I'm just a Sinner. Saved by grace. I don't want to pretend anything, but I want to state in reality that the Lord Jesus has put away my sins. That the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. Oh, I ask you not to pretend. This is what it means in the chapter when it talks about being upright. An upright person is a person who doesn't pretend. The world is full of pretense. People pretending to be better than they are. People pretending to be religious. People pretending this and pretending that. We meet more of it all the time. But dear friends, when you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you don't have to pretend something in the presence of God. You can know that although He searches you through and through and knows every sin. Hello, you might have to confess like.

Paul the apostle did. He said this is a faithful thing and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. Did he pretend anything? No, he said he was the chief of sinners. But he said that God had shown mercy to him. Caused him, a chief of sinners, to be the messenger, to tell others of this wonderful Savior. And so in whose spirit there is no guile. Oh, I ask you, my friend, don't pretend. Remember the story Jesus told of the two men that went up into the temple to pray, to pray. One man went up there into the presence of God, and this is what he said. I thank thee that I am not as other men are extortioners, unjust, or even as this publican. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I possess. He took the place before God of a righteousness of His own. But the other man, he didn't pretend anything at all. He didn't make one bit of pretend. He didn't even dare to lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote on his breast and said, God be merciful to me. The Sinner with no pretense in that was there. That was reality. And the Lord Jesus said that man went down to his

house. Justified rather than the other. That man went down to his house justified. How grand. Why? Well, he didn't pretend he believed. He saw what he was in God's sight. He acknowledged it. Now the fourth verse says, for day and night thy hand was heavy upon me. My moisture is turned into the drought of summer. I believe this verse suggests, friends, that sometimes God has to speak to us through sickness. You know, when we refuse to listen to His voice of love, to His tender entreaties, to His offers of pardon. Sometimes He must put His hand upon us through trouble and sorrow. And if there has been a trouble coming to your life, if at this moment you are mourning the loss of a loved one, if at this moment there's been some calamity in your home, something that's upsetting you in your business. God's hand is in that. God's hand is in that. He's stirring up your nest as it were. You know, Job said, I thought I would die in my nest. He was a prosperous man. Everything seemed to go his way, but God stirred up his nest and brought him into his presence till he said. I repent and abhor myself in dust and ashes and sometimes God has to stir up our nest to. And if there's anyone here tonight and God has been passing you through some troubles and sorrows, and you say I'm just at the end of my tether. It just seems that everything has gone wrong in my life in the last six months or a year. Things are getting worse instead of better. Oh dear friend, let me tell you, it's the hand of love that's upon. You wanting to bring you to the real issues of life because the real issues of life are not material things. The real issues of life are. What happens when you leave this world? Yes, it says with God, the Lord belong the issues from death, the issues from death. And Eli, you said to Job, have the gates of death been opened to thee? Oh, dear friend, do you know what's beyond death? God has opened them and told you what's beyond. And oh, if he has sent those troubles into your life, if you're at the end of your tether, if you have come to the point when you say life is only frustration, I don't see anything worthwhile in it. God is speaking to you for your blessing, and so notice the. Next verse. The fifth verse. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. That I'm not going to pretend any longer. I'm not going to go on in my sins any longer. I'm not going to try to provide a covering for myself any longer. I'm not going to soothe myself with thinking that just because I'm as good as my neighbor and as religious as the other person, that everything's going to be all right. Because you're measuring by the wrong standard if this is what you're doing.

Oh dear friend, I plead with you tonight to do what this person did. What the psalmist did. So this is the Psalm of David. I would ask you to do what David did. He acknowledged his sin unto the Lord. He didn't hide it, he acknowledged it before God. Oh, what joy there'd be in heaven if someone here would bow. God is not asking you to make a promise and say, well, from this moment I'm going to live a better life. I'm going to serve God. I'm going to turn over a new leaf friend. He's not asking you to do that. He's asking you to do just what the psalmist did here, just what we read in the Book of Job. The Book of Job. It says He looketh upon men. And if any say I have sinned and perverted there, which is right, and it profiteth me not, he will deliver him from going down to the pit. I have found a ransom. What did the prodigal do when he returned? Did he say father? I'm going to live a better life from now? I'll never disappoint you again. Perhaps he did disappoint his father again. I'm quite sure that he wasn't a perfect boy even after that. But one thing that he said was. Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son. He just acknowledged his guilt, that's all. What did the father do? He said bring forth the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring in his hand and shoes in his feet. And then when you take your true place, friend, God will do the rest. He's not asking you for promises. He's not asking you to say, well, I'll give up this and I'll give up that. I'll lead a different life. I know I haven't been acting the way I should. A man went to a gospel meeting in a little town in Ontario. And when the meeting was over, he evidently hadn't got the message because he said to somebody, well, I'll certainly have to live a different life. Dear friend, God wants you just to acknowledge you're a Sinner, and when you acknowledge that, God will do the rest. Oh, you say, don't you believe in living a different life after you're saved? Oh, God gives you a different life. God gives it to you. The gift of God is eternal life. What you need and whatever saved person has is. A new life. Jesus said he must be born again. He must be born again. What does it mean? Well, it just means that the life you were born in is not the life that you need. You need a new life, and that's new birth. You may be born in a Christian home. There's some boys and girls here. They've been born in a Christian home. Their fathers and mothers have prayed for them. They prayed for you over and over again. But you have to get a new life. It's wonderful to have a praying father and mother, but you must be born again. You must have a new life. And when you come in your guilt and acknowledge what you are before God, I say again, God does the rest. God does the rest, just like the Father did. He brought forth the best robe. He looked after it all. And so the psalmist here. Said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. That was all he did. He just acknowledged his guilt. Have you done math? And you don't have to remember all your sins, friends. You never could. You never could remember all your sins. And even if you were asked to remember them all, do you think you could be sure that you had the right estimate of what sin was and the presence of God? All you do is come and just tell God that you're a Sinner like that man did that went up into the temple to pray. He just said, God be merciful to me, a Sinner. You can't remember all your sins, but God does. And God put those sins upon the head of the Lord Jesus for all those who trust in him. What a savior, What a wonderful savior. And He wants to be your savior. He wants to be your savior tonight. And so it says, I confessed, and thou forgave us. I confess and thou forgave us. Yes, he does the whole thing. And how many sins does he forgive? While we read that lovely verse from the First Epistle of John and the 1St chapter, in the seventh verse it says if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If you're walking in darkness, you don't see dirty spots in your clothes. You don't even see if your face is dirty. It doesn't bother you one bit because in the dark you don't see those things, but when you come into the light it shows up. And dear friend, that's what God does. He brings you into the light. Her brother who mentioned last night, I am the light of the world. God brings you into the light. And when does it show up? It shows up our sins. But then what does God do? The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Oh, how wonderful. Every sin, Every single one. Yes. A dear Christian man as he approached the end of his life. One of his sons said to him, Father, do you have any doubts now? He said I have no doubts about the value of the blood of Christ. A dear Christian lady who had lived her life for the Lord Jesus as she came to the end of her life, she said. He said it takes the whole Bible to live with. But it only takes one verse to die with, and the verse that speaks comfort to my soul is this. The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanseth us from all sin. Dear friend, the light of God's presence will never see one sin. It will never discover one sin upon the soul that's been cleansed in the blood of Christ. I confess thou forgave us. What a happy result. Wouldn't it be lovely tonight if someone here just bowed in the presence of God and said, Oh God, I can't remember all my sins. I don't know how bad I am. I never thought I was very bad before, but now I realize that in thy sight I am a Sinner. If you just bow and tell him, you don't have to remember them all. You don't have to realize how great a Sinner you are. Just bow and tell him that you accept his estimate of your guilt. And. Confess the Lord Jesus, believe as it says here. Thou forgave us. Oh, what a Savior. He wants to be your Savior tonight. And so thou forgave us. And he'll do that for you, my friend. Little hymn says thousands have fled to his pierced side. Welcome. They all have been. None are denied. He never turned any away. Everyone who has come. It says him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. Some people think, well you have to wait until you just feel terrible, until your sins burden you to tears, until you just feel so very guilty. Oh dear friend, don't wait 1 moment. If God by His Spirit tonight has shown you you're a Sinner, just acknowledge that you are a Sinner in His presence. And the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from sins that you can't remember, sins that you don't realize. It'll put them all away.

As one who has been brought up in a Christian home, I'll tell you this that I've learned far more of my guiltiness since the Lord saved me than I ever realized before. I didn't know how guilty I was. I knew I was guilty, but I didn't know how guilty I was. But the Lord has shown me a lot more since He saved me. And I thank him that when he showed me, he also told me that when I received him that those sins that he knew about were all gone. Friend, it's true. It's true every sin. How blessed, and for how long. Well, it says, for by one offering he hath perfected forever. Them that are sanctified, a little song says, Blessed Lamb of God, thy precious blood shall never lose its power, till every ransomed St. of God be saved to sin no more. All that precious blood was shed, and that precious blood, when you accept Christ as your Savior, cleanse us from all sin. And God is still inviting sinners and everyone who trusts in that precious. Blood is cleansed. Is fit for God's thrice Holy Presence, and you can walk in the light and all the light shows up.

The blood cleanses from what a savior. He wants to be your savior tonight, friend. The next verse says. In the sixth verse. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found surely in the floods of great waters, they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place. Oh, what a grand thing to have a hiding place. This world is a world of trouble. There's all kinds of trouble, and I'm not standing here to tell you that when you accept Christ that you're not going to have any more troubles. Paul said to the believers. We must, through much tribulation, enter into the Kingdom of God. I'm not here to tell you that when you accept Christ that all your troubles will end. But I do tell you that when you accept Christ, your sins will be gone, you'll be fitted for heaven, and you'll have one who will walk through the rest of the journey with you. Thou art my hiding place. I'm sure you've sung little hymn that says, should 7 full storms of Thunder roll and shake this globe from pole to pole, no Thunderbolt shall daunt my face. For Jesus is my hiding place. All can you look up and say Jesus is my hiding place? The next verse says. A few more rolling Suns at most will land me on Fair Canaan's coast. For I shall sing a song of grace and see my glorious hiding place. Oh, is he your Savior? Friend he wants to be tonight. Dare you put it off? Dare you say no? Can you reject such wondrous love? Can you His claim disowned? Come give your all and gratitude all. Receive this wonderful Savior tonight. Thou art my hiding place. When you say, I see a lot of problems ahead if I do that. You don't know my life, you say. You don't know the problems that I have, the home that I come from. The way my wife lacked, the way my husband lacked, the things that will happen. You just don't know what it means for me to confess Christ. All He'll not only be your hiding place, but listen, I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go, Dear friend, this one who wants to be your Savior will also be your guide, will also be your shepherd to lead you through the whole pathway of life. And it says here. In the In this eighth verse I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye. Another translation is I will guide thee with mine eye upon thee. In fact, that's the way it reads in the margin. I will guide thee with mine eye upon thee. His eye will be upon you, my friend. Yes, Oh, what a wonderful thing it is to have a savior like this. I've known Him for a good many years. He's not only given me salvation, He's not only given me peace. He's not only given me a home in heaven, but all. How lovely. We've had problems individually in our lives collectively, but we've had one to turn to, one that we can look up to, and we have His word. The best book that it's possible to have the wisdom of God for our pathway, one dear Christian man said. I never had a decision in my life that I didn't even either have a scripture or some principle of the scripture to guide my decisions. Oh, friend, he's an all the way home savior. He's the captain of our salvation. He's our counselor. He wants to be more than a savior to you. He wants you to. He wants to be your friend. He wants to lead you and guide you. And he loves us so much that when we get self willed, he sometimes has to act like the man who has the horse of the mule. He controls it by pulling the reins and perhaps grabbing back the poor animal and by the bit in his mouth that pulls him around.

Sometimes the Lord said to do that with me too. He's had to pull me around. But it's much better that he should pull us around. He doesn't like to guide us that way, but he loves us so much that he says I can't let you go your own way. It'll only get you into trouble. Oh what a wonderful Savior, dear friend. He loves you. Christ died for you. The blood cleanses from all sin. Heavens opened to you tonight, and the one who wants to save you will take you every step of the way. He'll be your guard, He'll be your guide. He'll be everything to you. And if you get self willed even as Christians do sometimes. He'll even use the bitten bridle to pull us around. But all he loves. He loves us. But then the next verse, the 10th verse, says, Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, but he that trusteth in the Lord mercy shall compass him about. Notice this friend, many sorrows. I can't tell you the awfulness of those words. I can't tell you the awfulness of those words, friend. I must warn you at the close of this meeting, in all solemnity, that if you go out in your sins and you die in your sins. Just as I can't measure the gladness and the blessedness of knowing Christ in a home in heaven, I can't tell you how terrible it will be to be in outer darkness. Under the judgment of God in hell forever.

Chicago Conference: 1988, Ways God Speaks to Man

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to speak friends tonight about the different ways in which God speaks, because God speaks with a desire for our blessing. And if there are any here who don't yet know Him, a Savior, perhaps He has spoken to you in different ways. And tonight He is speaking to you again through His precious word. And there would be joy in heaven tonight if you would hear His loving voice, and you would turn to the Lord Jesus and receive Him as your Savior. It would give you peace, will give joy, and heaven would give joy in this room. And oh, what a mighty deliverance and what I'd like to turn to a few scriptures first of all. I'd like to turn to Psalm 19, Psalm 9/19, and the first verse. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day utter a speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a Tabernacle for the Son. Then would you turn to the next book in the Bible, the Book of Job, or, pardon me, the verse, the book before the book of Job and the 33rd chapter? Job Chapter 33. And the sixth verse, Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead. I also am formed out of the clay. Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee. Surely thou hast spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the voice of thy words, saying, 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 stalks, 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. For God speaketh once, ye twice, yet man perceiveth it not in a dream, in a vision of the night. When deep sleep falleth upon man, men in slumberings upon the bed, then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, that he may withdraw a man from his purpose and hide pride from man. He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. He is chastened also with pain upon his bed. And the multitude of his bones with strong pain. So that his life abhorrent bread and his soul dainty

meat, His flesh is consumed away that it cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out. Yeah, his soul. His soul draws near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among 1000 to show 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 shall be fresher than a child's. He shall return to the days of his youth. 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 look at the bond men, And if any say, I have sinned and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not, he will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light. Know 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. Mark well, old Job, hearken unto me, hold thy peace, and I will speak. If thou hast anything to say, answer me, speak, for I desire to justify thee. If not, hearken unto me, hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom. And I'd like you to turn also to First Timothy, First Epistle of Timothy in the first chapter. And verse 15, this is a faithful saying.

And worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. Well, as I said to your friends, I'd like tonight to speak of the different ways in which God speaks to man. Because, you know, God desires the blessing of man. It tells us that when He created this world, His delights were with the sons of men. And His own hands planted the garden back in Genesis, and there He placed man and woman, Adam and Eve, to enjoy all the good things that He had given to them. He told them they could eat of all the trees of the garden freely. He gave them one. One tree that they were not to eat of, one that would do them harm. And they chose to follow their own wills instead of hearkening to the loving voice of God the Creator. Who had given them that garden to enjoy, to enjoy in all its fullness? They chose the path of rebellion and disobedience to their Creator. And dear friend, I ask you tonight, is that the path that you have chosen? You're going against the wisdom and love of the Creator who gives you life and breath and all things. Are you going on without Him and leaving Him out of your life? Don't say that God hasn't given you any testimony of His goodness. Because you're surrounded with ever so many reminders of His goodness and of His love and of His care. Think of this world in which we live with all those things that God has given. And it tells us there in that 19th Psalm where we read the heavens, declare the glory of God, and the firmament show of His handiwork. Our brother last night spoke of someone who said there is no God. But I don't think that there's anybody sitting in this room. That says that all these chairs just flew into place and all these things around the room just came into place without anybody doing it. You all recognize that somebody did it, and you and I are living in a world where God has given us ample evidence that He exists of His creatorial power and that He has made this wonderful world in which we live. In all intricacies of the creation and how everything goes according to His divine planning. And the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Even if you have never read a Bible in your whole life, you would still have to acknowledge that there is a Creator and that if He is the Creator of all things, then you have a responsibility to Him. I don't think that you would walk into this room and say that you have no responsibility to the Marriott Hotels you. We do have some responsibility. It's their building. And dear friends, you were in this world and you have a responsibility to your creator. The Bible says everyone shall give account of himself to God. It says, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me. And every tongue shall confess to God. And so don't try to brush it off so easily as saying I just don't believe. The fact that you don't believe doesn't change facts at all. I've never been to Paris, France, but if I told you that because I never saw the city, I didn't believe it was there, you'd say I'm foolish. And dear friends, not believing a thing doesn't change the fact that all. And because you don't believe in a God doesn't. Way to change the fact that there is a living God with whom you have to do. And you have to acknowledge his son whether you wish it or not. The fact that people don't believe. Seems to be, in their minds, a way of escape. Perhaps when your tax papers come, you could throw them in the waste paper basket and say I'm not interested in taxes. And nobody is going to make me interested in taxes, but you know what would happen? You know that you wouldn't be able to retain your property if you said you have no interest in taxes. You have a responsibility to the laws of this land, and you have a higher responsibility to your creator. But the wonderful fact is your creator loves you. I don't know whether the ones who are in authority have an individual care about you, but I do know that the God in whose hand your breath is and. Your ways is looking down upon you sitting in this seat here tonight and says I love you and I don't want to be your judge. I want to be your savior. I want to not only give you temporal happiness in the world, but I want to give you eternal happiness, for in thy presence is fullness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

I beg of you, dear friends, not to be indifferent. To the claims of your creator, it says there's no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. There is no land where the sun doesn't shine. There is no land where they don't see the evidence of God's creatorial power. There's no escape from that responsibility. And it says, as Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, he said, the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified when Paul stood up on Mars Hill in that city of philosophy? Athens, he said. He said truly God is not far from everyone of us, for in him we live and move and have our being. If happily, we might seek after him and find him. But the wonderful fact that I have to proclaim to you. Is that God is seeking after you? Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. He said He came to seek and to save that which was lost. And friends, He's seeking you and He's been seeking you ever since you were just a babe. He sought even the little ones that says He came to save that which is lost. And when in yourself will you decide to turn your back on Him? Then He started seeking for you. And He is seeking for you tonight, and He is longing for your blessing. And you will have to turn a deaf ear to a great many of his warnings if you land in Hell in a lost eternity. Just as when you're going along, if you're going along and there are warning stop lights there, well, if you go through a stoplight, it's your own fault. If you get into trouble and have an accident, there was a warning given to you. And God's Word is full of warnings. It's full of warnings, but it's full of love. God wants you to. God wants to woo you by His love. He wants to bring you to Himself. Well, this 19th Psalm says. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork. And the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter one, when he takes this up, he says there that the invisible things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. You're without excuse. If you came into this room and behaved the way you like with no sense of responsibility to this hotel. I don't think they'd count you without excuse. They would say, well, you ought to have known you did have a responsibility, and how much more to the Creator in whose hands your breath is. Well, let's turn over to this passage in Joel Job, chapter 33. Job had been doing a great deal of arguing. He'd been saying a great many things. And perhaps you like to argue too. Perhaps you like to give out your own views and your own ideas. And he seemed to find it very difficult to realize and understand what God was doing in his life. Perhaps that's been the case with you. You say my life has been such a puzzle, I don't understand it. But isn't it wonderful that God sent along this man named Eli Hugh that would speak to Job and would give him to know a little bit of God's ways with man. And that's what I would like to do tonight with the Lords health, to speak a little bit of God's ways. And now he desires to bless. And above all what he has done. That you might be saved, that you might be sure of salvation, that you might be sure of heaven. Well as 33rd of job where we read it says. Six verse Behold, I am, according to thy wish in God's stead. I also have formed out of the clay, he said to Job. I'm just an ordinary man like you. My body is formed out of the clay. You don't need to be afraid of me because I'm just a person like yourself, and that's all I am tonight, dear friends, I'm a person just like yourself, a Sinner saved by grace and the wonderful goodness of God.

But I'm just an ordinary person. But. Elonia, who had learned to know something of the ways of his Creator, of his Savior. And by the grace of God, I've learned to know something of that through this precious book. And that's why I would like to bring before you tonight how you might get to know the God in whose hands your breath is, that you might get to know his love, that you might get to know his character as light and love, and that you might receive his free offer of pardon and salvation. He had been listening to Job talking and noticed the way Job had been speaking. Says in the eighth verse, Surely thou has spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of thy words saying, I am clean without transgressions. I am innocent, neither is there iniquity in me. Behold, he findeth occasions against me. He counteth me for his enemy. I've heard lots of people talk like that. Why did this happen to me? Why should I be in all this trouble? What have I done? And that was just the way the job was talking to. Maybe that's the way you've been talking. But dear friends, if you think you're all right, if you think you're clean without transgression, it's just because you have never been in the presence of God. So I was in a dark room and my clothes were filthy dirty. I might think they were clean, but I'd be a very simple reason. I just wasn't in the light. But as soon as I got into. I would see that I was clothed as the Bible says. When when the Zechariah got into the presence of the Lord, it says he was clothed in filthy garments. When Isaiah get into the presence of God, he said, I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for mine eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts. And tonight, I hope that this gospel meeting will bring you consciously into the presence of God and that you will see yourself as God sees you. A young lady back in Ottawa was invited to the gospel meeting and this was her reply. No thanks. It makes me feel too wicked. She didn't want to get into the presence of God about her sins. But dear friends, it's a good thing when you find out how sinful you are because God cannot have sin in heaven. Not one sin can enter heaven. And I'd be very when I am going someplace that I want to have clean clothes. I want to get where it's nice and bright and where the mirror is good and clean, because if my clothes are supposed to be clean, I want to be sure they are. And dear friends, God wants holiness. He demands that you stand in his presence without one sin upon you. You say, how can that be? You can't do it, but God can. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Well, Job had been talking about what a good man he was. And that God was really against him and. The 12 first, Elihu says to him. 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. Perhaps you say, well, there's so many things that happen in life and so many things in the Bible. I don't understand. Well, dear friends, you have to do with one whose wisdom is infinite. God knows everything. He makes no mistake, the Bible says, As for God, his way is perfect. And you're going to have to give an account to God, but he doesn't have to give an account to you. He doesn't have to give an account to you. It says, Why does thou strive against him? For he give us not account of any of his matters. Once the Lord Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, and Pontius Pilate expected the Lord to give an account of him, give an account to him. But the day is coming when Pilate is going to stand before Christ and he's going to give an account to him. All what a serious thing when he delivered the Son of God to be crucified. Old friends, perhaps you look lightly on some of the things in your life, but you're going to give an account. Every man shall give account of himself to God.

Well, then it tells us about the different ways in which God speaks. It says in a dream, in a dream. Well, I suppose all of us have had bad dreams sometime and they were pretty scary. But we woke up and we were very thankful to find that the dream wasn't true. It didn't really happen, and the thing that we were so scared about didn't really happen. And you know, God speaks in a very gentle way the first time. Maybe you've had a terrible dream. Maybe you've had a dream about your soul. Maybe you've had a dream about standing before God or going through death and it wasn't so and you were glad to find out you were still alive. But dear friends, God was speaking to you. It may be over and over again. Speaks. And he always speaks gently the first time. He always speaks gently the first time. And if he has spoken to you, I beg of you not to be indifferent. He spoke gently when our children were growing up. We never spoke harshly the first time. We always spoke gently. And when we got a response of obedience and love, oh, what a pleasure it was. We love to see our children happy. We would do all that we could to make them happy. And when they were a bit rebellious, we always spoke first, gently. And so does God. Maybe he's spoken gently to you. Maybe while you've been sitting in these meetings and you heard the gospel meeting on Friday night and you heard it on Saturday night, and like Felix, you trembled. As it says, as Paul reasoned the righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled. Nothing happened at that time to Felix, but he trembled. He knew that what Paul was saying to him was true, but he thought there was plenty of time. He put it off. He said that when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee and your friends. Maybe God has spoken to you and you have been afraid. You sat in your seat maybe last night. And the Lord was pleading with you. He was, as it were, pulling on your coat sleeve. And saying, Why won't you come? And you pulled away and said, I want to have my fun first. I want to go on in my own way. God speaketh once, yeah, twice. Yet man perceiveth it not in a dream and a vision of the bed. When deep sleep falleth upon man, then he openeth the ears of man and sealeth his instruction that he may withdraw man from his purpose. And hide pride from man. Why haven't you come to Christ? I think I can answer. Its pride. It's pride. It's because you feel you don't need the Lord Jesus. You say I'm OK, I'm all right, I'll go my own way. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. God saw you going your own way. And he longed to bless you. Well, he spoke gently the first time. Then it goes a little further here in this 17th verse. And it says. Now the 18th verse. Rather, he keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing with the sword. That means that maybe you've had a narrow escape. Maybe you just barely escaped death. I remember visiting a man good many years ago who was in World War One, and he brought out a little testament and showed it to me. And he said that was in my pocket during the war. And there was a bullet hole went into that testament. He said that testament was right in my tunic over my heart. He said, you see that that bullet went in there and that testament saved my life. I said, Mr. Burnett, will you let me look at it? And he let me look at it. And it stopped at Revelation 22. I've forgotten the verse, but the number of the verse. But it was whosoever will let him take the water of life. Freely, I said, Mr. Burnett, have you done it? No. No, dear friend, if you had a narrow escape, have you been close to death and you told your friends you were lucky and you got out of the car without being hurt, or you escaped and the other person didn't and you laughed and joked, your friends, God was speaking to you, he may not speak again.

He may not he that being often reproved hardness, his neck shall suddenly be destroyed. And that without remedy. Another dear man might be known to some here down in Kentucky. His name was Johnny McDaniel. I remember going to visit him when he was sitting in a wheelchair just one year after a tree had fallen upon him. His back was broken. And this is what he said to me. God had to break my back to save my soul. God had to break my back to save my soul. He lived for a good many years afterwards. To be a bright testimony for his Lord and Savior. He was glad that he had that narrow escape. He didn't turn like Mr. Burnett and just think he was lucky to get free and not be killed. No, dear friends, he turned to the Lord. And if you've had a narrow escape, I beg you to turn to the Lord. The next one might be a call into eternity, as it has been with some of our friends whom we've known well. Just lately, oh, I plead with you, God speaks through creation. He lets you see all the wonders of his creation. God speaks through a dream, in a gentle way, where perhaps the dream was unpleasant, but you found out it wasn't real and it didn't really happen. But then you were in an accident, a close call. You barely escaped death. Did you hear the voice of your loving Creator? The one who wants to be your savior? No, perhaps you didn't listen. Then God speaks again. Listen to what it says here. Chastened also with pain upon his bed, and with the mother and the multitude of his bones was strong pain. So that his life abhorrent 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 under the grave and his life to the destroyers. Well, it's not hard to understand what this is, a picture of some very serious illness and perhaps you're going on, God is going to have to do this to you to try and get your ear. Are you still going to be indifferent? We meet people in the hospital, people who have. Very serious bodily conditions, as far as the doctors are concerned, they're terminal and yet. They still closing their ears to the voice of love that pleads with them. Oh, how good it is when people hear the loving voice of the Savior, the neighbor of ours who was sick. Told us, he said I left the Lord out of my life for 20 years, turned my back upon him, wondered if he even existed. Can I turn to him now? I believe he did. I believe he did. And your friends, the Lord didn't turn him away. He, he thought the Lord wouldn't want him after turning his back on him 20 years. But the Lord's cry is whosoever will may come. He invites the Sinner to come. Christ Jesus came into the world. To save sinners. And so if you have turned your back upon him. And you've left him out of your life. Perhaps some serious illnesses come into your life. Maybe the doctor has warned you. Are you going to turn to the Lord Jesus? You say, why did God allow it? This is telling us why he allows us to draw us back, to keep us from the pit, to keep us from eternal judgment, to bring us to himself. And so here is this sick man. And it says here in his 22nd verse. Yeah, his soul draws near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers, if there be a messenger with him. An interpreter, one among 1000. To show unto man his uprightness. Yes, God has his messengers. Thank God he does. And the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, he said, to his disciples, going into all the world the gospel to every creature. He said that repentance and remission of sins would begin, was to be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And so he raises up his messengers. Those who will carry the glad tidings of his love and of his grace. And as our brother was talking this afternoon, you don't have to have some special gift or something to do that either. It says if there be a messenger, one among 1000, you say, oh, I'm an oddball when I talk to people about the Lord. Well, perhaps you are, but you're carrying a wonderful message. A message of pardon. A message of salvation. A message that God wants to bless Sinner is because he wants to. He says he's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. If there be a messenger with him. One among 1000. To show unto man his uprightness, what does this mean? To show unto man his uprightness? What is the upright thing for a Sinner to do? Supposing I stole $100 from you. Would it be upright for me to say I didn't do it or to try and hide it? Or would it be more upright for me to say, yes, I have to hang my head, I am the guilty one. And then you, pardon me, but wouldn't it be the upright thing for me to do to say I am guilty? And dear friends, that's what God's listening for. He's not listening to hear you say you're going to turn over a new leaf because he knows. The best you can do is not good enough. All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. The best we can do, you say, what more can I do than the best I can do? And your friends, let me use a little illustration. Supposing you have a letter and you want to have it addressed and you hand it to a three-year old child and say here, would you address this letter for me? I'll tell you the address. Well, if I know anything about what children are like, because we had them, that child would try. And I, I've seen a child and they really thought they were writing a message too. But I don't think any postal clerk would be able to interpret it. The child did the best they could, but it wasn't good enough. Oh, you say, can you be so foolish? Why don't you give it to somebody who can write? Why don't you go to somebody who's able to save you? I can't save you. Your mother can't. You, your Father, can't save you, but the Lord Jesus is the Savior of sinners. He says him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. And if you'll just be upright and take your place as a Sinner, as it says here, He looketh upon man and if any say I have sinned, he's not. He's not asking you to say I'm going to start praying and I'm start going to church and I'm going to do this or that. He wants to hear from your heart and warm from your lips those words. In all sincerity and all uprightness. I am a Sinner and I need a Savior. That's what repentance is. That's what repentance is. I've often said that repentance really is a change of mind. That's the meaning of the word. And we are sinners and we have wrong thoughts about two things. We have wrong thoughts about ourselves and we have wrong thoughts about God. You speak to anybody that's not saved, and he has wrong thoughts about himself. He thinks he's not as bad as God says he is, and he doesn't perhaps believe that God's punishment of sin is as severe as God says it is. He has wrong thoughts about sin and about himself. And he has wrong thoughts about God because if he only knew the forgiveness that was in the heart of God. He wouldn't delay another moment. Sometimes you're afraid to tell somebody you're sorry you did something because you don't know whether they'll pardon you. But you never need to feel like that in the presence of God. Because it says, if let the wicked forsake his way in the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him and to our God, for he will. Abundantly. Pardon, I just love that verse. He will abundantly pardon how many of your sins? The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin. If there be a messenger with him, one among 1000 to show unto man his uprightness, then he is gracious unto him. God is gracious. The grace of our God that bring us salvation hath appeared to all men. Yes, God is gracious.

What is grace? Undeserved favor. I deserve punishment, but God is a pardoning God. Says in the songs, If thou Lord, should mark iniquity, O Lord, who should stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. So it says, then he will. He is gracious unto him, and saith, deliver him from going down to the pit. Yes, Isn't this wonderful? A judge himself says that. I've often said, I know there's no judgment for me because the judge himself told me, the judge himself. You're not going to be my judge. No preacher is going to be my judge. But God the one who is the Judge, did you ever notice how beautiful that is? In John chapter 5? It says in John chapter 5 verse 22, the Father judgeth no ma'am, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. And then in the 24th verse, the Judge himself speaks, and he says, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent Me hath everlasting life, and shall not. To condemnation but is passed from death and delight. The father turns judgment over to the son, and the son turns to the one who believes. Says I'm not going to be your judge. I'm not going to be your judge because you've received me and you have everlasting life. Oh friends, he wants to be gracious to you. Deliver him from going down to the pit. I have found a ransom. You don't have to find the ransom, tells us in Titus. The Lord Jesus and Timothy. I should say that the Lord Jesus gave himself a ransom for all. To be testified in due time. So he's the one God found the ransom God sent his Son. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Here's a little picture of new birth. His flesh shall be fresher than a child. He shall return to the days of his youth. Now that is a little picture of being born again. I was born into this world with a sinful, fallen nature. But God has given me a new life and I've been born into his family. I'm one of his children. I have a life that is going to live for all eternity in the. Presence of God and enjoy in my presence is fullness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore, old friend. And then it says, thou wilt show me the path of life. Well, this is for you if you'll just listen to your Sinner. And then here's the response, the 26th verse. He shall pray unto God, and he will be favorable unto him, and he shall see his face with joy. For he shall render unto man his righteousness. Isn't this wonderful? I'm going to see the judge of all the earth, but I'm going to see his face with joy. Yes. I'm not afraid because the judge himself is my savior. Sometimes I think of a child, for instance, his father's the judge in the court. He's had to pronounce the death sentence on a man in the court that day he comes home. His little boy runs up to him and throws his arms around him. He said to the boy. Aren't you afraid of that man? He pronounced a death sentence on a man today. Oh, he says, that's my father, that's my father. Oh dear friends, if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you'll see the judge with joy, because he's not going to be your judge. He'll render unto man his righteousness. My righteousness was filthy rags, but says in 2nd

Corinthians 5 He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness. God in him, you couldn't have a better righteousness than God provides. You don't have to do one thing, but just to receive it. Here's this person. He's been laid on a sick bed. He's been careless about his soul, and now the messenger comes in and tells him what's in the heart of God. Dear friends, I'm just formed out of the clay, but I have the privilege of giving you that message tonight. It's not my message. It's a message from the heart of God. He wants to. You he wants to pardon you he wants to render his righteousness. You looketh upon man, and if any say I have sinned and perverted that which isn't right, and it profited me not, He will deliver him from going down, going into the pit, and his life shall see the light. Oh yes, the Lord Jesus wants to be your deliverer. He wants to save you from the just penalty of.

Sins He wants you to know the full and the free pardon that he has for you. And he's offering it to you tonight. And so if you'll turn over with me to Hebrews chapter 2. Hebrews chapter. Well, I'll read it in the first verse. The 1St chapter first it says here I'll read from the first verse. God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners, fake in time passed under the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He at the point of heir of all things, by whom also He made the world, who, being the brightness of his glory, and the. 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. Friends, I want to tell you that tonight, that one who went to Calvary, that one who paid the debt of sin, who his own self bear our sins and his own body on the tree, He's up there at the right hand of God. He's seated there and he wants to deliver you from going. To the pit he wants to be a pardoning God. To you, he wants you to know the love that's in his heart. His life shall see the light. If you're not saved, you're still in darkness. It says he were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. And the Commission given to Paul was to go and proclaim this message. That they might be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. Your life will see the light. You will have the joy and peace of salvation. And you'll know that you have a living, loving Savior seated there at the right hand of God. And I just want to say a little more for those who receive him and those who know him as Savior. He's an all the way home Savior. He says, I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. When you say, oh, but I don't know whether I could live the Christian life. Well, isn't it wonderful to know that this same blessed Savior who died for us, who went there to Calvary's cross to bear the dead, the load of sin, that He's up there at the right hand of God? I thank Him that by His grace I've been saved for many years. But I've needed Him along the way, needed Him very much. I could never have made it to this hour in my own strength, but the same. Who died for me? The one who paid the ransom price, The one whose blood has cleansed me from all sin. Says that he's up there. It says we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are sent apart. And he says if you need help, just turn to me. And there he is. And I found his help all along the way. Friends, He is and all the way home Savior. Just mentioned too that he also restores it says in the 23rd Psalm he restoreth my soul. Comes to mind about a lady who came to the gospel meeting many years ago. She received the Lord Jesus as her Savior. She went on her way rejoicing. Know that knowing that she was saved. But two or three weeks afterwards she came back again to the meeting and she said, boy, I was so happy when I got saved because I knew all my sins were gone. But she hung her head and she said, but I'm afraid I have to acknowledge that I have sinned since I've been saved. What about that? What about that? Well, a brother that was speaking, he said, Well, I just want to ask you two questions, first of all. How, how many sins did you have when the Lord Jesus died? When she said I, I guess I didn't have any. I wasn't born. Then he said, I want to ask you the second question, Do you think the Lord Jesus is going to die for sinners again?

And she said, no, I don't suppose. And he isn't. The Bible says in that he died, He died unto sin once, but in that he liveth, He liveth unto God. While the brother said to her, if the Lord Jesus didn't settle the question of your sins at Calvary, they'll never be settled. But thank God he did. Thank God he did by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. And I want to say to those who are perhaps young believers, you don't have to come to the Lord after you're saved and ask him to forgive your sins. He just some come and confess. It says if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is when you come supposing that I did something wrong to you and I come and say, will you forgive me? I'm raising the question about whether you're going to say yes or no. But if you said Gordon, I have forgiveness in my heart, but I want I've already forgiven you, but I'd like you to say you're sorry. I'd like you to say you're sorry. And you know, when I fail as a Christian, I come with the confidence that the blood has cleansed my sins. But that sin. Communion with God. I can't be a happy Christian and be displeasing my Lord and Savior. Whence all of Tarsus got saved. His first desire was, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? What wilt thou have me to do? And so when you receive the Lord Jesus, you get a new life, you get a full and complete pardon. But if you want to be a happy Christian, you want to be a happy Christian. Don't allow sin in your life because it'll break fellowship with God. It will spoil the happiness of your Christian life because just as God wanted to save you from your sins and make you eternally secure, He wants you to be happy in this world as well as in all eternity. He wants you to be a happy Christian. And if you want to be a happy Christian, just think of what the Lord Jesus has done for you. And when Paul got saved, all of Tarsus, when he got saved, he just wanted to devote his whole life to the Lord. Had done so much for him. And the Bible says the love of Christ constraineth us, that we should not live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. And so I say again, God is speaking, He surrounded you with the wonderful creation, and you've seen all the wonders of his creation, at least a few of them I should say. Because there's such an extent to his creation that even the best. Scientists can never discover all the wonders of it, you know, Mr. Einstein said. And I suppose he was one of the most learned scientists that ever lived. His comment was when somebody asked him about how much he knew, he made this comment, he said. I know less than one 100th percent about anything. He felt that the creation was so great, the little bit that he knew was less than 101 hundreds of percent about anything. And yet, dear friends, you can know and be sure about something that I don't know whether Mr. Einstein knew. I hope he did, But you can know that your sins are all gone and heaven is your home is not more important than understanding all the wonders of God's creation. And you can know that tonight these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that she may know that she have eternal life. Will I say God speaks through creation, speaks through a dream, He speaks through a narrow escape, He speaks through a sickness. He speaks in a gospel meeting, and he speaks as we have through his Son. God's Son came down into this world because he loved you and because he loved me. And he tried that loving path to Calvary, and there he died, a sacrifice for sin. And tonight the blood is on the mercy seat. The way of salvation is open for you. But I also have to give you a warning. And if you turn to the book of Proverbs, I don't think I'd be faithful if I didn't give you a warning. What will happen if you refuse? Proverbs, chapter one, verse 28. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer. They shall seek me early or earnestly, but they shall not find me for that. They hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would none of my counsel. They despised all my reproof, therefore shall eat of the fruit of their own way.

And be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them in the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whose soul hearkeneth unto me, shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet. From fear of evil. Friends, you can call for mercy tonight, it says. Call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Look unto me and be saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God,

and there is none else. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. It's still the day of grace. You have the opportunity, but the master of the house is going to shut to the door. And I don't know when, but I feel it's getting near. And even if the Lord should not come tonight or tomorrow or very soon, one thing I do know that we're not going to be in this world forever. You have no lease on life. You don't know whether you'll get home safely tonight. And I, I implore you to call upon the Lord now. How shall we escape if we neglect? So great salvation. It's an amazing verse, isn't it, that 32nd verse? For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. That is, maybe the person sitting beside you is saying, oh, don't pay any attention. There's lots of time. There's lots of time. We used to preach on the street and quite often I would see a young couple come up and stop and listen. Then one pull the others arm, pull her away or pull him away. The turning away of the simple shall slay them. And the prosperity of fools. You see, I know somebody's not saved. And he. Things seem to go better for him than for me. It went well for the rich man in this life, but he died in his sins and he lifted up his eyes in hell in a lost eternity. All friends, I played with you. God is speaking to you. He speaks in different ways. I'm sure many of us can bear witness. He's You've had perhaps narrow escapes. You've sat under many, many gospel messages. You've looked up and marveled at God's great creation. You studied science in school and yet you say I don't want Jesus, I don't want the Creator. The little hymn says, what will I do with Jesus? What shall the answer be? Someday your heart will be asking, what will he do with me? Oh friend, why not tonight receive him as your Savior? Just now just tell him that you're a Sinner. He looketh upon men. And if any say I have sinned. You take your place as a center. You will meet the sinner's Savior and the blood of Jesus Christ. God's Son cleanse us from all sin.

Kentucky Conference: 1963, The Word of God to Direct Our Pathway

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Fill in the appendix. Savior, lead us by Thy power, faith into the promised rest. Choose the path away whatever seems to thee, O Lord, the best. Be our guide in every peril. Watch and keep us night and day, else our foolish hearts will wander from the straight and narrow way. 42 in the appendix. Save your laid our. Joy. Joy. Yeah. My friend. Saw. Play. Sorry, and your. And I pray presently. Our way down. Laundry from the way we are.

Yeah. Enough to the Lord for the last time. I'd like to turn to Psalm 119. Psalm 119. Verse 9. Well at all shall a young man cleanse his way. By taking heed thereto, according to thy word, the 11Th verse, thy word, have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. And in the 105th verse of this same Psalm. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. And in the 17th Psalm. And the fourth verse. Concerning the works of man by the word of thy lips. I have kept me from the powers of the Destroyer. Hold up my goings and thy paths that my footsteps Slipknot. Well, I'd like to turn later to some other scriptures. While I was thinking this afternoon of the importance of the Word of God and also of guidance for our pathway as we go through this world. How often were confronted with certain matters and we have to make decisions? How often we find the need of wisdom for our pathway through this world, and especially those who are young because so often. That path that we start in youth becomes part of us. We tread that path, and very often the if we could say the dye is cast while we're young, the position that we choose, the friends that we choose, the partner that we choose, how these things mold our lives, and how important dear young people that we should be guided by the precious word of God. So the first one that we read said, Where at all shall a young man cleanse his way? And that question might well be asked by each one here, young man or young girl, wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? How are we going to know that which is pleasing to the Lord for our pathway? How are we going to send out? Well, God has given to us His precious and holy word. He has given us this book and we haven't got a greater treasure anywhere, as we were remarking this morning. Than this blessed book it says, His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. And I believe that you will find in this wonderful book, dear young people, wisdom for every step of your pathway, not only the way of salvation. Thank God for that, that's the most important, but for our whole pathway. And while it's true, the word of God may not speak uncertain subject scientific subjects. Nevertheless, whenever God does speak about any such matters, he always speaks with authority. He speaks with accuracy because of who he is and so how wonderful it is. And I would like to say before I start, how important that you acquaint yourself well with what God has said in His word, how many young people, and I believe I can say, older people. Have never read God's Word through. Never read it through even once. Men are gone through from Genesis to Revelation. What would you think of me if I got a letter from my wife and I just picked out parts of it and this letter was conveying to me her whole mind and I just picked out the parts that I liked. You would say well, he doesn't have much concern about his wife's mind or will and anything. Lenny would just picked out the parts that he likes, you would say.

Surely love would lead him to read. All that she has been pleased to write well and dear young people, how much more when God has given to us in His Word, His revealed mind, all that we need to know for our pathway through this world God has given to us. In this blessed book there isn't a question that concerns life and godliness that we will not find the answer for in God's word God hasn't left us. To our own wisdom, to our own discretion, he has been pleased to reveal his mind. Millions of dollars are spent by men, the wise men in this world, to try and find out where this world came from, to try and find out what is at the end, where it's all going to end. And yet God has told us on a few simple words how in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He's told us how it fell into a state of ruin, and if it concerned life and godliness how that came about, He would have been pleased to tell us that too. But saying it wasn't necessary for us to know, he has not been pleased to tell us. And it wouldn't gain anything for us to surmise to suppose, because he hasn't been pleased to let us know about those things. But it's what he has told us that is important, as one person said, that it wasn't the things that God hadn't told him that concerned him. It was the things that God had told him that he might know them, that he might walk in the good of them and in communion with the Lord. And so do your young people Again, I would say, if you have never read your Bible through. If you've never really appointed yourself with God's revealed mind, isn't it a good time to start right now? Isn't it a fine thing if you should decide right now that you were at least going to read through what God has told us? Because how can you cleanse your way unless you know what God has said about your way and about His way at all? That he would have you to know, and then it says. Thy word have I hid in my heart. Now, that is, we don't read it. Just like a cold textbook, I suppose. When the time came in the spring when school was over, when everybody went on vacation, that everyone was glad to take their school books and put them on the shelf and say, glad to have them out of the way. Well, because what you learn in school doesn't find a place in your heart particularly. It's necessary for your education, It's necessary to pass those examinations. But it doesn't find a place in your heart. But this blessed book tells you about one who loves you infinitely more. Than father or mother or any person else in this world. It reveals a person to you. The God who made you, who gave you life and breath and all things, is looking down upon you this afternoon. And you're an individual before him and he knows you. He knows your whole family background. He knows your

disposition. The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. There isn't a thing in your life or mine or a whole family background. That he is not thoroughly acquainted with. And so it says Thy word of thy hid in my heart. A business letter may not mean very much to you, but a letter from someone who loves you, that is of great importance, reminds me of a young lady, and she had a book in her bookcase that she had bought some time just to read out of passing interest. As time went on, she met the young man who had written this book. She fell in love with him and she was going to marry him. What do you think she did? Why? She went to the bookcase and said, I must read that book through again. I have an interest in that book I never had before. Why our heart now was taken up with the young man who had written that book? Well, he hadn't written that book for her. But dear young people, God has written this book for you. Isn't your heart touched by the fact that he should not only tell you that he loved you? And that it costs far greater than you and I could ever know. He has redeemed us. God could speak worlds into being by just his his own power. He spake, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood fast. But when it was a question of your salvation and mine, the cost was no less than the giving up of his own beloved Son. Think of it. How much He loves us. Thy word have I hid in my heart.

Dear young people, what place does the word of God have in your heart? Are there verses in the Bible that you say? Well, I don't like those verses. They they bother me. Oh, I want to tell you that God has written those very verses for your good and for your blessing. Every part of this blessed book ought to find a place in your heart and mind. They're written by one who loves us infinitely. And whose love will never end. Having loved his own, which were in the world, he loved them on to the end. And then it says, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light under my path around to my feet means that it gives light step by step. God doesn't just give light for your whole pathway from now until the moment of the Lord's return, and all until. Death should come into your life. He hasn't been pleased to reveal all that's ahead of you in that time. We don't know what's ahead of us. It's a good thing we don't. But he does. He does, And he gives a lamp to our feet, one step at a time. And as you take that step in communion with him to please him. Then he gives life for more, just as the light of the car why it shines so many feet. And then as you move forward, it keeps on shining, keeps on lights the whole way. So God's word, it's a light to the feet, it's a lamp to the feet, and it's a light to the path. Some have trodden the pathway right to the end. They're at home in the glory with Christ, and they found that the light never failed all along the way, every step of the pathway. There was light given until the very end. Yes, thy word is a lamb under my feet and a light unto my path. It'll give you wisdom. And that's another reason why it's so important to store your mind with it. Supposing when I was driving along with my car, I said, well, I've seen the light for quite a while, and then turn the lights off. Now see how I get along. Well, I wouldn't get along very well, would I? We need it constantly. And so with God's Word. Read it, become acquainted with it. And as you go on step by step and turn to the Word of God, you'll find in it guidance for your pathway. And then the other verse that I read was in the 17th song. It says, concerning the works of men. By the words of thy lips have I kept me from the path of the Destroyer. This is a warning because the word of God which gives us instruction at all, tells us that there is a destroyer. There is one who is seeking to ruin your life and testimony. That is Satan. He is the destroyer. He's speaking to ruin your life and testimony. He doesn't want you to go on for the Lord. He doesn't want you to have a path in which you have the blessing of the Lord. And his sword says, by the words of thy lips, have I kept me? It reminds me of the that well known book called Pilgrims Progress. There was a certain point in the in the. Travels of the Christian to Celestial City, where he came to a place where there was a lion, and when that lion roared at him, he became very afraid, but he looked up his chart. And he found out that in the chart that was given him, telling him the way to the Celestial City. There there was a place marked on it where the lions would come out against him. But he also found that there was a path that went right through and those lions could not touch him as long as he stayed on the path. As long as he stayed there, the lions were chained and the lions chain was not long enough to reach him. If he stayed on the path, perhaps you'd gone to a house to call on somebody and there was a dog there, the one you saw. The dog was chained. Why? You said well. I'll stay at such a distance from that he can't get to me, he barked, and he made a big fuss. But you weren't afraid because he couldn't touch you as you walk down the path to the house.

He was chained and dear young people, God has a path through this world where Satan cannot touch us. He has a path through this world, I say where Satan cannot touch us and we have that path marked out in the word. Do you think you can disobey God's word and say well he won't do anything to me. Satan can't touch me all Peter, he was so self confident, he boasted. But he didn't realize that in that path of self-confidence the enemy. Could get him, the enemy could get him and all. How many a young person in self-confidence has thought he could disobey the word of God? Young people have said, well I can go with that unconverted friend and perhaps you'll get saved. And then they've had to reach the rest of their lives married to an unconverted partner and they found out that if they had walked in obedience to the word of God. They wouldn't have got into such a path. All dear young people, I warn you, there is a path and it's obedience to God's Word. And if you go in disobedience to God's word, there is a watchful foe. He's too clever for me. He's too clever for you. And he knows our weaknesses. He knows just exactly what each one of us are prone to. And he has a a trap laid for us. But he can't touch us. We walk in obedience to the precious word of God. So it says, by the word concerning the works of man. By the words of thy lips have I kept me from the paths of the Destroyer, and the fifth verse hold up my goings in thy path, that my footsteps Slipknot. This tells us of dependence, not only knowing the path, but walking in at independence on the Lord. Because only the Lord can preserve anyone of us, young or old. The Lord alone can keep us and preserve us. Do you look up and ask Him to preserve you? Did you ever ask him to keep you in the path of obedience to His word? All He delights to hear? A prayer like that? He delights to hear one look up and say, preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust, and if we are seeking that of Him, He delights in our blessing. His word has been given that we might know His mind. Now I'd like to turn to a couple of verses in the New Testament. In acts, I think it's. The 22nd chapter. Acts 22 and verse 14. And he said, The God of our fathers has chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that just one, and should just hear the voice of his mouth. And in Ephesians chapter 5. Verse 17. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is? And in First Corinthians again in the. Second chapter. The 15th verse. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. If you have a margin, it says, discerned for he For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him. But we have the mind of Christ. Well, we're told that God has given to us His Word and the other passages that we had and the importance of that word.

And how it keeps us now it speaks about the understanding of that word. Perhaps some young person says, well that's my problem. I've read the Bible that I find in it so many verses. But I just don't understand verses that I can't seem to realize what the Lord is seeking to tell me in those verses. Well, it tells us that when solid Tarsus was saved that Ananias said to him that thou mayest know his will. So the great question is, does God want us to know His will? Does it all depend on our intellect? Does all depend on how clever we are? Or does God desire? That we should know his will. Does he intend us to walk in uncertainty through this world? Not knowing his mind and all these verses show us that one for all of Tarsus was saved and that his the desire of the heart of God was that he should know his will. And so God hasn't just written his word now just to give us many interesting stories. And to leave a large part of it that we must expect never to understand in our lives, you young people. He wants us to know his will. That's the reason he has written it. And he would teach us, as we shall see in looking at some other

verses. And I want to press first of all this thought that not only has he given us his word which reveals his will, but he wants us to know His will. And it says we're not to be unwise, but. Understanding. What the will of the Lord is, He would have us to have spiritual intelligence to understand what he has said in His word. Well, of course this is connected with growth and God doesn't teach us everything all at once. When God brought His people, Israel, into the Promised Land, I was just reading the other day and it struck me how he told them. He said I won't drive your enemies out all at once. Lest the wild beasts multiply upon you, Bodies said little by little I'll drive out your enemies and give you to possess the land. All this showed that there was two things on their part. There was room for spiritual growth on the other part, that there was to be a continual conflict because the enemy would never desire that they should go ahead and possess this land more and more. Of the land that God had given to them. So we don't expect, and we shouldn't expect, that we're going to understand everything of God's will all at once. It's little by little lying upon line, precept upon precept. But if we are walking in the my His mind, as it's been made known to us, then He will teach us more. And it was said to Saul of Tarsus, But thou mayest know His will. And might just hear his voice. Oh, that's a precious thing to to know his well and to hear his voice, because it's a person that's brought before us in the word. It's a person. That person, the Lord Jesus, the one who died for us, the one who loves us. And it was soon coming to claim us to be with himself. And so Paul, in exhorting the dear Ephesian believers, he said that not to be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And then in this passage in First Corinthians chapter 2, it says, But he that is spiritual discerneth all things well. What does this mean to be spiritual, to discern his mind? Well, I believe we could say it means walking in communion with God by the Spirit. Perhaps to make it a little more simple, I might say at the word communion means common thoughts, Common thoughts. We know what it is to have common thoughts with a friend. Did you ever meet a new friend? And then you started talk things over and you were surprised to find out? How you had common thoughts about many things. Well, God has made known His mind to us. And he has given us His Holy Spirit so that we might enjoy common thoughts with him. I don't know that there's anything sweeter in this world than to go through life having common thoughts with God, common thoughts with God in connection with everything for your pathway. And he that is spiritual, or he that, if we could put it in this way, who walks in communion by the Spirit.

Who has common thoughts with God, Why he deserves all things. He discerns the Lorde mind. He's able to discover his mind because he is seeking to be guided, not like the horse of the mule, it says in psalms. Be not as the horse of the mule, who have no understanding whose mouth must be kept in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. God doesn't want to use the bitten bridle of unpleasant circumstances to guide us. He says, I will guide thee with mine. I will guide thee with mine eye. You have to be near a person to be guided by his eye. You have to be acquainted with the person too. And when you're acquainted with a person, you can just watch their eye. You can tell by the look in that person's eye, whether there's approval or disapproval. Immediately when you know the person, when you're in the habit of walking in that person's company. You just watch their eyes. I'm sure all of us, if we have a very close friend, we've done that. When someone raised a question and we weren't just sure about what our friends attitude would be, we looked straight in that persons eye. And when we saw how they listened to that story being told, we knew it once, whether our friend approved or disapproved, guided by the eye, well we need to be close to the Lord to be guarded by his eye. I'm sorry, he says. He himself is discerned of no man. Others may not understand you too often. Too often the reason we make mistakes is because we're anxious to please everybody, and we can't please everybody if we're going to please the Lord. We can't please everybody. We're going to displease somebody. And the question is, are you going to displease the Lord, or are you going to displease your friend? If you're putting your friends before the Lord in order to please them, you may displease the Lord. You may dishonor the Lord. But if you're seeking to please the Lord about everything else, if it's to please Him, then you're able to discern his mind. Even though others don't discern you, they don't understand why you do things. Because it has been said that the motives that govern the heart of the Lord Jesus. We're not the same motives as govern the heart of the natural man. Paul the natural man is governed by entirely different motives. Everything he does are to satisfy one of the three lusts or the whole 3. When Adam took of the tree, it was because it was pleasant to the eyes, good for food, and he wanted to be watched. That's why he did it. And when unsaved people do things, those are the controlling factors in their lives. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Every advertisement that you see in magazines, newspapers, or anywhere appeal to 1-2 or three of those lusts. That's the the whole motivating principle of the natural man. But as a Christian, you and I are not to be motivated by such principles. We are to do what we do to please the Lord. If you buy a new car. I hope you don't just buy it because it's nice looking. I hope you buy it because you want to please the Lord with that car. If you build a house. I hope your thought in building the house is to honor the Lord in it, to please Him. In it, the Christian is delivered by the motives that govern the harm of the natural man. He has no motives at the world. Can't understand the Christians motives. If he is seeking to please the Lord, well if we understand His will, if we discern His will. We must then expect, we must remember, that others may not understand us. And one of the greatest snares that I know for young people is that they want to be pleasing to everybody. And you'll hear this expression all Daddy, why can't I do it? Everybody's doing it. Why can't I go here?

Gresham Conference: 1984, God's Ways with His People

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to first of all look at a verse in the 103rd Psalm, Psalm 103. And the seven first? He made known his ways unto Moses, his act unto the children of Israel. I'd like, with the Lord's help, to look at some of the things in connection with God's feelings with his people of old, how He allowed them to be carried into captivity, how He provided for their return, and what was produced in their hearts as a result of all these ways of God with them. And I was thinking of this verse and how wonderful it is. He made known His ways unto Moses. As far as those looking on were concerned. They only saw his acts. They saw what was happening, the children of Israel in slavery in Egypt. They saw how God took them through the Red Sea. They had many experiences of watching those dealings of God with his people. But Moses understood his ways. Moses was in communion with him. The Lord had appeared to him and said. I've surely seen the affliction of my people, which are in Egypt. I've heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters. I know their sorrows and I am come down to deliver them. An observer looking on might have just looked upon it as an ordinary thing that these people were in slavery. Might have looked at it from a political viewpoint too. But how different it was with Moses. He identified himself with the people of God. He loved the people of God, and so God made his ways. Known to him, and he understood what God was doing, and even in all their passage through the wilderness. Many might have said, well, we had a time when there was no bread to eat, there was no water. But as far as Moses was concerned, we see him understanding these ways of God and what God was seeking to teach His people through these things. For it says in Deuteronomy that there was a twofold purpose in what God passed them through in that wilderness. It says. To humbly and approve thee and to know what was in thy heart. And the second thing was that they would learn that God was able to feed them and clothe them and care for them all through that journey until they finally reached the

promised land. And so those are the lessons that we have to learn too. We have to learn the ways of God. We have to learn that God has purposes in things that. We pass through and we don't just, shall I say, see the acts, but through the Word of God we can see that He has a plan and He has a purpose in everything that takes place. There's absolutely nothing that takes place in this world or in the life of you and I that God doesn't have his hand in it. As the Scripture says. Who has purpose and brought it to pass when the Lord commanded it not or again. In Daniel He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand or say but to itself. You may ask me why I do certain things, but we can't say. God doesn't have a right to do as He pleases. He is overall He's sovereign. Well, I say again, those two great lessons that Israel were to learn are lessons. God would have us to learn. He humbles us, He proves us, He shows us what within is in our heart. Because I've often said the Bible is really the history of two men, the first man totally fallen and ruined, and the second man, the Lord from heaven. And we trace the history of the first man, whatever he's put under, whatever test or favors he's placed under, we see it always coming out of that. In me that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing. We don't like to admit this, but. God says it, and we often have to prove it. Who of us haven't done something that we never thought we would do? Doesn't that show us that we don't know our own hearts, That we didn't realize what they were like? But God knew He told us just what they were like. He says they're deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. But brethren, isn't it lovely when we discover what our own hearts are? To discover what God's heart is allows this unchanging.

A grace that has provided salvation and has provided a throne of grace that we can come for help, has provided restoration when we have failed. Oh, how blessed to know such a God. As a little hymn says, why should I ever careful be since such a God is mine? He watches army night and day, and tells me, Thou art mine. Throw this little verse here says, He made known his ways unto Moses, his act unto the children of Israel. Well, God would have us present to understand His ways, and this gives us peace as we see that God has revealed to us His purposes in connection with his dealings with us. And let us not just be like people who observe what was happening. In Israel. But rather let us be shall I stay close to the Lord, so that we would see that He has a purpose in everything that takes place. As I said, I'd like to look at some of this in connection with God's ways, with his people of old, and if you'll turn with me to the prophet Isaiah. And the 45th chapter. I'd like to read first in the 44th chapter in a few verses there. Isaiah 44 and verse 24. Thus saith the Lord thy Redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb. I am the Lord that maketh all things that stretcheth forth the heavens alone, that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself, that frustrated the tokens of liars, and maketh diviners mad, and turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish, that confirmeth the word of His Servant. And performeth the counsel of his messengers that sailed to Jerusalem thou shalt be inhabited, and to the cities of Judah ye shall be built. And I will raise up the decayed places thereof. That saith to the deep be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers that say, Saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt. Be built, and to the temple thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have Holden to subdue nations before him, and I will loose the loins of kings to open before him the two lead gates, and the gates shall not be shut. I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight. I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in Thunder the bars of iron. I will give thee the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places. Thou that thou mayest know that I, the Lord which call thee by thy name, and the God of Israel, for Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called. By thy name I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. Then pass down to the. Umm. 12 Bully. I have made the earth and created man upon it. I even my hands have stretched out the heavens, and all their hosts have I commanded. I have raised Him up in righteousness, and I will direct all His ways. He shall build my city, and He shall let go my captive, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts. Now you know, dear friends, these verses that I have just read to you were written over 100 years before Cyrus was even born, and God is foretelling a man who hadn't yet been born. As it says here, I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. That is, God told what his name would be. Long before he was ever born, told what he would do, told how he would accomplish his. Purposes told how he would let the people go back to their land and not for Christ nor reward. Well, who thought to speak to our own heart? God knows the future. Man tries and he makes all kinds of predictions. Sometimes his predictions come out all right, but often they don't. But when God foretells something, it's just as sure as though it had already happened. It says He call us things that are not as though they were. Everything with God is the eternal presence. He doesn't need to wonder what's going to happen, because he knows.

The future. And so he's telling this here to show us, this one who stretched out the heavens by himself, the One who upholds all things by the word of his power. That's the one with whom we have to do. Isn't it beautiful in Hebrews chapter 1, where it talks about Him and it says that He upholds all things by the word of his power. And then it says when He had by himself purged our sins. Sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. What a great consolation to those of us who know the Lord to know that the One who created all things and who upholds all things loved you and I enough to come down from Heaven's glory and go to Calvary's cross. To put away our sins so that we could be fitted to be in His presence, so that we could enjoy what's in His heart. Sin has spoiled. World, but it can never enter that new creation scene. And so at great cost to himself, that's what the Lord Jesus has done, and He would have you and I to know this and to enjoy it. Well, it tells us here that He made everything, and that He frustrates the tokens of liars and makes diviners mad. How often people have predicted things, and they haven't turned out the way they planned at all, or the way they expected. And why? Well, as it says, who hath purposed and brought it to pass, when the Lord commanded it not? Oh, it's very wonderful for us to know. That there is a God in heaven who knows all about us. And who is concerned? Who rules all things? And so this is what he is saying to them here in the prophet Isaiah. He wants them to know the God with whom they have to do. And so he tells about what this man would do. He names him, tells how he would make a command that the people who were captives would leave their captivity. But they weren't even captives at this time. They were still free men, so to speak, in their own land, but God knew the future. He knew that they were going to be carried away captive in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. And He's telling them this to assure their hearts that He did know the future and that they could count upon him. And brethren, doesn't that speak to you and I? He knows the future. He knows tomorrow. I say again, everything to God is the eternal presence, and if you and I only had this confidence in our souls, what peace it would give us. When Nebuchadnezzar finally came up against Babylon and besieged it, and their false prophets told them you're not going to go into captivity, you're going to have peace. But he made the diviners mad because he had told before what was going to happen. And because of this, because of what they had done, why God did allow them to go into captivity. His word is sure, His word is secure. And so he tells us here. That in the. 45th Chapter In the first verse, Whose right hand I have Holden to subdue nations before him, and I will loose the loins of kings to open before him the two lead gates, and the gates shall not be shut. That is, God allowed him to go as far as he had planned and as far as he had allowed. And we know how that Cyrus came. And when Belshazzar was having that great faith, why they captured the city of Babylon, and Cyrus was the one, and now he reigns. Well, God foreknew and foretold this before. And it wasn't the strength of his own army or his wisdom. By itself it was God who was overall, and so it tells us here in this fourth verse. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name. You know the Lord has a special care for his own. He's the preserver of all men, especially of those that believe. It tells us in Ephesians chapter one that he is head over all things to the church, which is his body. And I believe when we get home to glory and God retraces His ways and lets us see his ways with us, that we're going to just marvel and see that.

Things that happened in the world were all his own way of accomplishing his own purposes, things that we didn't understand. Perhaps down here we're going to see how that God had his own way. And just think of that little boy Moses, born and placed by his mother down in that ark of bulrushes in the Nile River. Did do you think that they ever expected that he was going to be? The deliverer whom God would use. But God had his eye upon that little boy. God had purposes in connection with him, and he was taken into the court of Pharaoh. And then God overruled circumstances, so he called him to be the deliverer who would take the people out of Egypt and bring them into the promised Land. Oh, how wonderful to see these ways of God. And you would also have expected that. Perhaps seeing he was going to do this, that he would want some reward or he would expect these people to in some way provide for themselves. But you know when the time came that God wanted them to go back, why He just said all the prisoners free and he gave money, silver and gold and provided for their returns. And almost unheard of things. And why? Well, because God cares for his people. All they thought to cause us to come to Him in prayer about difficulties and trials that we have in life, because God knows everything beforehand. They'll turn over now to Jeremiah chapter 25. Verse 4. Once a read verse 3 also. From the 13th year of Josiah, the son of Ammon, king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and 20th year, the word of the Lord has come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking, but ye have not hearkened. And the Lord hath sent unto you all his servants, the prophets, rising early and sending them, but ye have not hearkened nor inclined. Your ear to hear. They said, Turn thee again now, everyone, from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord hath given unto you, and to your Father's forever and ever. Then passing on down to the 10th berth. Moreover, I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment. And these nations shall serve the king of Babylon 70 years. Nicholl come to pass. When 70 years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation saith. Lord for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual, it desolations. And I will bring upon that land all my words that I have pronounced against it, even all it is written in this book. It's Jeremiah the prophet that hath prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also, and I will recompense them. According to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands. Well, here we find now the time had come when there's another prophet arises, Jeremiah. The people have departed from God. They haven't listened to the warnings of Isaiah. They won't listen to the warnings of Jeremiah. They still go on in their evil way. And even though God had sent them these prophets in love to warn them and to call upon them to turn from their evil ways, they wouldn't listen. And so finally, the time has come when God has to deal because, you know, there are two things in God's ways with us as believers. There is the grace of God and the government of God.

The grace of God is His undeserved favor to us. Everyone of us who know the Lord is our Savior are going to be safely home in glory, and we won't get there through anything that we have done. We'll only get there through that blessed work that the Lord Jesus accomplished because He bore our sins in His own body on the tree. His precious blood is our only title to be there. But we can have a very rough passage in getting there, and that's the government of God. God doesn't want us as believers to have a rough passage in getting there. He wants us to walk in obedience. And the path of obedience, the Scripture says her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. To walk in communion with the Lord in the path of obedience is a safe and a happy path. But. When we walk in self will, it doesn't change his purposes of grace. He's going to bring everyone of his own safely home. But we find, just like it was with Israel, that God had to deal with them in his governmental ways. But even when he had to bring this judgment upon them, is it not a wonderful thing that he actually told how long it was going to be? He had foretold that Cyrus would be the one who would. Open the way for them to come back. He hadn't mentioned any particular time as to just when that would take place. But now he raises up Jeremiah, who announces judgment upon them for their evil ways, tells them they're going to be in captivity. But he sets a limit on the time that it was going to be 70 years. Isn't that a comfort when we go through? Sprawls, will you say, how long is this going to drag on? Well, we don't know, but God knows and he has set a limit. He, he knows this exactly how long It may be a length of time. 70 years certainly speaks about a whole lifetime for most of us. And we know that when Paul had that thorn in the flesh, he had it for a lifetime. But at least we can say that God knows exactly. Doesn't it comfort your heart that God knows exactly how much is needed? When I had to correct my children, or perhaps punish them, I didn't always know just what they needed. I wasn't always wise in the way I carried it out. But God our Father knows exactly what we need. He knows exactly the time it's at, the time limit He sets, the amount of the severity of it. And he has a deliverer when the time comes. Oh how how wonderful it is. He made known His ways unto Moses, and He wants you and I, brethren, to be in the enjoyment of this. Are you going through a trial? The Lord knew beforehand that you needed it, and the Lord has is passing you through it. But He knows just how long that will last, and He has set a time and He has purposes of love towards you, as Jeremiah announced all these judgments that would come upon the people. In the 31St chapter, he breaks out with these wonderful words. I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn me. That is, His ways with us are always in love as well as in wisdom. He knows exactly as I say what is needed. So He announced the time that this captivity would last. And mentions the name of the man who would. Carry out the captivity. Now we could Nazareth and how he would do this and how he would do it also to other nations and then how God would have to deal with him. Now if you turn over to Daniel. Daniel, Chapter 9. Verse one. In the first year of Darius, the son of Ahasuerus of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans. In the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years.

Or out the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolation of Jerusalem. And I sent my face unto the Lord God to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God. Keep the covenant and mercy to. That keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments, we have sinned, and have done in committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments. Neither have we hearkened unto Thy servants, the prophets, which spake in Thy name to our kings, our Princess, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. All our righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces as it is, as at this day. To the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel that are near and that are far off. Through all the countries where the Thou hast driven them because of their trespass, that they have trespassed against Thee. O Lord, to us belong with confusion of faith, to our kings, to our Princess, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against Thee. And then the 61St O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee. Let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from Thy city, Jerusalem, my holy mountain, because for our sins and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Well, here we see now the responsibility side. It was because of their failure that God had allowed them to be carried into captivity. But he also had set a time. And now we find here is one who had been carried into captivity, and he values the word of God. He's searching it and he finds something in it that's a great comfort and consolation to him because he sees that God. I had intended this to bring them to repentance, and he turned to the Lord. And this brings before us the importance of reading the word of God. How often when we're in trial, we don't read the word of God. We're smart under the trial. We get upset and perhaps rebellious. But in the case of Daniel, during his captivity, we see how he was faithful to the Lord. He submitted and. When he had to go to school in Babylon, he was

very faithful and tells us that when he was required to do certain things that he couldn't do as a person who feared God, he refused and he was tested for it too. And then later on when the king decreed that everyone was to give up praying and no one was to make a request for. To God or man for. 30 days. Why, He just went to his room and prayed as usual. In his captivity he sought to be faithful and he could have rebelled. But I've enjoyed the first chapter of Daniel. It says three things that the Lord gave him. It says that the Lord had given them into the hands of the king of Babylon. It says the Lord brought him into favor with the Prince of the eunuchs, who was placed over him. And then it also says that the Lord gave him wisdom. An understanding. And so he took everything from the Lord. If he was a captive in Babylon, he said, well, the Lord has allowed that. It was the Lord that gave us into the half of nephew Nazar. If he was placed in a difficult spot, he didn't say, well, I think I can prove to that man that I'm right. He looked to the Lord about it. He prayed and the Lord brought him into favor and thanked the law with the Prince of the eunuchs. You know the King's heart is in the hand of the Lord as the rivers, the rivers of water. Are you in a situation and you say, but I'll never change that person's mind. No, perhaps you can't, but God can. God can. I've seen it happen many times that when I'm in situation looked impossible. Why pray about it? And you might be surprised to see because God fashions people's hearts and God brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the Prince of the eunuchs.

And then when he got along well in school, he didn't say I'm clever, I'm at the top of my class. Instead of this, he said, well, the Lord help me. And so when he got through, he got a a good job, but he didn't let his job go to his head when it was a test of faithfulness. He'd rather be thrown into the den of lions than give up the source of all his strength. And that was in prayer. And so you see, even in all those years of captivity when he was. In Babylon he sought to be faithful to his Lord, he said. Trying situation, but the Lord says when you see this happen, look up the most high rules in the Kingdom of men. The Lord is coming. He's our deliverer from the coming rock. And so this is what you see with Daniel. And you see too, that he was a humble person. He takes the place of identifying himself with the people of God in all their failure. And I think this is a very, very important thing for us as Christians. It isn't for us to take the attitude, well, other people might do this, but I couldn't do it and I wouldn't do it. Anyone of us are capable of anything. If the Lord doesn't keep us, we need to be like Daniel. He didn't say, well the people ought to be humble. He said to us belongs confusion of faith. He identifies himself with the people. He takes the humble place and it says God resisteth the crowd, but give us grace to the humble. And I believe, brethren, in the difficulties that we're passing through and some of us feel it very keenly, what we're passing through. Even has gathered to the Lord's name. The answer is for us to be in this state like Daniel humbling ourselves under God's mighty hand, acknowledging that his hand has allowed it. He could prevent anything and he could turn as we find the course of kings and everything. And Daniel didn't make a petition to the king so that they could get back. He didn't say, well, I have found in the prophecy of Jeremiah that we're supposed to go back. So let's all join together and sign a petition so we can get rights and get back. No, he prayed to the God of heaven. That's that's his resource because the King's heart is in the hand of the Lord as the rivers of water. And so we see the Lord God knew everything beforehand foretold it. He made known his ways to his people who wanted to listen to him. Yet we find also. That suited state of soul. With Daniel, and what joy it must have been to the heart of Daniel to know that the time had come when God was going to deliver his people. And I say again, what joy we ought to have in all that we see taking place to look up and say, well, it's very trying, it's very difficult, but the Lord is coming soon. What a what a blessed thing. What a blessed hope, the Book of Revelation. Full of warnings of the most awful judgment, A time of trouble such as never was, since there was a nation. But the heart of the one who writes that John was Even so come Lord Jesus. Yes, his heart was taken up with the coming of the Lord. That was the way he looked for deliverance. He didn't expect it from man. And so we see this beautiful attitude now with Daniel. Now if you go back to the book of Ezra. To vote five books before the Psalms, Ezra. Chapter 1. Now in the first year of Cyrus, King of Persia. That the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his Kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, the Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem.

Which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? His God? Be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the House of the Lord God of Israel. He is the God which is in Jerusalem, and whosoever remaineth in any place where he saw adjourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free will offering for the House of God. God that is in Jerusalem then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah, and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build a House of the Lord, which is at Jerusalem. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things. Beside all that was willingly offered also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the House of the Lord which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the House of his God. Even those did Cyrus the king of Persia bring forth by the hand of. Ephrata the Treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheth Bazar the Prince of Judah, and this is the number of them 30 charges of gold, 1000. Chargers of silver, 99 and 20 knives, 30 basins of gold, silver basins of a second sort, 410, and other vessels, 1000. All the vessels of gold and of silver were 5400. All these dead Cheshire. Bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon under Jerusalem. Well, I'm sure your mind goes back to what we read in Isaiah chapter 44 and five. And there we see that God had told this man's name before he was born. He said I surname you, you don't know me, but I'm going to tell what you're going to do. I'm going to frustrate the tokens of liars and make diviners mad. That is, they may have all kinds of ideas, but it says heaven and earth shall pass away. But my. My word shall not pass away. And so as soon as this great King Cyrus became king in the very first year of his reign, why he does this? Exactly what God said. It's true that God had already wrought in the heart of Daniel and He had taken the humble place so that he could rejoice in this blessing. And you know, if you and I are walking before the Lord, why we expect Him to come in. We expect his power to be made manifest. We expect Him to display his goodness. And so I'm sure this was no surprise to Daniel. He had already found that in the. Scriptures and he had already taken a humble place as not deserving it at all. So this great king, he now puts all this in writing, tells them that they can go back, provide silver and gold for them, and make all provisions for them to go back. And God even mentions all the small details about the things that were given, the number of vessels that were brought, given to them to go back. And we also see too that not only. Did God stir up the heart of the king? But he also stirred up the heart of the people to be willing. And he delights to stir up our hearts too. I hope this afternoon that when we read something like this, my heart and your heart will be stirred. How are we just settling down and saying, well, we're living in the last days, there's no use. Everything seems to be so difficult that I think it's not worthwhile struggling against the current. It's too hard in the school, it's too hard in the office, it's even too hard in the assembly to try and be faithful to the Lord. Oh brethren, let's not be discouraged. May the Lord stir our hearts just like He did with these people. These people were content to leave Babylon and go back to their own land. It wasn't going to be easy for them. We'll read perhaps a little bit of how they went back, and it wasn't very easy or pleasant for them, but nevertheless, the Lord protected them and the Lord cared for them. And you and I can walk in peace in the midst of a world that's upset. Little hymn says through scenes of strife and desert life we tread in peace our way. That was the pathway of the Lord Jesus when he was born by.

Herod made a decree to destroy all the babies from 2 years old and under, but God took care of his beloved son and he was carried down into Egypt and brought back after Herod the king had died. They took up stones to cast at him on different occasions, but he just passed through the midst of them. And he said, I do cures today and tomorrow and the third day I shall be persecuted. Amid all the opposition, in other words, he knew that God his Father had called him to that pathway in which he was walking here of perfect obedience, and nothing turned him aside. Well, brethren, may you and I have that purpose apart. It's not going to be easy. Brethren in other lands are perhaps even while I'm talking in prison and suffering for the name of Christ. And I want to tell you that we don't need to expect it's going to be easier. There are things that have happened that some of us never, never expected that we to see happen even among us. And it only proves to us that we are living in the last days. But does that mean that we can't count upon God? That we can't know that he's overall. How I say again, the most High rules in the Kingdom of men, and that blessed one His head over all things to the Church, which is His body. And we find even with Job, when the Sabeans came up and took away some of his possessions and the strong wind blew down some of his things, he didn't say the Lord gave in. The Sabeans have taken away. He said the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. He saw God's hand in everything. Paul was a prisoner and he could have said I'm a prisoner under a very. Cool A very cruel. Man named Nero, but he said I Paul a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles. Oh, I think that's so beautiful. He he totally submitted. And what was the result of his being in prison? We have those invaluable letters that he was inspired to write in prison. What a blessing those prison epistles have been to the Church of God. We think of those wonderful epistles and the precious truth that's brought in them. Oh, God overruled that imprisonment of Paul to bring out that blessing for the Church of God. Oh, it's a very blessed thing for us. Well, those in Babylon who? Heart stirred them up. They were willing to make this journey. It wasn't easy. Later on in the book you'll see that there were enemies by the way, and when they were carrying these vessels that were so valuable, you may be sure that the enemy wasn't going to leave them alone. And yet when they prayed and looked to the Lord, He was able, and He did protect them along the way. Because nothing happens by chance. In our lives. If he allows a trial, it's always for our good and blessing. Well now we find in the 2nd chapter that God gives a record of all these ones that came up and you'll notice how he mentions the name of many. And tells about how they were willing to make this trip. But I think it's interesting to see that in the 36th verse he speaks of the priest. The children of Jedediah, of the House of Joshua. And in the 40th verse he speaks about the Levites. In the 41St verse he speaks about the singers. And you see how that there were many people that God also provided, those who as God provided in those days, there was those who there were those rather who were provided to. Be the virtual help, shall I say, to the people of God. I've provided this as well. Then the Levites were servants. I don't know where the singers, you might say, well, the Lord doesn't take particular notice of what I. How he does, he does, and he knows all about what you desire to do for him. Of course, in Christianity, every believer is a priest. But in regard to the Levites, they were servants.

And you know, it's a very great privilege to do little things for the Lord. He values. Even a cup of cold waters given in his name tells us that the service of epiphytes was to pray for the Saints. And so there may be hidden services that we don't know about, but the Lord does. And so it even mentions the singers, you know. That's a very wonderful thing I've been enjoying late. What a wonderful privilege seeing. Yeah, you know, there's no two birds that can sing in harmony. If you have the the most beautiful singing birds, you never heard them harmonize their voices. They can. God didn't make them that way. But God gave to us as humans a wonderful privilege that 1000 people and more can join their voices together and make one sound in praising and thanking the Lord. And the Lord values that. It's a great privilege for us to sing together. The praises of the Lord, it says singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. It doesn't make it anymore sweet to the Lord. When there's a musical instrument, it might make it more sweet to a person, but we're not seeing the people. We're seeing to the Lord, and the Lord sees the melody in the heart. I'm not saying the enjoyment of sound is wrong, but in worship, what God wants is what comes from the heart. And that is what he desires and so. Come together. Isn't it a wonderful thing that we can join our voices? Oh, God, even mentions the singers. We're glad that some people know how to raise the humans too. The Lord provides in all these things. You know, I was very struck. Perhaps this is a kind of a little personal thing, but I, I used to think sometimes that if I raise the tune that wasn't just right or perhaps too high or something. I thought, well, it was just a chance that I made a mistake. Until I read a little article and I it said that if we were really in communion with the Lord that he would help us to start it in the right pitch and he would help us to start a tune so that others could join. I don't think we should just take it as a matter of course that any of us can start. It's a very wonderful thing when it's a tune that all can join in happy harmony and our voices blend together. The Lord provides the singers. So the singers here were. Among those who came and they're mentioned here. And there's also an interesting thing about these. These, Nathaniel, as I understand that these nanthonyms, and there's quite a number of them too, they were the descendants, I believe, of the Gibeonites. And you know, these Gibeonites didn't have a very good background. They had come and deceived poor Joshua and the elders of the people of God. And they might have, they might have thought there was no service for them. Because it says that Joshua warned them that they had. Saved him and he made them healers of wood and drawers of water. But I think it's very lovely to see that these men and women know though too, who were hewers of wood and drawers of water. Now we see that they're engaged in happy service for the Lord instead of smarting underwritten, saying, well, because of our background, we're no use. They come forward and they have learned to value. The things of the Lord and when this company returns back, we see a large number of these Nathan IMS these people who might have got smart as an upset because of what had happened in their past thought isn't it beautiful to see them among this number? And then there's another 2 here, the 55th verse, the children of Solomon's servants. I looked this up too, to see and I found out these children of Solomon's servants. They Solomon's servants were actually Gentiles who had been drawn into service under this great King Solomon, whose reign, as we know, is a picture of the coming time of glory when the Lord Jesus reigns from sea to sea and from pole to pole. And so these people were actually Gentiles, but they. That identified themselves with the people of God. And so there's a large number of these ones that are mentioned here as the children of Solomon's servants. You say, well, I, I don't have the same privileges as others. I don't have the same background. I haven't been brought up in the meeting and I haven't all the privileges. Well, was it only those who had a background among the people of God who came back? Oh, no, no, there were those who didn't.

But there were those who valued the Lord, who valued His place, who valued his service. And so God takes particular notice of all these things. He knows all about us. He knows about our backgrounds and everything with these Vivianites. That was a bad background with the children of Solomon's servants. Why? It wasn't particularly necessarily a bad background, but they might have said well. Well, outside of the privileges that they weren't, they partook of this and I think it's lovely to see these people brought in. I know there's a little perhaps a sad note here. It speaks about in the 61St verse. And the children of the of the children of the priests, the children of Habii, the children of cause, the children of Brasilia, which took a wife of the daughters of Brasilii to Gileadite, and was called after their name. These thought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found. Therefore were they as polluted put from the priesthood. And the tirshatha that the governor said unto them that they should. Not even the most holy thing till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim. These people couldn't show their genealogy because they had made links with those who were not among the people of God. And you know, this to me is a little sad note here. How do we value the privilege of being among the people of God? It tells us that be not unequally yoked

together with unbelievers. And these had gone out and they had. Apparently married outside and had given up their visualit ish name shall I say, and identified themselves with that which was outside of all the promises that God had given. And I believe this is the son of mourning to us. It doesn't say that they were not believers, but they had lost something. It says they were as polluted put from the priesthood, that is they didn't have the privileges that they might have. Enjoyed and how often it saw that we can lose our privileges if we don't walk in separation from the world. I believe showing their genealogy. I don't take it here in a literal sense, but in a spiritual sense in applying it to ourselves. How do you show your genealogy? Well, you show your genealogy by acting as one who is in the family of God. Their Prince Charles, who is the heir to the British throne, had come over here and had acted totally inconsistent with the position that he is in, heir to the throne and representing the British, the British sovereignty. Why? You would have said, well, he's a disgrace to the royalty of Britain. You would have said that even though he was in that family, he would say he's not worthy for such a thing. He's not acting like a person. Who is in such a wonderful position? Even he himself said I have to be careful because someday I may be the King of England, and I have to be careful. Well, brethren, don't we have to be careful? We're children of a king. We're in a place of privilege. Are we acting like it? I don't mean that. You go and look up and say my father and my grandfather were in the meeting. I don't mean that and I don't believe that's the thought in the 1St at all. But am I showing in my life that I'm a child of God? Am I really showing so that others looking at me? It says about the early disciples. They perceived that they were unlearned then, but they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. They're the people that know us, see our genealogy. Do they see that we are really walking in separation from the world? As I was saying to the children that we're careful about the friends that we choose because it says in the Psalms, I'm going to say the verse again. I am a companion of all them that fear thee and of them that keep thy precepts. So we see there was terror here as to those who couldn't show their genealogy, and it needs to be terror as to whether you and I are showing by our lives that we belong to Christ, that we're separated to Him, that He has won our hearts and our lives are the evidence. Well, and in the end of the chapter.

It's interesting also what it tells us here. 65th verse beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were 7330 and seven, and there were among them 200 singing man and singing women. Their horses were 730 and six, their mules 240 and two they're camels 430 and five, their ***** 6720. No, I really enjoy noticing these verses here because you and I might have expected that in this chapter that all we would find was just the names of the people that had come back. But is God interested in other things in our lives? It's true that we can say through grace we put our trust in the Lord Jesus that we belong to Him. We can say that we're among the number of His own. We can say that. We have a home in heaven. But is God interested in the things here? I think it's so interesting in this chapter if they see that he talks about the number of animals that they had. Because God cares about your car, he cares about the place you live. He cares about everything in your life. Little song says why should I have a careful day since it's a God is mine. He watches army night and day and tells me that our minds. And brethren, as we meditate upon these things and we see that God foreknew all about this captivity, that he told the length of it, that he stirred up the heart of Daniel, and that he finally stirred up the heart of Cyrus, and then stirred up the heart of the people, then tells us about the people that would come back. And now he shows us that he's interested in all these small details. You might think, well, Lord's only interested in my spiritual good, whether I read my Bible, and whether. I come to the meetings and try to follow the Lord, but he is it says your father knoweth that she has needed these things before He asks him, and so he cares about all those necessary things in our life. I really marveled when I read this chapter to see God talking an actual number of the horse of the of the animals that they had their horses and their mules and their. Masses and all about them, even the number of singers that were among them. All this little bit of detail given and then it says in the 68th verse. And some of the chief of the fathers, which came to the House of the Lord, which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the House of God, to set it up in his place. They gave after their ability under the treasure of the work and so on. And the 70th, 1St so the priests and the Levites and some of the people and the singers and the porters, and then dwelt in their cities and all Israel in their cities. Now they've come back, the Lord has taken notice of everything and they were carrying a lot back. But some of them said, well, I can always add a little bit to it and so. Even though they had been given such abundance to carry back. It makes me think of what? David said to Solomon he had made tremendous provision for the building of the temple, and I'm sure that as Solomon looked at it, he might have said well. David provide my father, David my father's provided so much. I can't add anything to that. And David said these beautiful words he said, and thou may have sad there too. Thou may have said there to you might say, well, I don't think I could add anything. I don't think I could say anything. I think everything has been said and there's no use to me to try. You don't know a little word that you say, a song of praise that comes from your heart, what it means to the Lord, what it means to your brethren. He, he notices those little extras, you say, well, there's a lot of older brothers and they. They know the hymns better than me, and I might just pick the the right one or something. But isn't this lovely after killing? But all the things that were given by the leaders and nobles and everything that talks about are those whose hearts would touch, and they added to it. And each one of us have our privilege. It says everyone of you at the song hath an interpretation and so on. The Lord has something for each one to do.

Well, may the Lord help us to learn in these things. It's very precious to trace these things. If you go on with Ezra, you'll see how much there is that God can teach us from what we have in the book of Ezra and Nehemiah. But I think this little setting helps us to understand the ways of God to give us peace and courage as we cease to go on in a difficult day. Let me quote the verse again. He may have known his ways unto Moses. His act under the children of Israel. He wants you and I to know His ways and then to delight to say our times are in my hands.

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