

The Complaint

by James Smith

In 'The Complaint', James Smith encourages believers to turn their focus from their shortcomings to the grace and mercy of God for hope and salvation.

Scripture: Psalm 42:5-6, Isaiah 41:10, Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 12:2

Topics: "Spiritual Struggle", "Gods Mercy"

Description

James Smith preaches about the struggles of feeling cast down due to our imperfections, shortcomings, and sins, which can lead to self-pity and doubt. He emphasizes the importance of confessing our struggles before God, looking to the mercy of Jesus, and focusing on God's free grace and unchanging love. Smith encourages believers to trust in Jesus as their Pilot, rely on Him for salvation, and expect His mercy to lead them safely to Heaven, regardless of their spiritual state.

Transcript

(James Smith , 1864)

"O my God, my soul is cast down within me !" Psalm 42:6

And why are you cast down?

"My heart is burdened with a sense of my short-comings.

Every holy duty I perform is so imperfect.

Every good purpose I form is so soon frustrated.

Every hope of seeing better days is so soon beclouded.

My heart is so fearfully depraved.

My life is so unlike the life of Jesus.

My affections are so unholy.

My prayers are so brief and heartless.

My praises are so feeble and fitful.

I do so little good.

I live to so little purpose.

My evidences are so dim.

My prospects are so overcast.

I am harassed sometimes with the fear of death .

I cannot grasp the glories of Heaven .

I am dissatisfied with the world --and yet glued to it!

I hate sin --and yet fall into it!

I am a riddle, a mystery, a mass of inconsistency!

Is it, then, any wonder that I am cast down?"

No, if you look at yourself , and pore over the things you have named--then it is no wonder that you are cast down! They are enough to cast anyone down! But if you carry them to the throne of grace , if you there confess them before God, if you look to the mercy of Jesus--then, in spite of them, you will not long be cast down.

I know it is difficult to do this. There is a natural proneness to pore over such things. One feels at times a secret liking to indulge in self-pity.

But we must look away from self --for if we do not, we shall become anxious, doubting and downcast! We must run the race --not looking at our imperfections, short-comings, and failures--but looking unto Jesus. He knows what we are . He knew what we would be --before He called us by His grace; yes, before He shed His sin-atoning blood for us!

He loved us, as sinners.

He died for us, as sinners.

He called us, as sinners.

He saves us, as sinners.

He will have great glory by saving such great sinners. We cannot do anything to repay Him for His wondrous love. Salvation is by free grace --from first to last! Believe this, and it will raise up your drooping mind!

The life-boat of free grace has put you on board the vessel of salvation , and that will convey you safely to the port of glory! Do not look at your spiritual destitution, or feebleness, or incapacity, or imperfections--but trust in your Pilot , rely on your Captain , and expect His mercy and merit to land you safely in Heaven at last!

Regardless of any amount of spiritual progress, your dying prayer will still be, "God be merciful unto me--a sinner!"

Hope in God!

His mercy is great unto the Heavens,

His grace is as free as the air,

His love is as changeless as His nature,

His promise is as immutable as His love.

He will save you for His own sake, and present you before assembled worlds as a monument of His mercy, and a trophy of His grace!

"Why are you cast down, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?"

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God!" Psalm 42:5

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/james-smith/the-complaint/>

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