Song of Solomon - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Buena Park Conference: 1985, God's Unchanging Precepts and Love

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I like to read a few scriptures first of all, and I'd like to begin by looking at one in the Song of Solomon. Song of Solomon, chapter 4. Chapter 5 rather Solomon Chapter 5. And verse 16. His mouth is most sweet. Yeah, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. And then could we turn over to Hebrews chapter 1? Hebrews, chapter 1. And verse 10. And thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy thine hand. They shall perish, but thou remainest, and they all shall wax old as doth A garment, and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed, but thou art the same, and thy ears shall not fail. And if you'll turn back with me to Malachi? And the third chapter. And the. 16th. The sixth verse pardon me, the 3rd chapter of Malachi and the sixth verse for I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. And then again in Hebrews chapter 13. Hebrews, chapter 13. And verse 8. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever. Well, dear friends, we are living in a world that's full of change. On every hand we see change, but isn't it blessed for us to know that that there is one who changes not? And I was thinking in connection with that verse that we read in Song of Solomon, that I think the quality that we value most of all in a friend whom we've learned to love and to admire and to think a great deal of is that they don't change. We feel disappointed because we like them the way they were, and something happens and they change, perhaps in their attitude as time goes on. We also change in our physical condition too. It is a changing world. But isn't it very blessed, dear friends, that we have one who changes not? And I'd like to speak a little bit about that because I believe that is what will sustain us in a world like this. We so often get frustrated and disappointment. Disappointed as we see the constant change in this world and people hardly know where they're at because the job is uncertain, friends are uncertain, everything seems to be so uncertain. Banks fail, the weather pattern changes. It just seems that we're constantly reminded of change. But isn't it very precious that we can sit in these seats here this afternoon and be occupied with a friend who is altogether lovely? Nothing. That we'd ever want to alter because he is so perfect in everything, perfect in love, perfect in grace, perfect in faithfulness. That's what is pictured in the offering when it speaks about the fine flower. You know, when we think of friends, we usually think of a friend who has some particularly outstanding virtue. And so we say that person is very generous, that person is very thoughtful, that person is very kind. We single outside something. In which they excel. But we have a friend who equally excels in everything. He excels in love and in grace. And if you, you and I need correction, and we do sometimes, He knows just exactly what we need and ministers that correction to us and wants us to see that it's His hand that is in it. And as we had in our verses that we read here together. And oh, how precious they are. In Hebrews chapter 1 we see. See this world constantly in the process of change. But thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. Whether it's a child, whether it's a young person, whether it's an adult, we can have this same friend. He understands your childhood. He understands. Even in the millennial Jerusalem, it tells us that the city, the streets of the city will be full of boys.

And girls playing in the streets. It tells us too, that when I was a child I spake as a child. I thought as a child I understood as a child. We don't always understand children. We don't always understand what's going through their minds. But isn't it lovely that the Lord understands even the child? And tells us in that happy time for this earth, when the Lord Jesus has his rightful place as our brother brought before us in that millennial? They then the children will be able to play in the streets and there will be no accidents. Everything will be under the Lord's wonderful care. And then too, as we grow older, we have new desires as young people and we want certain things. Isn't it blessed to know that this is the kind of a friend we have? One who understands he watched your body and mind before it ever entered into this. See in a living person, because it says in 139 Psalm thine eyes did behold my substance, yet being unperfect. And in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. You don't have any other friend like that who knows all your physical and emotional make up, who understands you perfectly, but this is the one. And it's not verse lovely, doesn't it touch? Your heart. This is my beloved, this is my friend. But he's not one that changes like earthly friends do. It says that he changes not. I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed because you know we're changing all the time. And you know when we have a friend who changes who was close to us and then turns and isn't so close, perhaps even. As our brother mentioned as some unkind thing to us, well then, it's hard for us to take something like that. But this friend, in spite of all our changes, he loves us just the same. 1 is often said that the assurances that are given in Scripture of the Lord's love to us were always given at times when we might have least expected it. In the book of Deuteronomy, after 40 years of wilderness, of murmuring and complaining, of displaying what was in their hearts, then we come to the very end of that journey and it tells us, yeah, he loved the people. All his Saints are in thy hand. Those 40 years of their murmuring and complaining hadn't changed this friend. He loved them. And they were in his hand. And then we turn over to Jeremiah. And there in Jeremiah we find the people had got so far away that God was going to have to cause them to be carried into captivity. Their state seemed beyond remedy, as the Scripture says. And so the prophet Jeremiah with tears had to warn them that they were going to go into captivity. But did this change the friend that Israel had and that we have? Know that the 31St chapter of Jeremiah says yeah, I. I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Then again, we come in, a little remnant has been brought back from the captivity. And there they came back and you read in the book of Malachi about the things that went on. They said it was vain to serve the Lord. They offered him the lame and the blind. That is, they didn't offer the best to him. They gave him what was second class, something they wouldn't give to the governor. They wouldn't, they wouldn't do the things that were pleasing to him. They weren't obedient to him. But how does he begin the message to them when? Speaks to them about all those shortcomings and failures. Oh, listen to the way the book of Malachi opens the burden of the word of the Lord by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the Lord. Then we come over to the New Testament and we think of Martha and we think of how the Lord had to speak to her, how she was finding fault because Mary was sitting at his feet. We might have had a kind of an idea that the Lord had a little more affection for Mary because she was more devoted and she sat at his feet. But when it talks about the Lord's affection to them. It says now Jesus loved Martha.

And her sister And Lazarus, Yes, Martha's name comes first. The one who perhaps would have had the last reason, the least reason to have expected that. And then after we read in those letters to the seven churches. He he felt grieved that they had left their first love. And we have to hang our heads and acknowledge, brethren, that's true of us, isn't it? We have lost that fresh affection for the Lord Jesus. But in the very last one, in the letter to the Laodiceans, it says as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore and repent. And so how precious. This is I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. And I think many of us, and especially perhaps as we get older and look back, we can say, well certainly if the Lord's love to us was dependent on the way we had acted as believers, it would be a very small amount. But how precious to know. This is my beloved. This is my friend, the one who doesn't change. I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Then we read also in the 13th chapter of Hebrews there, and the Lord is speaking about their leaders who had spoken to them the word of God. And he had to add that little word whose faith follow. My father used to often say, remember, it doesn't say whose failures follow and. We we do see failures in ourselves and perhaps in one another too. And sometimes we follow somebody else that has done something that's wrong. But it says whose faith follow. But then it tells us that there is a person whom we can follow implicitly. There's one who never fails. And so after telling us that we could imitate the faith of those who had sought to instruct us in the things. Of God, that He points us again to this unchangeable friend Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever. Surely, brethren, when we think of this, it is so encouraging to our hearts. And I believe that this is important not only to know this blessed One, but also I believe that He has laid down in His Word that which we need for our pathway. We're living in a. World of constant change and the way we arrived here. I suppose if we look back 50 years ago and none of us would have arrived in the same way that we did today. Some arrive by airplane, some arrive by cars. It's a changing world. But let us remember that moral and spiritual values do not change now. That is, God has certain standards that He has. Established in His precious word, and it gives us peace, knowingness, unchanging friend that we have. That the counsel he gives us doesn't have to be brought up to date. Anybody that's working in the business world today knows very well that constantly the planning and the way things are done is being changed and new bulletins are being issued about constant changes. But isn't it lovely that we can take up a book like this and know that, although the last part of it was written about 2000 years ago? It's still perfectly up to date. It gives us just exactly what we. We need to live in 1985 and soon in 1986. If the Lord leaves us here. It doesn't have to be brought up to date. It's suited to us. And I say to those who are young and I say to those of us who are old, how important it is that we go by this blessed book, the path that God has marked out, this wonderful friend that we have, this unchanging friend has marked out a path for us. Here in this world and going by it as it tells us in Proverbs, her ways, our ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace. And I want to encourage you and I want to encourage my own heart to be like that little remnant that we read of in the last chapter of Isaiah. It says they trembled at God's word. They were afraid, you know, and we're traveling along by we are not always.

Disappointed with the area in which we travel and we watch the signs very carefully and we're just afraid sometimes we're going to miss a sign because it isn't always easy to get your way back. Sometimes if you have missed that sign, why you can go miles out of your way and it was just because you weren't watchful. Now those signs were set up for our good. And brethren, God has written His word for our good. His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. We don't have to seek the wisdom of this world in moral and spiritual things. We may be due in those things that have to do with the way we travel and the way business operates and so on. But morally we have divine standards. And I trust that each one of us will realize this. And I say this to you, dear young people who are present today. I know that you are being told that the older folks are outdated, they have certain stringent ideas and so on. But I ask you to search the Word of God and to go by this blessed book informing the pathway of your life, and you will find that there's a real blessing in walking in that path that God has marked out in. His word and he hasn't left anything that is of importance without some direction for us. I like to look at a few verses more if you'll just turn with me now to Jude. Jude chapter Well, there's just one chapter and the. I'll read from the first verse. Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you. That she should. Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. Well, here we can see that God is setting before us the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. There has been a book written by. Brother Charles Stanley and it's called the first years of Christianity. And what is the church when he wanted to bring before us as the Lord's servant now that which God has shown us in his word, what Christianity really is and what the church is, why he went right back to that which God established in the beginning. And here we find Jude in the day of breakdown and apostasy. He didn't. Say, well, now we have to adopt a few new ideas because things are changing and there's a great deal of compromise and there's a lot of people giving in on this and that instead of this, he says that it was necessary for him to write and exhort them that they should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the Saints. And I believe this is so important for us. In all the matters that have to do particularly. I speak it now. As to the assembly, I believe we need to go to the Word of God. The assembly doesn't operate on tradition. We know that that came into Israel and the traditions of the Pharisees became so important that sometimes the Word of God was set aside so that they could carry out their own tradition. And here we find that the apostle Jude he brings before the Saints. The very great importance of the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. And so we need to read those epistles that have been written over and over again because they give us divine instruction as to the person and the work of Christ, because that's the foundation of all. How very, very important that we are clear as to the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we were mentioning yesterday, the assembly is the pillar and ground of the truth. And so in these days when little things are beginning to slip in, there's a large segment of Christendom today who is actually teaching that our blessed and holy Lord Jesus could sin.

They tell us he didn't sin, but that he could. And it is amazing if you knew some of the important names in Christendom who are going along with this teaching. Oh brethren, let's form our standards of what we believe from the Word of God, not from what is generally accepted, because in this precious book we have that faith once, not twice. Not renewed, but once delivered to the Saints the blessed truth of the Lord's coming. In all these precious things that have been made known to us and given to us in the New Testament, how should we gather? Is it just that we, shall I say, set up our own ideas of how we should gather, or do we have? Instruction in the Word of God so that we would know. That we are gathering according to His Word. Now there may be many, many nice Christians who really love the Lord Jesus and who want to please Him, and we have to leave them with the Lord. But your responsibility and mine individually as well as collectively as an assembly, is to go by God's precious Word. Oh, let's learn it well. Let's be well acquainted with the truth. Truth of God's Word so that we would gather according to the word of God, that we would gather to the precious name of the Lord Jesus, only that we should gather as members of the body of Christ. Early apostle was very much concerned in this day of breakdown and ruin that there would be that exercise. And I say to each one of us, and I speak to those who are a bit older sometimes. Sometimes I think that we who are older tend to forget that there is constantly a new generation coming up and they see things being done and they don't know why. They don't know why. I remember a young person in one assembly gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. She went and broke bread someplace else and some brother mentioned that she had broken somewhere else and made the comment. Oh, she knew better than. That and I said to the brother, well. I think that she knew the

brethren disagreed, but I'm not sure that she knew why for herself. Now you and I should know why for ourselves. We need the faith once delivered to the Saints. We need to know what it is to be gathered according to the Word of God, and if we have learned that blessed and precious truth of the one Body and gathering as members of the body of Christ. Oh, how precious it is to our hearts and soul that. We find in the Old Testament they didn't build a wall around Jerusalem until they had first built the temple. And when they had built the temple, and afterwards they built the wall, what would separation mean if they didn't have a temple? But once the temple, that place where it was to speak of the Lord's glory and his presence among his people, then the wall of separation came after that. Well, there are so many things that I could speak of. And oh brethren, I believe. They're important. There's another thing that we find that creeps Internet is the teaching about free will. Well, you know many people don't stop to realize that in teaching that that system of things that they are really supposing that there is some good in man because if man of his free will would receive Christ, then there must have been something good in him to make a good choice. Now it's true that man is responsible and the Bible says. The Bible says that. Everyone is responsible before God and will give an account of himself to God. But if you and I were left to ourselves, we would never choose Christ and God had to do a work within us. I think of a simple illustration that was given by Mr. Darby to illustrate this. He said, supposing I put in front of a person an apple and an orange, and he hates apples and he loves oranges. And I say to him, now you have freedom of choice here. You can choose whichever you like. That's true. I give him the freedom of choice. But. How is he ever going to choose the apple? He hates apples. What will ever make him choose the apple? Why, I would have to do something inside of him, wouldn't I? Or he would never, never choose that apple. And you know that's what God does. No man can come unto me except the Father which hath sent me draw him. Brethren, I believe we need to realize the total ruin of man. There's nothing good in man from His will onward, you and I, as the Scripture says in me that is in.

Flash dwelleth no good thing. And so man goes on in his willful way, until God intervenes, and there had to be a work of God for my sins at Calvary, and there had to be a work of God in me, or I would never have received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. This doesn't in any way destroy responsibility. Man is responsible before God, just as a man who breaks into your house is responsible if you offer to pardon him and he refuses the pardon. That doesn't mean that all of a sudden he's no longer responsible and God offers to pardon man, but his will is so bad that he refuses the pardon and he's still responsible and he's going to have to answer to God as a responsible person. But oh, you and I. Have learned something of the grace of God that has picked us up and saved us. Well, I just mentioned these few things because I believe we have to watch in these days that we remember that it's the faith once delivered to the Saints. Oh, let us hold that precious deposit of truth that has been committed to us. Well, I'd like to turn to another verse in Matthew chapter. Matthew chapter 19. And the third verse. The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female? And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and a twain shall be 1 flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. The ninth verse. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery. And whoso marieth her which is put away, doth commit adultery. Well, I believe these things are written in God's Word as a message to us of the importance of marriage and the solemnity of the marriage union. And in these days when it's looked upon very lightly and there is perhaps a tendency for even Christians to be affected by the light attitude that the world has toward marriage, I believe, brethren, that we need to get back to what God said. What did the Lord Jesus do? He took them right back to the beginning. He said if you want to know God's mind devoted, you go back to the beginning because the Lord doesn't change. And so he takes them right back to the very beginning. And I believe that we need to receive these things today. We know that sometimes the relationship isn't as happy as it should be, it's sometimes strain and certainly every effort should be made to promote love. What is often said that for a happy marriage the husband needs to be 100% for his wife, and the wife 100% for her husband and together 100% for the Lord. I believe that's why it says. A threefold cord is not quickly broken and. We know that that is what God has planned, that is what he has ordered. But you know, in this day and age when people look on it lightly, say, well, those are old fashioned ideas now, it's a much easier outlet than just to divorce and remarry. But oh, I believe it's very, very solemn. And I believe too, and we think that this marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the church. And that the woman in her position represents the church. And and the husband in his position represents Christ who is the bridegroom of the church. What a responsibility. And that's the pattern that is brought before us in the scripture. Husbands, love your wives. Even as Christ also loved the church and gave him self for it. So we have what God has given now. I know. You talk to people, they have all kinds of changing opinions. I heard even a Christian say one time, well, I couldn't live with that person if he didn't love me. Well, instead of recognizing that there's a way to overcome even where there's a lack of love, why that was her attitude about it. But it's not the Scripture. The Scripture is that a responsibility has been taken on, and I believe it's a solemn responsibility before God.

And so I mentioned this because. Because I believe that all these things are the work of the enemy to try and destroy the divine standards that which God has established in his precious word. And let us go by this that God has set down in his word. And I believe that there's blessing in it when we think of the kind of a church that Christ loved. Oh, how wonderful. His grace toward us did we always. Always love him like we should. Did we always respond to his claims like we should? But did he cease to love? No, he's ever the same. So it says, be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Well, I believe that this brings before us the responsibility of the marriage then in First Corinthians 11. First Corinthians, Chapter 11. And the. Third verse. But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonored his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head, for that is even all one, as if she were shaved. Well, there's another thing that we see that's changing in society. There is a complete changeover and the idea of the place that God intended the man to occupy and that he intended the woman to occupy. I've often said if I as a man decide that I'm going to be the head, I have no more right to it than my wife. But if God put me in that place, then I have a. Responsibility. And that's the difference when people set aside the Bible and they say, what right does the man have to that place any more than the woman? But it wasn't man that chose that place. It was God who ordered this. And so I say to those who are man, it's a tremendous responsibility to fulfill the place that God has given to the man. To give that leadership in love and in kindness and in understanding. It doesn't mean that he is not to accept any advice from his wife. The Lord had on one occasion to say to Abraham, Hearken unto the voice of Sarah, thy wife, in all that she saith unto thee. And sometimes it's very important that we listen to the advice of the partner whom God has given to us, because the partner is not at all inferior. But God knew that the man could never fill the place of leadership. Properly alone. So he made a helpmate, not inferior, but one who could share in every way and help him to fulfill the place in which God had put him. You know how lovely this is. And anyone who has experienced this in their home would say why? I rely a great deal on the help that my wife gives me. I feel a responsibility to give godly leadership. So you see, God has. Plan this then, too. If the woman is not filling the place in the home, the man is unable to fulfill it. She can go out and fill a place in the business world, perhaps, but on the other hand, the man is unable to take the place that she has left vacant. And that's why it tells us in Isaiah. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. Oh my people. They which lead thee cause thee to err and

destroy the way of thy paths. Once God's order is set aside, by then the home is spoiled and the children grow up to be just what it says, oppressors, because they have no proper leadership in the home which God intended the mother to provide. And so we see how that men try to change the things that God has given. But you and I are to go back to the very. First principles that God has established, may I say it kindly to the boys and to the girls, to hearken to what God has said, to realize the responsibility God has given to you as a man and the responsibility he has given to the wife as a helpmate. And how beautiful it is when it's carried out in God's order. How wonderful to see that.

Plan carried out. What happiness there is. Because God didn't form Eve from Adam's head or from his feet, but from his side to be his support and his helpmate. You know what a happy order God has established? Well, pardon me, but I'm saying these things because in this changing world, we don't realize how much what the world is doing and what it says is rubbing off on us, affecting us so that we're not careful to follow the. Instructions of God's Word in the assembly. We're not careful to recognize what a very, very serious thing divorce is and how God says that he hates it in Malachi. He says I hate putting away. And then too, that as we see the disruption of this order that God planned by all the happiness and joy that God planned when a husband and wife are in their right and happy relationship. Oh, how it's all spoiled. Brethren, we have God's book. We have the one who changes not. And then turn to Ephesians chapter 6. Verse One. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment, with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Here when God is talking about honoring father and mother, why he says it's the first commandment with promise. In other words, he goes back to show that he had established something in connection with that relationship. And in the book of Proverbs, perhaps you have noticed that the whole 1St 7 chapters are all taken up with the father and the mother giving instruction to their family. Read those chapters for your. Yourself and you'll see they all every one of the chapters begins with my son or hear the instruction of a father and forsake not the law of thy mother. It's the whole plan that God had for the instruction of the children in the home. And then too that they should learn to honor father and mother. And as someone who's perhaps a little bit older than some who are young here, I can say this. That in my observation, I have never seen the blessing of God on children who didn't honor their father and mother. I believe that when you see children who honor their father and mother, they come into that special blessing that God talks about. And I want to say to you, dear young people, I was a very imperfect father. And perhaps some other fathers will say the same, that they weren't always the father that they should be. But nevertheless, I believe that God still would have you to honor them. And perhaps the day will come when you'll be a father and mother if the Lord doesn't come, and you'll be an imperfect father and mother too. It's, it's important though, that we recognize that God has set up and established an order. And so I just want to say. Young people, never speak disparagingly of your parents. They may not be perfect, they may make mistakes, but always honor them. Honor thy father and thy mother. And that's something why you're not under their authority after you're married. You still ought to honor them. They still are in that place that God has put them in. In other words, God has set up something in this world, something that doesn't have to change with changing. Times and when man bringing all these changes, why? What do they do, but only spoil that which God had planned for man? Turn to Romans chapter 1. Romans, chapter 1. And verse 25. Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever? Amen. Well, I don't need to read all the verses in this chapter, but I'm sure that many of us who have read these verses realize that this is a picture of what took place in heathendom when they gave up what revelation God had given to man and they changed everything. And it says they changed the truth of God into a lie. The Bible shows us that man is a triune being.

Spirit. Soul and body. And one has often said that we always want to make every decision in our lives in that order. The spirit, which is the intelligent God conscious part of our being, the soul which is the seat of the appetites and desires, and the body is the physical. And whenever you're going to make a decision, whether it's the line of work that you're going to take up. Always get before the Lord. And ask Him and then to make it intelligently as looking on into the future and making a little planning. You may get into something where you won't be happy or where you can't fully honor the Lord. Think that out and get before the Lord and pray about it and search His word. You don't want to get into some unequal yoke or something dishonouring to the Lord. So the first thing is the spirit and then the soul. You say, well, I like this. Well, you know, the Lord Jesus could say the good pleasure of Thy will, O God, is my delight. And you will find that if you're in the path of the Lord's will, you'll like it because the Lord's not going to put you into something. That you won't be able to enjoy if you are in the path of His will. And so then the last thing is the physical, then reverse the order. They usually say body, soul and spirit. So everything in their minds is planned in the very opposite direction of the way God intended it to be. Now in this first chapter of Romans we see that God gave up man. He gave him up as to his spirit and he worshiped. The idols he gave him up as to his soul and all his horrible desires displayed themselves in all kinds of lustful things, and then their bodies suffered because their body was given over. Their whole being was given over because they changed the truth of God into a lie. They worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator. And that's what's coming in today. And I ask you, dear young people, and for all of us. When we're making decisions, whether it's where you're going to live, whether it's the partner that you choose. Or the line of work that you're going to follow, always think of, first of all, can I honor the Lord in that? Can I give Him his rightful place? Will I be in something that's not according to His word? And then if you find that He directs you in that, then you say, well, I can enjoy it because I believe it's where the Lord wants me to be. I believe it's his will for me. And your body tapes you there well. And we find that man didn't want God's plan. He changed the truth of God into a lie and he worshipped and served the creature more than the creator. That's the what's coming in known as humanism today to replace the wisdom and the direction of God's word. And so this is what took place in Pagan Christianity. Now, I'd just like to say a few things in closing, if you'll turn with me to First Chronicles chapter 12. First Chronicles, chapter 12. And verse 32. And the children of Issachar, which were men that had an understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do, the heads of them were 200 and all their brethren were at their commandment. Let me turn over to Acts chapter 13. Acts Chapter 13. Verse 36. For David, after he had served his own generation, by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption. Ecclesiastes. Chapter 7. Verse 10. Say not thou what is the 'cause that the former days were better than these? For thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this. And one more passage in Second Corinthians chapter 3. 2nd Corinthians, chapter 3. And verse 17 Now the Lord is that spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Well, here we find perhaps what we could say our own attitude in a day like this tells us in that verse in Ecclesiastes not to inquire why the former days were better than these. You know, we can spend a lot of time saying, oh, I wish things were like they were five years ago or two years ago or 10 or whatever. Or we can say, the Lord is going to give me grace. If I look to him to live to please. Them to find the path that's pleasing to him in 1985 and in 1986. You and I must press on, brethren. We have to live in this generation, and the Lord is able to give us grace to serve our generation by the will of God. I believe that that's needful for us and we don't, and as I say, we cannot change the conditions in this world. We may not be able to change a lot of other things that we'd like to see very different. Maybe your job is very trying. Maybe your home situation is not easy. Maybe a school where you go is very difficult too. And there may even be trials in the assembly. But I

want to assure you that this wonderful friend that we talked about at the beginning, this is. My as he says, this is my beloved and this is my friend. He's sufficient for you. He can fill your life with peace and joy in the midst of a world that's constantly changing, full of unrest, full of uncertainty. He has a way by which you can live and serve your generation. I like that little word. Serve because none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself if you seek to live to please the Lord Jesus. You are going to serve your generation because other people are going to look on. And they're going to see in you a person that has found victory in a generation where everything seems to be going to pieces. Oh, I plead with you. I plead with you. It tells us there about those men of Issachar. It's a very interesting feature. If you take time to read in that chapter, it speaks about the ones from the different tribes who came out to make David king. And in everyone of the 12 tribes, it gives a certain number of people who came out to make David king. I hope we're making the true David, the Lord Jesus supreme in our lives. But it's the most interesting thing to me that the only one of the 12 tribes that it doesn't tell how many there were is the tribe of Issachar. And in that tribe, I read the verse to you, it says there were men, I think it says 200 in that tribe, who were men of understanding to know what Israel ought to do, and all their brethren were at their command. And may I just pass on a little word to some of us who are getting older. May the Lord help us to have an understanding about the time in which we live. I believe that. I believe that the young people will listen if they feel we understand. You know, there's two things that the human heart craves and it's understanding and love. If you talk to somebody and you talk for 5 minutes, you, you just say, I know it doesn't understand. You just can't enter into what I'm saying. You feel frustrated and you perhaps don't say anymore. But if you feel that person loves you and that person understands your. And then perhaps you'll listen. Perhaps that person can help you. And may I say to those of us who are getting older, may the Lord give us more of that understanding and love. I believe if we do that, we can be a help. It's been mentioned often in these meetings that our dear young people are in a generation and in a situation that some of us older ones hardly know very much about. But I believe we should have an understanding and a love. And here in that tribe of Issachar, it tells us about these heads of the people. Who have this kind of understanding and all their brethren were at their command. They weren't looking back and saying, oh, it wasn't like that when I was young. No, they were. They weren't inquiring why the former days were better than these. They were trying to encourage those living in the very time in which they lived, when things were at a state in Israel that were perplexing and trying.

And what is the final remedy of it all, brethren? It's to have our eyes upon the Lord Jesus and then we can change the situation. But isn't adverse lovely that we closed with there in 2 Corinthians 3. We all with open face, beholding the glory of the Lord are changed. The Lord doesn't change. The world has changed, but sometimes because we have had part of the world rub on us, why we need to change. Change more into his likeness. He's the unchanging 1. And how's it going to be? Oh, it's by occupation with the Lord Jesus, that wonderful Savior, that wonderful friend. This is my beloved. This is my friend. He's not only mine, He's yours too. If you know him as your Savior, He can do for you what He has done for others. And so I just pass on these few thoughts to you. In a world where there's so much change we have. In the word of God that help that instruction. Those firm things that God has established so that we can go on in peace, having divine direction from the person whose name is His name is wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the Father of eternity, the Prince of Peace, May we turn to Him, may we have our eyes upon Him, and the result will be a change take place in us to make us a little bit more. More like the one who changes, not. Shall we just look to the Lord in prayer?

La Mirada Conference: 1985, Altogether Lovely

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to read a few scriptures first of all, and I'd like to begin by looking at one in the Song of Solomon. Song of Solomon, chapter 4. Chapter 5 rather Solomon Chapter 5. And verse 16. His mouth is more sweet. Yay, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved and this is my friend. Oh, daughters of Jerusalem. And then could we turn over to Hebrews chapter 1? Hebrews, chapter 1. And verse 10. And thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy hand. They shall perish, but thou remainest, and they all shall wax old as doth A garment, and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed, but thou art the same, and thy ears shall not fail. And if you'll turn back with me to Malachi? And the third chapter. And the. 16th verse. The sixth verse pardon me, the 3rd chapter of Malachi, and the sixth verse. For I am the Lord, and I change not, therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. And then again in Hebrews chapter 13. Hebrews, chapter 13. And verse 8. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever. Well, dear friends, we are living in a world that's full of change. On every hand we see change, but isn't it blessed for us to know that that there is one who changes not? And I was thinking in connection with that verse that we read in Song of Solomon, that I think the quality that we value most of all in a friend whom we've learned to love and to admire and to think a great deal of is that they don't change. Change. We feel disappointed because we like them the way they were, and something happens and they change, perhaps in their attitude as time goes on. We also change in our physical condition too. It is a changing world. But isn't it very blessed, dear friends, that we have one who changes not? And I'd like to speak a little bit about that because I believe that is what will sustain us in a world like this. We so often get frustrated and disappointed. Disappointment. Disappointed as we see the constant change in this world and people hardly know where they're at because the job is uncertain, friends are uncertain, everything seems to be so uncertain. Banks fail, the weather pattern changes. It just seems that we're constantly reminded of change. But isn't it very precious that we can sit in these seats here this afternoon? And be occupied with a friend who is altogether lovely. Nothing that we'd ever want to alter because he is so perfect in everything, perfect in love, perfect in grace, perfect in faithfulness. That's what is pictured in the offering when it speaks about the fine flower. You know, when we think of friends, we usually think of a friend who has some particularly outstanding virtue. And so we say that person is very generous, that person is very thoughtful, that person is very kind. We singly out. Something in which they excel. But we have a friend who equally excels in everything. He excels in love and in grace. And if you, you and I need correction, and we do sometimes, He knows just exactly what we need and ministers that correction to us and wants us to see that it's His hand that is in it. And as we had in our verses that we read here together. And oh, how precious they are. In Hebrews chapter 1 we see that. World constantly in the process of change. But thou art the same and thy years shall not fail. Whether it's a child, whether it's a young person, whether it's an adult, We can have this same friend. He understands your childhood. He understands. Even in the millennial Jerusalem, it tells us that the city, the streets of the city will be full of boys. Girls playing in the streets. It tells us too, that when I was a child I spake as a child. I thought as a child I understood as a child. We don't always understand children. We don't always understand what's going through their minds. But isn't it lovely that the Lord understands even the child and tells us in that happy time for this earth, when the Lord Jesus has his rightful place as our brother brought before us in that millennial?

Say, then the children will be able to play in the streets and there will be no accidents. Everything will be under the Lord's wonderful care. And then too, as we grow older, we have new desires as young people, and we want certain things. Isn't it blessed to know that this is the kind of a friend we have? One who understands he watched your body and mind before it ever entered into this. See in a living person, because it says in 139 some thine eyes did behold my substance, yet being unperfect. And in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. You don't have any other friend like that who knows all your physical and emotional make up, who understands you perfectly, but this is the one. And it's not verse lovely, doesn't it touch? Your heart. This is my beloved, this is my friend. But he's not one that changes like earthly friends do. It says that he changes not. I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed because you know we're changing all the time. And you know when we have a friend who changes who was close to us and then turns and isn't so close, perhaps even. As our brother mentioned as some unkind thing to us, well then, it's hard for us to take something like that. But this friend, in spite of all our changes, he loves us just the same. 1 is often said that the assurances that are given in Scripture of the Lord's love to us were always given at times when we might have least expected. It in the book of Deuteronomy after 40 years. Years of wilderness, of murmuring and complaining, of displaying what was in their hearts. Then we come to the very end of that journey and it tells us, yeah, he loved the people. All his Saints are in thy hand. Those 40 years of their murmuring and complaining hadn't changed this friend. He loved them and they were in his hand. Then we turn over to Jeremiah. And there in Jeremiah we find the people had got. So far away that God was going to have to cause them to be carried into captivity. Their state seemed beyond remedy, as the Scripture says. And so the prophet Jeremiah with tears had to warn them that they were going to go into captivity. But did this change the friend that Israel had and that we have now the 31St chapter of Jeremiah says. Yeah, I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Then again, we come in, a little remnant has been brought back from the captivity. And there they came back and you read in the book of Malachi about the things that went on. They said it was vain to serve the Lord. They offered him the lame and the blind. That is, they didn't offer the best to him. They gave him what was second class, something they wouldn't give to the governor. They wouldn't, they wouldn't do the things that were pleasing to him. They weren't obedient to him. But how does he begin the message to them when? Speaks to them about all those shortcomings and failures. Oh, listen to the way the book of Malachi opens the burden of the word of the Lord by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the Lord. Then we come over to the New Testament and we think of Martha and we think of how the Lord had to speak to her, how she was finding fault because Mary was sitting at his feet. We might have had a kind of an idea that the Lord had a little more affection for Mary because she was more devoted and she sat at his feet. But when it talks about the Lord's affection to them, it says now Jesus loved Martha. And her sister And Lazarus, Yes, Martha's name comes first. The one who perhaps would have had the last reason, the least reason to have expected that. And then after we read in those letters to the seven churches.

He felt grieved that they had left their first love. And we have to hang our heads and acknowledge, brethren, that's true of us, isn't it? We have lost that fresh affection for the Lord Jesus. But in the very last one, in the letter to the Laodiceans, it says, as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore and repent. And so how precious. This is I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. And I think many of us, and especially perhaps as we get older and look back, we can say, well certainly if the Lord's love to us was dependent on the way we had acted as believers, it would be a very small amount. But how precious to know. This is my beloved. This is my friend, the one who doesn't change. I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Then we read also in the 13th chapter of Hebrews there, and the Lord is speaking about their leaders who had spoken to them the word of God. And he had to add that little word whose faith follow. My father used to often say, remember, it doesn't say whose failures follow and. You know, we, we do see failures in ourselves and perhaps in one another too. And sometimes we follow somebody else that has done something that's wrong. But it says whose faith follow. But then it tells us that there is a person whom we can follow implicitly. There's one who never fails. And so after telling us that we could imitate the faith of those who had sought to instruct us in the. Of God that He points us again to this unchangeable friend Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever. Surely, brethren, when we think of this, it is so encouraging to our hearts. And I believe that this is important not only to know this blessed One, but also I believe that He has laid down in His Word that which we need for our pathway we're living. World of constant change and the way we arrived here. I suppose if we look back 50 years ago, none of us would have arrived in the same way that we did today. Some arrive by airplane, some arrive by cars. It's a changing world. But let us remember that moral and spiritual values do not change now. That is, God has certain standards that He has. Has established in His precious word and it gives us peace, knowingness, unchanging friend that we have, that the counsel He gives us doesn't have to be brought up to date. Anybody that's working in the business world today knows very well that constantly the planning and the way things are done is being changed and new bulletins are being issued about constant changes. But isn't it lovely that we can take? Pick up a book like this and know that although the last part of it was written about 2000 years ago, it's still perfectly up to date. It gives us just exactly what we need to live in 1985 and soon in 1986. If the Lord leaves us here. It doesn't have to be brought up to date. It's suited to us. And I say to those who are young, and I say to those of us who are old, how important it is that. That we go by this blessed book, the path that God has marked out, this wonderful friend that we have, this unchanging friend has marked out a path for us here in this world and going by it as it tells us in Proverbs, her ways, our ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. And I want to encourage you and I want to encourage my own heart to be like that little remnant that we read of. In the last chapter of Isaiah, it says they trembled at God's word. They were afraid, you know, and we're traveling along. Why we are not always acquainted with the area in which we travel. And we watch the signs very carefully. And we're just afraid sometimes we're going to miss a sign because it isn't always easy to get your way back.

Sometimes, if you have missed that sign, why? You can go miles out of your way, and it was just because you weren't watchful. Now those signs were set up for our good. And brethren, God has written His word for our good. His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. We don't have to seek the wisdom of this world in moral and spiritual things. We may be due in those things that have to do. The way we travel and the way business operates and so on. But morally, we have divine standards. And I trust that each one of us will realize this. And I say this to you, dear young people who are present today. I know that you're being told that the older folks are outdated. They have certain stringent ideas and so on. But I ask you to search the word of God and to go. By this blessed book informing the pathway of your life. And you'll find that there's a real blessing in walking in that path that God has marked out in His word, and He hasn't left anything that is of importance without some direction for us. I like to look at a few verses more if you'll just turn with me now to Jude. Jude chapter. Well, there's just one chapter and the. I'll read from the first verse Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation. It was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you. That she should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. Well, here we can see that God is setting before us the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. There has been a book written by Brother Charles Stanley and it's called The First Years of Christianity. And what is the Church when he wanted to bring before us as the Lord's servant? Now that which the God has shown us in his word, what

Christianity really is and what the church is? Why? He went right back to that which God established in the beginning. And here we find Jude in the day of breakdown and apostasy. He didn't say, well, now we have to adopt a few new ideas because things are changing and there's a great deal of compromise and there's a lot of people giving in on this and that. Instead of this, he says that it was necessary for him to write and exhort them that they should earnestly. Contend for the faith once delivered unto the Saints, and I believe this is so important for us in all the matters that have to do particularly I speak now as to the assembly. I believe we need to go to the Word of God. The assembly doesn't operate on tradition. We know that that came into Israel and the traditions of the Pharisees became so important that sometimes the word of God. Was set aside so that they could carry out their own tradition. And here we find that the apostle Jude, he brings before the Saints the very great importance of the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. And so we need to read those epistles that have been written over and over again, because they give us divine instruction as to the person and the work of Christ, because that's the foundation of all How? Very important that we are clear as to the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we were mentioning yesterday, the assembly is the pillar and ground of the truth. And so in these days when little things are beginning to slip in, there's a large segment of Christendom today who is actually teaching that our blessed and holy Lord Jesus could sin. They tell us he didn't sin, but that he could. And it is amazing if you knew some of the important names in Christendom who are going.

Along with this teaching, O brethren, let's form our standards of what we believe from the Word of God, not from what is generally accepted. Because in this precious book we have that faith once, not twice not renewed, but once delivered to the Saints the blessed truth of the Lord's coming. And all these precious things that have been made known to us and given to us in the New Testament, how should we gather? Is it just that we? Shall I say, set up our own ideas of how we should gather, or do we have instruction in the word of God so that we would know that we are gathering according to His Word? Many, many nice Christians who really love the Lord Jesus and who want to please Him, and we have to leave them with the Lord. But your responsibility and mine individually as well as collectively as an assembly, is to go by God's precious word. Oh, let's learn it. Well, let's be well acquainted with the truth of God's Word so that we would gather according to. The word of God that we would gather to the precious name of the Lord Jesus only that we should gather as members of the body of Christ. Really Apostle was very much concerned in this day of breakdown and ruin that there would be that exercise. And I say to each one of us, and I speak to those who are a bit older. Sometimes I think that we who are older tend to forget that there is constantly a new general. Inspiration coming up and they see things being done and they don't know why. They don't know why. I remember a young person in one assembly gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. She went and broke bread someplace else and some brother mentioned that she had broken somewhere else and made the comment. Oh, she knew better than that. And I said to the brother, well. I think that she knew the brethren disagreed, but I'm not sure that she knew why for herself. Now you and I should know why for ourselves. We need the faith once delivered to the Saints. We need to know what it is to be gathered according to the Word of God, and if we have learned that blessed and precious truth of the one Body and gathering as members of the body of Christ. Oh, how precious it is to our hearts and. That we find in the Old Testament, they didn't build a wall around Jerusalem until they had first built the temple. And when they had built the temple and afterwards they built the wall, what would separation mean if they didn't have a temple? But once the temple, that place where it was to speak of the Lord's glory and His presence among his people, then the wall of separation came after that. Well, there are so many things that I could speak of. And oh brethren, I believe. These are important and there's another thing that we find that creeps in and that is the teaching about free will. Well, you know, many people don't stop to realize that in teaching that that system of things that they are really supposing that there is some good in man. Because if man of his free will would receive Christ, then there must have been something good in him to make a good choice. Now it's true that man is responsible, and the Bible says the Bible. Says that everyone is responsible before God and will give an account of himself to God. But if you and I were left to ourselves, we would never choose Christ and God had to do a work within us. I think of a simple illustration that was given by Mr. Darby to illustrate this. He said, supposing I put in front of a person an apple and an orange, and he hates apples and he loves oranges. And I say to him, now you have freedom of choice here. You can choose whichever you like. That's true. I give him the freedom of choice. But. How is he ever going to choose the apple? He hates apples. What will ever make him choose the apple? Why, I would have to do something inside of him, wouldn't I? Or he would never, never choose that apple. And you know that's what God does. No man can come unto me except the Father which has sent me draw him, brother. And I believe we need to realize the total ruin of man. There's nothing good in man from his will onward, you and I, as the scripture says in me that is in my.

Flash dwelleth no good thing. And so man goes on in his willful way, until God intervenes, and there had to be a work of God for my sins at Calvary, and there had to be a work of God in me, or I would never have received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. This doesn't in any way destroy responsibility. Man is responsible before God, just as a man who breaks into your house is responsible if you offer to pardon him and he refuses the pardon. That doesn't mean that all of a sudden he's no longer responsible and God offers to pardon man, but his will is so bad that he refuses the pardon and he's still responsible and he's going to have to answer to God as a responsible person. But all you and I. Have learned something of the grace of God that has picked us up and saved us. Well, I just mentioned these few things because I believe we have to watch in these days that we remember that it's the faith once delivered to the Saints. Oh, let us hold that precious deposit of truth that has been committed to us. Well, I'd like to turn to another verse in Matthew chapter, Matthew chapter 19 and the third verse. The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female? And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, And a twain shall be 1 flesh, wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. The ninth verse. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, accepted be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery. In whoso marieth her which is put away, doth commit adultery. Well, I believe these things are written in God's Word as a message to us of the importance of marriage and the solemnity of the marriage union. And in these days when it's looked upon very lightly and there is perhaps a tendency for even Christians to be affected by the light attitude that the world has toward marriage, I believe, brethren, that we need to get back to what God said. What did the Lord Jesus do? He took them right back to the beginning. He said if you want to know God's mind about it, you go back to the beginning because the Lord doesn't change. And so He takes them right back to the very beginning. And I believe that we need to receive these things today. We know that sometimes the relationship isn't as happy as it should be, it's sometimes strain and certainly every effort should be made to promote love. What is often said that for a happy marriage the husband needs to be 100% for his wife, and the wife 100% for her husband and together 100% for the Lord. I believe that's why it says. A threefold cord is not quickly broken and. We know that that is what God has planned and that is what he has ordered. But you know, in this day and age when people look on it lightly, say, well, those are old fashioned ideas now, it's a much easier outlet than just to divorce and remarry. But oh, I believe it's very, very solemn. And I believe too. And we think that this marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the church. And that the woman in her position represents the church and and. And the husband in his position represents Christ who is the bridegroom of the church. What a responsibility. And that's the pattern that is brought

before us in the scripture. Husbands, love your wives. Even as Christ also loved the church and gave him self for it. So we have what God has given. Now I know if you. To people, they have all kinds of changing opinions. I heard even a Christian say one time, well, I couldn't live with that person if he didn't love me. Well, instead of recognizing that there's a way to overcome even where there's a lack of love, why that was her attitude about it. But it's not the Scripture. The Scripture is that a responsibility has been taken on, and I believe it's a solemn responsibility before God. And so I mentioned this.

Just because I believe that all these things are the work of the enemy to try and destroy the divine standards that which God has established in His precious Word. And let us go by this that God has set down in His Word. And I believe that there's blessing in it. When we think of the kind of a church that Christ loved. Oh, how wonderful. His grace toward us did we always? Love him like we should. Did we always respond to his claims like we should? But did he cease to love? No, he's ever the same. So it says, be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Well, I believe that this brings before us the responsibility of the marriage. Then in First Corinthians 11, First Corinthians Chapter 11 and the. Third Verse. But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered this on earth, he said. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head, for that is even all one, as if she were shaved. Well, there's another thing that we see that's changing in society. There is a complete change over it. And the idea of the place that God intended the man to occupy and that he intended the woman to occupy. I've often said if I as a man decide that I'm going to be the head, I have no more right to it than my wife. But if God put me in that place, then I have a responsibility. And that's the difference when people set aside the Bible and they say, what right does the man have to that place any more than the woman? But it wasn't man that chose that place. It was God who ordered this. And so I say to those who are men, it's a tremendous responsibility to fulfill the place that God has given to the man, to give that leadership in love and in kindness and in understanding. It doesn't mean that he is not to accept any advice from his wife. The Lord had on one occasion to say to Abraham, Hearken unto the voice of Sarah, thy wife, in all that she saith unto thee. And sometimes it's very important that we listen to the advice of the partner whom God has given to us, because the partner is not at all inferior. But God knew that the man could never fill a place of leadership. Separately, alone. So he made a helpmate, not inferior, but one who could share in every way and help him to fulfill the place in which God had put him. You know how lovely this is. And anyone who has experienced this in their home would say why? I rely a great deal on the help that my wife gives me. I feel a responsibility to give godly leadership. So you see, God has plans. This then too, if the woman is not filling the place in the home, the man is unable to fulfill it. She can go out and fill a place in the business world, perhaps, but on the other hand, the man is unable to take the place that she has left vacant. And that's why it tells us in Isaiah, As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause the. To her and destroy the way of thy paths. Once God's order is set aside, why then the home is spoiled and the children grow up to be just what it says, oppressors. Because they have no proper leadership in the home, which God intended the mother to provide. And so we see how that men try to change the things that God has given. But you and I are to go back to the very first principles of God has established. May I say it kindly to the boys and to the girls to hearken to what God has said, to realize the responsibility God has given to you as a man and the responsibility He has given to the wife as a helpmate. And how beautiful it is when it's carried out in God's order. How wonderful to see that.

Plan carried out what happiness there is because God didn't form. Eve from Adam's head or from his feet, but from his side, to be his support and his helpmate. You know what a happy order God has established? Well, pardon me, but I'm saying these things because in this changing world, we don't realize how much what the world is doing and what it says is rubbing off on us, affecting us, so that we're not careful to follow the instructions of God's Word in the assembly. We're not careful to recognize what a very, very serious thing divorce is and how God says that he hates it in Malachi. He says I hate putting away. And then too, that as we see the disruption of this order that God planned, why all the happiness and joy that God planned when a husband and wife are in their right and happy relationship? Oh, how it's all spoiled, Brethren, we have God's book. We have the one. Who changes not? And then turn to Ephesians chapter 6. Verse One. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment, with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Here when God is talking about honoring father and mother, why he says it's the first commandment with promise. In other words, he goes back to show that he had established something in connection with that relationship. And in the book of Proverbs, perhaps you have noticed that the whole 1St 7 chapters are all taken up with the father and the mother giving instruction to their family. Read those chapters for your. And you'll see they all, every one of the chapters begins with my son. Or hear the instruction of a father. And forsake not the law of thy mother. It's the whole plan that God had for the instruction of the children in the home. And then too, that they should learn to honor father and mother. And as someone who's perhaps a little bit older than some who are young here, I can say this. That in my observation, I have never seen the blessing of God on children who didn't honor their father and mother. I believe that when you see children who honor their father and mother, they come into that special blessing that God talks about. And I want to say to you, dear young people, I was a very imperfect father. And perhaps some other fathers will say the same, that they weren't always the father that they should be. But nevertheless, I believe that God still would have you to honor them. And perhaps the day will come when you'll be a father and mother if the Lord doesn't come, and you'll be an imperfect father and mother too. It's, it's important though, that we recognize that God has set up and established an order. And so I just want to say to children. And young people, never speak disparagingly of your parents. They may not be perfect, they may make mistakes, but always honor them. Honor thy father and thy mother. And that's something why you're not under their authority after you're married. You still ought to honor them. They still are in that place that God has put them in. In other words, God has set up something in this world, something that doesn't have to change with changing times. Times and when men bring in all these changes, why? What do they do, but only spoil that which God had planned for man? Turn to Romans chapter 1. Romans chapter 1. And verse 25, who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Well, I don't need to read all the verses in this chapter, but I'm sure that many of us who have read these verses realize that this is a picture of what took place in heathendom when they gave up what revelation God had given to man and they changed everything. And it says they changed the truth of God into a lie. The Bible shows us that man is a triune being. Spirit. Soul and body and 1 is often said that we always ought to make every decision in our lives in that order. The spirit which is the intelligent God conscious part of our being, the soul which is the seat of the appetites and desires, and the body is the physical. And whenever you're going to make a decision whether it's the line of work that you're going to take up.

Always get before the Lord. And ask Him and then to make it intelligently as looking on into the future and making a little planning. You may get into something where you won't be happy or where you can't fully honor the Lord. Think that out and get before the Lord and pray about it and search His word. You don't want to get into some unequal yoke or something dishonoring to the Lord. So the first thing is the Spirit and then the soul. You say, well, I like this. Well, you know, the Lord Jesus could say the good pleasure of Thy will, O God, is my delight. And you'll

find that if you're in the path of the Lord's will, you'll like it because the Lord's not going to put you into something. That you won't be able to enjoy if you are in the path of His will. And so then the last thing is the physical, Then reverse the order. They usually say body, soul and spirit. So everything in their minds is planned in the very opposite direction of the way God intended it to be. Now in this first chapter of Romans we see that God gave up man. He gave him up as to his spirit and he worshiped idols. He gave him up as to his soul, and all his horrible desires displayed themselves in all kinds of lustful things, and then their bodies suffered because their body was given over. Their whole being was given over because they changed the truth of God into a lie. They worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. And that's what's coming in today. And I ask you, dear young people, and for all of us when we're making decisions. Whether it's where you're going to live, whether it's the partner that you choose or. The line of work that you're going to follow, always think of, first of all, can I honor the Lord in that? Can I give him his rightful place? Will I be in something that's not according to His word? And then if you find that he directs you in that, then you say, well, I can enjoy it because I believe it's where the Lord wants me to be. I believe it's. His will for me and your body tapes you there well. And we find that man didn't want God's plan. He changed the truth of God into a lie and he worshipped and served the creature more than the creator. That's the what's coming in known as humanism today to replace the wisdom and the direction of God's word. And so this is what took place in Pagan Christianity. Now, I just like to say a few things in closing, if you'll turn with me to First Chronicles Chapter 12. First Chronicles Chapter 12. And verse 32. And the children of Issachar, which were men that had an understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do, the heads of them were 200 and all their brethren were at their commandment. You turn over to Acts chapter 13. Acts chapter 13, verse 36 For David, after he had served his own generation, by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption. Ecclesiastes. Chapter 7. Verse 10. Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? For thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this. And one more passage in Second Corinthians chapter 3. 2nd Corinthians, chapter 3. And verse 17 Now the Lord is that spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Well, here we find perhaps what we could say our own attitude in a day like this tells us in that verse in Ecclesiastes not to inquire why the former days were better than these. You know, we can spend a lot of time saying, oh, I wish things were like they were five years ago or two years ago or 10 or whatever. Or we can say, the Lord is going to give me grace.

If I look to him to live to please him. To find the path that's pleasing to him in 1985 and in 1986. You and I must press on, brethren. We have to live in this generation, and the Lord is able to give us grace to serve our generation by the will of God. I believe that that's needful for us and we don't. And as I say, we cannot change the conditions in this world. We may not. Be able to change a lot of other things that we'd like to see very different. Maybe your job is very trying. Maybe your home situation is not easy. Maybe a school where you go is very difficult too, and there may even be trials in the assembly. But I want to assure you that this wonderful friend that we talked about at the beginning, this is my as he says, this is my beloved and this is my friend. He's sufficient for you. He can fill your life with peace and joy in the midst of a world that's constantly changing, full of unrest, full of uncertainty. He has a way by which you can live and serve your generation. I like that little word. Serve because none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself if you seek to live to please the Lord Jesus. You are going to serve your generation because other people are going to look on. And they're going to see in you a person that has found victory in a generation where everything seems to be going to pieces. Oh, I plead with you. I plead with you. It tells us there about those men of Issachar. It's a very interesting feature. If you take time to read in that chapter, it speaks about the ones from the different tribes who came out to make David king. And in everyone now of the. 12 tribes. It gives a certain number of people who came out to make David Cain. I hope we're making the true David, the Lord Jesus, supreme in our lives. But it's the most interesting thing to me that the only one of the 12 tribes that it doesn't tell how many there were is the tribe of Issachar. And in that tribe, I read the verse to you, it says there were men, I think it says 200 in that tribe, who were men of understanding to know what Israel ought to do, and all their brethren were at their command. And may I just pass on a little word to some of us who are getting older. May the Lord help us to have an understanding about the time in which we live. I believe that. I believe that the young people will listen if they feel we understand. You know, there's two things that the human heart craves and it's understanding and love. If you talk to somebody and you talk for 5 minutes and you, you just say, I know it doesn't understand. He just can't enter into what I'm saying. You feel frustrated and you perhaps don't say anymore. But if you feel that person loves you and that person understands your situation. Then perhaps you'll listen. Perhaps that person can help you. And may I say to those of us who are getting older, may the Lord give us more of that understanding and love. We do that. We can be a help. It's been mentioned often in these meetings that our dear young people are in a generation and in a situation that some of us older ones hardly know very much about. But I believe we should have an understanding and a love. And here in that tribe of Issachar, it tells us about these heads of the people who have this kind of understanding that all their brethren were at their command. They weren't looking back. Saying, Oh, it wasn't like that when I was young. No, they were. They weren't inquiring why the former days were better than these. They were trying to encourage those living in the very time in which they lived, when things were at a state in Israel that were perplexing and trying. And what is the final remedy of it all, brethren? It's to have our eyes upon the Lord Jesus. And then we can change the situation. But isn't that verse lovely that we close? With there in 2nd Corinthians 3, we all with open face, beholding the glory of the Lord are changed. The Lord doesn't change, the world has changed, but sometimes because we have had part of the world rub on us, why we need to change more into his likeness. He's the unchanging 1 and how is it going to be?

Oh, it's by occupation with the Lord Jesus, that wonderful Savior. That wonderful friend, this is my beloved, this is my friend. He's not only mine, he's yours too. If you know him as your Savior, he can do for you what he has done for others. And so I just pass on these few thoughts to you. In a world where there's so much change we have in the word of God that help, that instruction, those firm things that God has established so that we can go on in peace having. Divine direction from the Word, The person whose name is his name is wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the Father of eternity, the Prince of Peace. May we turn to Him, may we have our eyes upon Him, and the result will be a change take place in us to make us a little bit more like the one who changes not.

St. Thomas Conference: 2001, The Lord My Friend

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd just like to reverse in the Song of Solomon. The 5th chapter. The 5th chapter of the Song of Solomon. And the 16th verse. His mouth is most sweet. Yay. He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend. Oh, daughters of Jerusalem. I was just thinking, brethren,

when I read that verse, I wonder if there's anybody who knew all about me, all I had ever done, all I had ever thought, who would love me just the same, who would have the same feeling toward me after they found all that out. But I want to tell you today that I'm going to talk to you about a person who knows all about you and about me. He knows everything we have said. He knows everything we have done, and we have everything we have thought, and He loves us. Just the same loves with unchanging love. And more than that, you might say, well, I think I could love that person, but I think I would get tired of their company if I find out they're a person like that. But you and I are going to dwell that person, the Lord Jesus Christ, for all eternity, and we're never going to tire of all His love and his grace, and he's never going to get tired of us. Isn't that a wonderful thing? And so we might say this is my notice What? He says here, this is my beloved and this is my friend. And I know that everyone of you, young people and older ones too, who know Him as Savior can say those very words. This is my beloved, this is my friend. And if there's some here that don't yet know him, haven't yet trusted in Him as your Savior, I trust that this very afternoon you'll see your need of Him. I'm sure your parents love you, and you perhaps have friends that really think a lot of you, but you will never have anyone that loves you as much as the Lord Jesus. You will never have anyone who loved you enough as He did to go to Calvary's cross and bear all that shame and all that suffering in order that He might have you for one of his redeemed and that He might have you for his companion. And he calls us his friend. Isn't that a lovely thing? It's a wonderful thing that I can say. The Lord Jesus is my friend, but I find it still more wonderful that he should say, ye are my friends, ye are my friends. Nice to say, well, that person's my friend, but that person say the same of you. He is my friend now. That's what he said to the disciples. Ye are my friends. And so, so it'll privileges ours this afternoon. Well, I'd just like to talk a little bit about how much he knows about us. And so I wonder if we could turn to the 100. 39th. Reading from the first verse. O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising. Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and aren't acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and lay thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit, or whither shall I flee from my presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in hell or hades, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost part of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. Surely the darkness shall. If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the light shall. The night shall be light about me. Yeah, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the light shineth as the day. The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reigns. Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Sinai did see my substance yet being unperfect. And in Thy book all my members are written, were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God, how great is the sum of them. If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand. When I awake, I am still with Thee.

Well, as Sam follows up the little thought we were speaking about how the Lord searches us and knows us, knows us all the thoughts that had ever come into our minds, but I especially enjoyed in this chapter. It says thine eyes did behold thy substance, yet being unperfect. Quite a number of people here today. We all have different physical emotional makeups. Isn't it a wonderful thing that the Lord watched your body and my body. Being formed, He saw her body being formed in the womb and he formed him in such a way. And he has made us all different. Here we are. None of us have the same fingerprints. We're all different people. And yet he watched our bodies being formed. And he knows your weakness. He knows my weakness. He knows what we might think are our strengths too. He knows all about us. Isn't a grand thing to have one like this and to know that He loves you and He cares for you. And he looks down in this room and says he calleth his own sheep by name. He knows a lot of people that I've seen here. I shouldn't know their names, but I'm afraid I forget some of them and I have to shake hands and can't say their name like I wish I could. And some I don't even know their names. But the Lord could start in the back row and go right through, and He could name everyone without any hesitation. He knows our name. Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? Is it there to be manifested in that day, the companion of the Lord Jesus? One for whom he died. On Calvary's cross, oh, I think that's so nice because you often hear people say people just don't understand me. They don't understand my makeup, they don't understand I'm emotionally different from other people. The Lord does, the Lord does and he cares and he can help you in all those things that we have because every one of us, because we're living in a world where sin is. We all have some deficiency. We all have something in one way or another that. We need grace from Him to overcome, but He can help us to overcome in these things, and there isn't a single thing about us that He can't enable us. It tells us in Hebrews chapter 4. Therefore let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we might obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Isn't it lovely that you can come to Him? And you say I'm afraid to talk to anybody else because they wouldn't understand. There's a verse in, I think it's the 62nd Psalm that I've always enjoyed very much too, that it goes like this. It says, well, perhaps I better read it because I'm afraid it won't quote it just right. 62nd Psalm. Now I'll read from the fifth verse. My, my soul wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense. I shall not be moved in. God is my salvation and my glory. My rock. The rock of my strength and my refuge is in God. This is the particular verse. Trust in Him at all times, ye people. Pull out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us. It's just that little expression I think is so touching. Pour out your heart before him. You know, you'd often like to. Perhaps you've said to yourself sometime I wish there was a friend I could talk to and just tell how I feel. I don't think they would understand. I wish there was that kind of a friend. You have that kind of a friend. He says to pour out your heart. There's very few people that you can pour out your heart to, but you can pour out your heart to the Lord. And there's nothing you can tell him that will change his love. He may be grieved, He's often grieved with things that I do, and I'm sure he's grieved with things you do too, but he loves you. It doesn't change his love. I've always been impressed in the Bible that the times when the Lord specially tells his people of his love to them as the most unexpected times we find in the book of Jeremiah, when Jeremiah was tears in his eyes, was warning the people about how far they had got away from the Lord. And that God was going to have to deal with them, and the king of Babylon was going to come up and destroy their city. And where are you going to find such a wonderful verse? It's right in Jeremiah 31. I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Then you turn over to Malachi, and you find there the the remnant have really departed from the Lord.

They wouldn't even open the doors of the Lord's house for not. They were offering the Lord the lame and the blind afraid. We do that sometimes people say, well y'all come to meeting if nothing else turns up that I have to do. In other words, that second the Lord isn't first isn't often true. And then we're not giving the Lord first place. And yet it tells us there in that lovely one. I have Jacob have I loved. Right in that very one his love toward them. Then we turn to and we. Read about Martha and Mary and the Lord puts Martha first. Jesus, love Martha and her sister. How wonderful it is. This is the kind of a friend. This is my Savior, this is my friend, and this is the friend you have too if you know him as your Lord and Savior. Well, this beautiful Psalm here is the Lord's searchings and he does search us and you know we need to be willing. Now if you come to the border and they want to search. You, you've got nothing to hide. You put your hands up and you haven't got a

single hesitation because you don't care what they find, because everything's in order. And the Lord searches us sometimes. What does He find when he searches us? Are there little hidden things in our lives, things that are not for His glory? Well, he searches them, He finds them out. But He, he loves us just the same, and he wants to bring us to confession. And so in this. Some it ends with. The 23rd verse search me O God, and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in a way everlasting. You wouldn't be afraid to tell someone something if you knew it wouldn't change their love. It wouldn't change their feelings towards you. And isn't it wonderful that whatever the Lord, for He knows it all anyway, finds about us, it doesn't change his love. And that's the beautiful part of it. And so that's what I wanted to say first of all. This one that I want to talk about is our Savior. He's our friend. He loves us with an everlasting love and nothing that he'll ever find out or could find out about us. He doesn't already know, but He is seeking our good. And there's an awful lot of self will in each one of us, I am sure. And sometimes we're not aware of that self will that's there and that's what's the hindrance to our happiness. Doesn't hinder his love because he loves us just the same. But it hinders our happiness because we're putting our own wills before His. We're seeking to do what we'd like to do. Well, I'd like to turn to the book of Proverbs and. Look a little bit at first of all the 8th chapter. It's often said that the book of Proverbs is heavenly wisdom for our earthly path. And we could be very thankful for a book like the book of Proverbs that gives us wisdom in connection with the things of daily life. You don't really find the way of salvation developed in the book of Proverbs, but you do find that wisdom that is so needful and good for us. And our pathway here, and it's very interesting, if you notice going through the chapters, the first 7 chapters, the first chapter begins with. An introduction if you noticed and then in the. In the fourth verse you read those two little words, my son, the 2nd chapter. It begins with my son in the 3rd chapter, my son in the 4th chapter. Here he children the instruction of a father. The 5th chapter, my son, the 6th chapter, my son, the 7th chapter, my son, the God ordained channel to teach us when we're young as our parents. And so I want to say because there's a lot of young people here today. Sail honor thy father and thy mother that it may be well with thee. And I've often said I've never seen a young person that didn't honor their father and mother that it was really well with them. You know, that's the starting point. And God has ordained you say, well, my father and mother don't always give me very good answers. Nevertheless, you should honor them. Honor your father and your mother. And those chapters bring before us that the God or change channel might not do a lot of parents here. And I know I failed as a parent many times, but we have a great responsibility to be a father or a mother either, and a family. Oh, how those young children are put into our hands. I think when a baby is born into the world, as if God says, here's a life begun, a life begun for eternity, a life begun for eternity. And I am giving you as a parent the privilege of telling that child about the Lord Jesus that it might be.

Saved. We've been talking in the meeting about the path of the truth in which they should walk. And we teach them this. This is a wonderful thing. And many of you, boys and girls and young people have Christian homes, fathers and mothers who love you more than you can realize. And they're seeking your good and they're seeking your blessing. And isn't it lonely that in these 7 chapters in the book of Proverbs, we have the Father? Instructing the child, warning him. Helping him. And so I just say, honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee. But now I wanted to come to the 8th chapter because there's a little change here when you come to the 8th chapter and I'm going to read a few verses in this chapter. Does not wisdom cry? An understanding put forth her voice. She standeth in the top of the high places, in the way of the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. And to you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O ye simple, understand wisdom, and ye fools be of an understanding heart. Here, for I will speak of excellence. Things and the opening of my lips shall be right things, for my mouth shall speak truth, and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness. There is nothing forward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and write to them that find knowledge. Received my instruction, and not silver and knowledge rather than choice. Gold for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared with it. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. I'll read a little more later, but here you find. I think I like to think of this when I read the first 7 chapters. I think of the young person still at home. I was at home with my father and mother for a while. But then the time comes, you know that you have to leave home. You go perhaps to another job in another city, perhaps go to college or go to school. You leave home and you don't hear the voice of your parents anymore because you've gone out now and you're out, so to speak, meaning the world and so. Chapter brings that change. The 1St 7 chapters are the voice of father and mother, the parent, especially the father in the in this part of the book of Proverbs we have the mother later on. But here we find the boy or the girl is leaving home. And now the voice of wisdom cries, the voice of wisdom. But where are you going to find wisdom? Oh the word of God, the name of the Lord Jesus is Wisdom. He is wisdom itself. And I want to say to you. Acquaint yourself with the word of God and often said when I talk to young people or older ones either. If I quote a verse to you today, I didn't learn it yesterday because I can't remember things as well as I used to when I was young. But I thank God that I stored my mind with a lot of scriptures when I was young and dear young people I know were living in days when people don't do much storing of their mind. With things of the Bible, I know that. Life is very busy and school and. There's radio and all kinds of things going all the time. You can be listening all the time, and you can have very little time left to read God's Word and to listen to what God has to say to you, but you'll never get anything any more wonderful than you have in the Bible. It's perfectly up to date. I always think of our. Brother, my brother used to go along. He someone said to him all the Bible's old fashioned, it's out of date. And he said, oh, why? What's out of date with it? Oh, he said the things have changed so much today. And he said, do you still drink water? Oh, yes. He said, of course. I guess everybody does. Do you think your parents drank water? Oh, yes, yeah. Did your grandparents drink water? Yeah. Well, don't you think you're pretty old fashioned if you're still drinking water?

Are you still old fashioned? If you still keep on reading this wonderful book, it's not outdated. It's up to date. It's more up to date than the daily newspaper. It's more up to date. It's got exactly what you need for the year 2001. It's all there for you. And the more you look out on the spectrum of this world, the more you see how wonderful the book is. I can remember when Israel became a nation. And you know, I read some of the old writers, I read in the Bible, how God. Foretold the return of Israel to their land, he said after two years he will revive us. In the third year we shall live in his sight. And I can remember when Israel became a nation and the heading on the Ottawa newspaper was after 2000 years, Israel is a nation again. The Bible wasn't very outdated, was it? It told after two days they would be revived. They became a nation again. It tells us all about these nations around there that are against them being in that land. They say they'll never be peace until they're out. And that's exactly what the Bible tells us, Tells us of the different nations that will come together and try and put the name of Israel from remembrance says in 83rd Psalm that is cut off the people at the name of Israel. Israel may be no more in remembrance. That's what they're trying to do. Is the Bible outdated? No, it's up to date. Does it tell what's happening today in society? Yes, it does. Oh, dear young people, you have a tremendous treasure. You have your father and your mother. I hope you listen to them because they have a lot of good, helpful instruction for you, and they love you more than anybody else in this world. And they want your happiness and your blessing. And then you, you have the word of God. You have the assembly too, where you can come together and have fellowship with the people of God. How very privileged you are when we say, but there's a lot of problems come up. I like this little expression here now that it says. And the 12TH verse. I wisdom dwell with prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions. There's a magazine called the Consumer's Digest and I guess

a lot of people know about this and if you're going to buy something you can find in that how a number of people have bought this thing before you thought about it and they're making their comments what they found out about it. Isn't it wonderful that you have not the comments of men, but it says I. Wisdom dwell with prudence. Did God know what was going to happen when television came in and when all these kind of things came in? Yes, He knows all those things that were going to happen ahead of time. And he warns us. He gives us all those instructions in his word. How thankful I wisdom dwell with prudence and find of knowledge of woody inventions. They're pretty good inventions, but they can also do a lot of harm if they're not used in a way that's honoring to the Lord. And so. It says here the fear of the Lord is to hate evil. Pride and arrogancy of the evil way and the forward mouth do I hate? Aren't we often very arrogant? We don't like somebody that tries to help us and correct us, and we get pretty upset with them. They're only saying what they're saying toward us because they're seeking our good. I'm a bit older myself and I know I don't always say things even my wife tells me. Well, you don't approach the subject very well, Gordon, and very often we don't say things just in the right way that we should. But nevertheless, we're seeking your good. And you know, your parents, your older brethren, seek your happiness and your good and your blessing. Well, we have wonderful instruction in the word of God. Then it goes on to say. 14 counsel is mine, and sound wisdom. I am understanding, I have strength by me Kings reign and Princess decree justice. Isn't it wonderful to know the one who controls the King's heart is in the hand of the Lord as the rivers of water? He turneth it whithersoever he will and won't take time. But I think it's in the 106th or 7th Psalm. That when Abraham was wandering in the land that God had promised to him. To his posterity, it says he suffered no one to do them harm. Yeah, he reproved kings for their sakes. In other words, they were under his protection and God wouldn't let anybody touch them. And then later on, in the same Psalm, it says he turned their hearts to hate his people, to do, to be unkind to them. Oh, you say, would God do that too? Yes, she did that too.

Why did he do it in the first place? And turn the heart so they couldn't do any harm to Abraham. Well, because Abraham was in the land that God had given him. And God wouldn't allow anyone to take away what he had promised to them. And in the other case, the children of Israel would have settled down in Egypt. They would have stayed there. They were getting pretty comfortable with the leeks and the onions and the garlic and everything was pretty nice. And they had fish and all that they wanted. And so God says I'm going to stir up the. Gotta make it uncomfortable. People won't be nice to them and they'll be ready to go. And they were ready to go. Always remember, people's attitude towards you is allowed of the Lord. I don't say they're always right in their attitude, but if it happens, the Lord has allowed it. It wasn't right for them to hate God's people in the land of Egypt, but God allowed it. And God allows this and the person has a bad attitude. Take it from the Lord. Lord's allowed it. It's going to be an opportunity for you to. The grace that's in Christ Jesus, it's going to be your opportunity to show that you can return good for evil. Isn't it lovely? We have all these things in the Word of God? Says here then in the 20th verse, I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment, that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance, and I will fill their treasures. The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth. When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before they brought forth, when as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the earth, when He prepared the heavens, I was there when He set a compass upon the fountain, upon the face of the deep. So you see, he was in control in all the creation of this world, and that's the one that is wisdom, That is the one who is for us. And so he's the one that created it. You know, we ought to be more thankful as we think of that. My father used to often say he could have made the world all one color. It would have been pretty monotonous living in a world of all one color, but he gave a great variety of colors. He gave us the different kinds of food. He could have made all our food. Delight, but he gave us a nice, nice variety. You realize what a wonderful God we have that he has provided for us. And then when he tells us there's something I don't want you to do that we rebel and say, oh, I think I know better than my creator. I think if I do that thing, I'm going to get some fun and you maybe ruin your life. You maybe ruin your life just because you thought you were going to have a little bit of fun and you didn't listen to the one who made everything beautiful in his time. He made things that. Could enjoy, but you can't enjoy them if you abuse his goodness and that's what man has done with this world. Are you abusing your body because God has made it so and you are abusing it? Or are you going to say want to use my body the way God wants me to use it and for his glory says in. Romans 12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable or intelligent service. And then it says the end of this. It's ate the proverbs notice. 34th verse. Here blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso foundeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord. But he that sinneth against Me wrongeth his own soul. All they that hate me love death. Yes, it tells us here that if we don't listen to the wisdom of God, who do you harm? You harm yourself. You harm yourself. You don't listen to the wisdom of God. Why? It's yourself that you harm. You say, well, I know I harm other people. Yes, you probably do. Maybe hurt your parents, maybe hurt a lot of your friends, but who's going to suffer most? You yourself. Oh, how good that we have such instruction. So that's what I wanted to bring before you, especially, especially those who are young. That the Lord knows all about us. He watched our bodies being formed.

He gave us parents who instructed us and who helped us, and then he made provision for the time we have to leave home because you can't stay in the parental home all the time. And you go out and you have to meet the world. And so he says, now you've got the Lord that you can turn to. He knows all the different paths. All these paths open up. Often when we're traveling, you come to a place where there's maybe three or four ways you can go. So you look very. Carefully at the signpost and you choose which way you want to go. And dear young people, a lot of you are coming to points in your lives where there come a parting of the ways, so to speak. Your parents may not be there, maybe you're away from home, but you have this voice of wisdom. I say again, this is most interesting. The first 7 chapters God gives you the parents. Then when you come to the 8th chapter, it gives you a little picture of leaving home and He shows you that there is. One who made your body, who knows all the different roads, who underwrites all the different things that seem very interesting and nice to you. And he says just like that, consumers digest. You can read it and see what people have found out who tried these things and you have the wisdom of God for your pathway. I say again, I'm not just speaking to you who are young, I'm speaking to myself. I'm a few years older than a few people here, but I still. Have decisions to make and you can make some bad decisions. When you get old too, you can make some bad decisions. And why? Because we don't follow the wisdom of the Word of God. The Word of God is always perfect wisdom. The very name of the Lord is wisdom. Well then we just. I'd like to turn over to Proverbs 31. I just want to notice this first verse to start with. It says here. The words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him, What my son and what the son of my womb, and what the son of my vows. And here we find we've been talking a little bit about the father because in the first chapters, it's mostly about the father, although it does say in one chapter here the instruction of a mother. But here, when you come to this 31St, it's something that this wonderfully wise king remembered that his mother told him, his mother told him. And you know, mothers often do have an insight into things that we were men don't always see in the same way. And we can. Very thankful God hasn't just made men, He's made women too, and they have a different way of looking at things. And God has provided both. So we have a father, we have a mother. Above all, we have the one whose very name is Wisdom, the Lord Jesus. And now this has to do in this chapter with marriage as we know, and the partner that you choose in your life, oh, how very important that is, how it's going

to affect your whole life that you might get the one whom the Lord intended. For you and who can be a real blessing in your life. And you know it gives us that instruction. It says here. Just to read the tenth verse, Who can find a virtuous wound for her price is far above Rubies, the heart of her husband thus safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of his life. Her life. She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchant ships. She bringeth her food from afar. She rises also while it is yet. Giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considers a field, and buyeth it with the fruit of her hand. She planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good. Her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hand to the spindle, and her hands hold this path. She stretches out her hand to the poor. Yet she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. He's not afraid of the snow for her household. For all her household are clothed with scarlet, she maketh herself coverings of tapestry or clothing is silk and purple her clothing. Her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders of the lamb. Here we find the mother introduced at the end. And this especially when it comes to the question of marriage. How how very important it is to listen to our parents and realize that they know a lot of these things. That we need to know.

There's a lovely verse in the. Book of Ecclesiastes, I won't turn to it, but it says 2 are better than one and a three fold cord is not quickly broken. And so we need father, we need Mother, and we also have the threefold cord. Someone said to us, well what's the secret? How is it? Can you live that way together for all that length of time? The Lord has given us many happy years together. And we said we needed the Lord. He's the threefold cord. You know, if you don't have the Lord in your marriage, one time when we were Papa daughter Lake many years ago, there was a boy, he was going with a girl and I had occasion to speak about this and I said, you know what, we need the threefold cord. We not need not only need each other, but we need that threefold cord. Another person, he says I don't want any threefold cord in my marriage. Well, he didn't have a threefold cord in his marriage either and I didn't go very well. You know, we need a threefold cord. We need the Lord. We need the Lord in all these things. So this is really instructive here. But this was the instruction of a mother because no, mothers often have, as I say, an insight into things that perhaps the husband doesn't. And so tell us all the things that she does. And I'm sure that many of you girls can say, well, that's just like my mother. She's a wonderful person and she's the one who has made our home what it is. And so all this is given to us. And 1St that she takes care of the household, then she reaches out her hands to the poor. She has business abilities. She considers the field and buys it. And then it tells us too. Her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders of the land, that is. She's the completion of her husband, in other words. Even in the Lord Jesus it says, let's turn to Ephesians chapter 1. A very wonderful expression. Ephesians chapter 1. The end of the first chapter it says about the Lord Jesus. 21St verse. Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and hath put all things under his feet and gave him to be head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth All in all that is the Lord Jesus looks upon you and I who are the completion of his joy. He's going to have more joy when that. Marriage of the Lamb takes place in heaven. He's going to have more joy than we have. Wonderful for us to look forward to the time. Fun, as it says, the marriage of the Lamb is common. His wife hath made herself ready, but who's going to have the most joy? The Lord is going to have the joy. And it says He'll be glorified in His Saints, and admired in all them that believe. What a wonderful day that will be, where there won't be one thing in any one of His own but that which is the fruit of His grace. What has wrought in us now very often. Not always that conformity to Christ, but what a marvelous day. When the marriage of the Lamb takes place, the bride is presented in all her beauty, and then that eternal joy begins, and the heavenly city is looked at as the bride, the Lamb's wife. Well, when we think of all these things, dear young people, and I speak to those of us who are older too, how thankful we can be. And then we were speaking a little bit this morning, the wonderful privilege that we have. That the Church is the bride of Christ. And I think that this we're Speaking of the natural side of things now, the spiritual side of things is so wonderful that Christ has chosen a bride. Not much. Did he love that bride? Well, He loved that bride enough that he gave himself for it. Did we respond like we should? No. How often. How often. Our hearts were rebellious. And he kept after us. And in his mercy he sought us, and he found us and he drew. To himself, and in his wondrous love he is seeking now to produce in us that conformity to Christ, that it might be seen in US, and I think as gathered to the precious name of the Lord Jesus. It's a wonderful privilege when we lay hold of this, what the Church really is to Christ Himself.

I encountered A privilege that I by grace and gathered to his precious name. But I love to think that the Lord Jesus is, shall I say, rejoicing more to see those who are members of His body gathered around him. Now it must grieve his heart to think that there are many that will rather call themselves by some other name. I wouldn't like it very well if I came home one time when I've been away for a while. My wife said, well, I've chosen to take another name. I think I got tired and everybody didn't know your name. Very well, I'd like I've taken another name. How would I feel? And why would we ever want any other name but the name of the Lord Jesus? You know, you can join a lot of systems and they all have a name. They have an organization they don't recognize. As our brother said, the head, there's a lovely thing to be gathered. Someone says, how are you saved? You say the Lord Jesus is my Savior. He died for me. He shed his precious blood for me. And so his to me is the name which is above every name and what church he belonged to. Isn't strange that people then suddenly come up with some other name? Isn't it lovely to be able to say, well, the same one who's my savior, I'm gathered to him. He's the one gathered as a member of his body in that wonderful place of nearness to himself. What a privilege that is. You and I value it. I'm sure when I was young I didn't value it. I can remember when we were walking to meetings sometime, my father met a couple of other Christians that were going the other way opposite to us and walking around. He saluted them and said good morning very warmly. And I said, who are those people, Father? Who are those people? Will? He said they're Christians, but they're not gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. They don't meet with us. Isn't that sad? To thank the Lord Jesus died that he might gather together in one. The children of God were scattered abroad. The church is going to be presented another way in another day as a glorious church. Oh, you say, but there's a lot of failure. You're going to break up your marriage because things aren't perfect, because there aren't just all together the way they should be. Oh, how wonderful it is that we have such a wonderful Savior and that he has died for us that He has. And so I just like to say again. What I was saying at the beginning, this is my friend. He's altogether lovely. This is the one that I want to talk to you about, and he knows all about you and he knows all about me. And he plans everything in our lives for us. He watched our bodies being formed. He gave us parents. And the parents that you have are the parents that God gave to you, and you can be blessed by them. I don't know any parent that doesn't really seek the happiness and good of their children. We're not always wise. I wasn't always wise as a parent, but I think I could say we honestly sought the good and happiness of our children and know how wonderful it is to have such. And then too that they have a mother who cares too. And then before we close, I'd just like to read a passage in. Romans, chapter 12. Romans, chapter 12. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable or intelligent service, and be not conformed to this world. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say through the grace that is. Give unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Well, when we think of all these things, then what should be the natural

impulse and result of our hearts? Well, I hope it'll be in my heart and I hope in yours that you'll just look to the Lord Jesus and say, Lord, here I am, here I am, and I was paid a great price for me. I belong to Thee. I'm redeemed by thy precious blood. Start caring for me in every step of my pathway. I'm going to be in that beautiful marriage of the Lamb that's going to take place in heaven, and I've only got a little time. Here in this world, and I only can live this little time, you'll never be able to recall one day or one hour of your time.

I remember the little thing that I read said one time it said lost 1 golden hour somewhere between sunrise and sunset set with 60 diamond minutes. No reward is offered. It's gone forever. And you know, every hour, every day that you and I lose is not just lost time for this world, it's lost time for eternity. And we all believe who are the Lords that His coming is getting very near. Our lives are going to pass into review in His presence. And what has not been acceptable is just going to be burned out. Thank God the Lord Jesus has borne all the punishment. There's not going to be any punishment. The judgment seat of Christ is not for any punishment. The judgment seat of Christ for the believer is for manifestation and reward. And sometimes, pardon me repeating an illustration that I often use because some people think, how can it be the judgment seat of Christ if there's no judgment there? But, you know, we use the word judgment in two different ways in English. That is, as a judge in a courtroom. And there's a judge at a craft show, we'll say. You went to the court and there the judge and somebody's brought up before him and he passes judgment and the person has to pay a fine or whatever. He's a penal judge. He's there to punish people. Well, you and I will never meet the Lord Jesus in that way, but we will meet him at the judgment seat of Christ. And let's suppose Just for you is safe. Using my illustration, you go to a craft show in the evening, and the same man who was judged in that courtroom, he's the judge in the craft show. And he's looking over all the things. Is he going to punish anybody there whose work wasn't accepted or rewarded? No, not going to punish anybody. What's he going to do? He's there for reward, for manifestation and reward. And so whatever has been acceptable is manifested and rewarded. The judgment seat of Christ for believer is not for punishment. If you know the Lord is your Savior, judgment has passed forever. Jesus is gracious, wondrous love. Before the full burden of my sins. Calvary cried. It is finished. His blood has cleansed me from all sin, but he's going to make a manifestation of our lives. And when that time comes that your life passes into review and mine passes into review, wouldn't you like it if there would be that which the Lord could say, well done, well done. You know how happy you'd feel at that craft show Your thing is picked out and they say, well, this is a beautiful piece of work. There's vice Lord for this. Isn't it nice to think that a Savior who loved you and I enough to die for us to bear our sins, to bear with all our oddities and funny ways and disobedient ways and everything, learned us through it all and told us didn't change His loved one bit that after it all. And that you say, well, I'm not too much concerned because I know I'll never be punished. So I'm not very concerned about whether there's going to be much in my life that will meet His approval and His reward. How are we going to think that way? Well, I hope the Lord will touch. My heart and your heart too, and say I want to do just what it says here in the 12TH of Romans. I want to present my body and say, Lord, here I am. I'm not my own. I'm but with a price I belong to Thee. A living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable or intelligent service. Has He done enough for you? Has He done enough for me? He's done everything that love could do, you know. I just pray that my life, and your life too, will respond more to His love. And as we're talking to you this morning and perhaps this afternoon too, a little more about this great privilege of being gathered to His precious name according to His word. I want to be lovely. Didn't David value the ones who followed him and his rejection? Your young people, the Lord really values it. If you value this place and privilege that you have, that you, in the scene where He was crucified and cast out, can be gathered to His precious name in that place of dearness, as a member of His body, to remember Him until He comes, will their hearts respond more to His love. This is my beloved, this is my friend. I beseech you, therefore, by the mercies of God, that you present your. Living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Which is your reasonable service? Should we just bow in prayer?

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