

# Treasures From James Smith

by James Smith

---

*James Smith's sermon emphasizes the transformative power of God's love and the believer's identity as children of God amidst trials and suffering.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 118:13, Ecclesiastes 12:14, Isaiah 33:14, Isaiah 40:27, Isaiah 48:10, Jeremiah 32:17, Romans 7:24, 1 Corinthians 15:10, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Titus 2:10, Revelation 3:19

**Topics:** "Faithful Stewardship", "Holy Living"

---

## Description

James Smith preaches about the importance of being zealous for the truth of the gospel, living in earnest, and adorning the teaching of God with a consistent and holy walk. He emphasizes the need to be faithful stewards of God's blessings, to be diligent in using our resources for His glory, and to avoid the bad companions of poverty, pain, and procrastination. Smith also reflects on the wondrous grace of God, the necessity of drawing near to Jesus in times of trial, and the danger of living at a distance from the Lord. He warns against the folly of murmuring at God's ways and the arrogance of questioning His wisdom, while urging believers to be well pleased with all that God appoints for them.

---

## Transcript

(A collection of choice quotes from his works)

James Smith (1802 -- 1862) was a predecessor of Charles Spurgeon at New Park Street Chapel in London from 1841 until 1850. Early on, Smith's readings were even more popular than Spurgeon's!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

My object is to lead the mind . . .

from SELF -- to Jesus;

from sin -- to salvation;

from the troubles of life -- to the comforts of the gospel.

My aim is . . .

to humble the sinner -- and exalt the Savior;

to strip the creature -- and place the crown on the head of God's free grace! I cannot ascribe too much to Jesus -- or too little to man!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

If Jehovah is your God!

" I will be their God -- and they shall be My people!" Hebrews 8:10

So has Jehovah purposed, in reference to those whom He has eternally loved and chosen. All of our present and future blessedness, is wrapped up in this holy and gracious purpose.

If Jehovah is your God -- then all of His glorious attributes and perfections are engaged and employed for your eternal welfare!

His mercy will supply all of your needs.

His power will conquer all of your foes.

His wisdom will direct all of your ways.

His faithfulness will answer all of your prayers.

His justice will maintain your cause.

His infinite love and mercy will be displayed in all of His gracious dealings with you!

If Jehovah is your God -- then . . .

His promises are your heritage;

His precepts are your rule;

His doctrines are your present paradise;

His Son is your Savior and King;

His Spirit is your sanctifier and Tutor; and

He Himself is your everlasting portion! Psalm 119:57

If Jehovah is your God -- then He will freely confer all really good things on you at present -- and crown you at last with eternal glory! He will . . .

guide you continually,

chasten you occasionally,

receive you graciously,

and bless you indeed!

If Jehovah is your God -- then all things are yours -- things present and to come; life, death, the world, Heaven -- all are yours!

If Jehovah is your God -- then He will consider nothing too great to do for you -- and nothing too glorious to give to you! All the treasures of time , and all the resources of eternity -- will, if necessary, be employed for your spiritual and eternal benefit! You can lack nothing which is really for your good.

To have Jehovah for your God, is the highest blessedness and honor in the universe!

How blessed is the man -- who has Jehovah as his God!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

And to what is this astonishing change to be ascribed?

"Beloved, now we are children of God , and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears -- we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is!" 1 John 3:2-3

Let us endeavor to realize our present sonship; it will produce . . .

boldness at His throne of grace;

contrition at His cross;

confidence in His Word;

love to His person;

contentment with our lot;

victory over the world,

zeal for His glory; and

encouragement under all our trials and troubles!

We are either children of God -- or enemies of God! Every child of God . . .

mourns over sin,

flies to the Savior, and

departs from iniquity!

God is now his Father.

All the promises are his.

The eternal inheritance is his.

Let us look back to the rock from whence we were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from whence we were dug:

How base our origin -- the dust!

How degraded our condition -- slaves of sin and Satan!

How fearful our character -- enemies to God!

How dreadful our eternal doom -- the lake which burns with brimstone and fire!

Contrast this with . . .

our present relation -- children of God;

our high standing -- in heavenly places in Christ;

our glorious privilege -- justified from all things;

our fixed destiny -- to be forever with the Lord!

And to what is this astonishing change to be ascribed? To love -- the love of God in Christ Jesus! "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us -- that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

What a mystery of mercy is this!

But if we are un believers -- then we are . . .

God's enemies,

children of wrath,

under the curse,

in imminent danger!

Satan is our father!

Sin is our element!

Hell is our eternal portion!

Reader, are you a child of God?

If not, then you are the child of Satan!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A family of such vile, polluted, and wretched beings!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us -- that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

Those whom Jesus loves, being chosen of God to holiness here on earth, and happiness in eternity -- are predestined to the adoption of His children -- to the praise of the glory of His grace. They are predestined

to be conformed to the image of His Son -- they are to . . .

partake of His nature,

receive of His spirit,

wear His image, and

be associated with Him in honor and glory forever!

Jesus calls them, His brethren -- heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Himself! Being related to Him, they . . .

have a saving interest in Him,

are loved by Him,

are in union with Him, and

shall never be separated from Him!

O wondrous mercy! That God should condescend to make up a family of such vile, polluted, and wretched beings as we are!

O wondrous mercy! That He should write our names in His book of life , give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, privilege us to claim relationship at His throne, and associate us with Jesus as fellow-heirs!

O wondrous mercy! That all this should have been fixed upon and settled -- before the world began, and all for the praise of His glorious grace!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

It takes a long and painful process to purge it out!

"I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering!"  
Isaiah 48:10

The love of Jesus will not preserve His people from trials -- but rather, assures them of trials! All whom He loves -- He chastens! He has a furnace to purge our dross, and refine our souls. His Word and the Spirit reveal to us our defilement and impurity -- and His grace and providence co-operate to remove them. "I am the Lord God, who sanctifies you."

It is divine love which . . .

prepares the furnace,

kindles the flame,

brings the Christian into it,

superintends the whole process, and

brings him out as gold, seven times purified!

"From all your filthiness and from all your idols , I will cleanse you!" He cleanses them in the laver of the Word by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit. But He also cleanses them by a variety of afflictive dispensations , through which He causes them to pass.

Our sin calls for trials -- His love sends them!

Our nature repines at trials -- but grace submits to them!

Our corruption is enraged at trials -- but the Spirit sanctifies them to our good, and our Savior's glory.

He makes His people choice ones -- in the "furnace of affliction!" He says, "I will put you into the fire -- and will purely purge away your dross ."

Believer, never repine at your trials, nor be over-anxious for their removal. They are appointed by Jesus as your Purifier -- and are choice blessings in disguise!

Seek their sanctification,

wrestle with God that you may see His love in every stroke , and

look to Jesus that you may enjoy His presence when passing through the flame!

Nothing can hurt you -- while Jesus is near you; and He is never nearer to you -- than when you are in the furnace! For He sits right there as the Refiner . . .

watching the process,

regulating the heat, and

waiting to effect a gracious deliverance -- when the ends of His love are answered.

He is only preparing you for fresh manifestations of His glory -- and fitting you for larger communications of His love.

In the furnace, you will lose nothing that is worth keeping -- but you will obtain what is truly valuable!

The flesh and the soul need constant cleansings -- for corruption is so deeply rooted in our nature, that it takes a long and painful process to purge it out! But in reference to the furnace, your Lord says, "The Lord did this to purge Israel's wickedness, to take away all her sin!"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Can Jesus delight in such worms?

Jesus presents Himself unto us as the Bridegroom of our souls. He says, "I will betroth you to Me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord!" He here promises to bring us into the nearest possible union. He becomes one with us. He says, "I will be your portion -- and you shall be My possession!"

He manifests His beauties -- to attract us,

He sends His Spirit -- to prepare us,

He gives His sweet gospel -- to allure us,

He puts forth His power and draws us -- and then makes Himself over to us in an everlasting covenant.

He calls us by every sweet appellation, such as "My beloved, My dove, My sister, My darling, My flawless one, My delight, My spouse!" (Song of Songs 5:2)

He gives us . . .

His person,

His unsearchable riches, and

a share in His eternal glories and honors!

He loves us most tenderly, constantly, and prudently.

He assures us . . .

that He will never leave us,

that He will come and commune with us,

and that He will withhold no good thing from us!

He says, "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed -- yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor My covenant of peace be removed -- says the Lord, who has compassion on you!" "No weapon formed against you shall prosper. For your Maker is your Husband -- the Lord Almighty is His name!"

"As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride -- so will your God rejoice over you! I will take delight in My people!" What love is here!

Can Jesus delight in such worms?

Can He rejoice over such unworthy creatures?

Can He enter into a marriage contract with such depraved beings?

Yes! He loved His Church and gave Himself for it! He has redeemed it unto Himself by His blood -- and will everlastingly rejoice over it, to bless it and honor it!

Jesus, the Heavenly Lover , gave

His life, my wretched soul to save!

Resolved to make His mercy known,

He kindly claims me for His own!

Lost in astonishment, I see

Jesus, Your boundless love to me!

With sin and self, I freely part,  
And gladly yield to You, my heart!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Who could have thought!

"But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people!" Psalm 22:6

How wondrously did Jesus display His love -- when He assumed our nature, took upon Him the form of a slave, and was found in appearance as a man! What love -- to stoop so low as to . . .

be conceived in a virgin's womb,

be brought forth in pain, and

experience all the weakness and ignorance of infancy!

Yes, He was brought forth in poverty -- a stable for His birth-place, and a feeding-trough for His bed! He passed by the palaces of the noble, and the mansions of the great -- yes, even the comfortable cottages of the poor -- and was born in circumstances of misery and degradation!

Who could have thought , if they had entered that stable and seen that infant weeping on His mother's bosom -- that that infant was the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of peace! That all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in that little babe! That it was love -- incomparable and inconceivable love, which brought Deity and humanity together in such a wonderful and indescribable union! This is the mystery of Godliness! The mystery of love! He left . . .

the bright abodes of blessedness and glory,

the songs of Cherubim and Seraphim,

the bosom of His Father, and

the infinite delights which He had eternally enjoyed --

to be a worm and not a man; to be scorned and despised by all!

Jesus was once a helpless infant, a feeble child; and yet, at the same moment -- He was the Almighty, the self-sufficient God!

What privations He suffered, even from the very beginning of His career on earth! What pain He endured -- from His birth unto His death! He went sorrowing, sighing, and groaning -- from the stable, to gloomy Calvary; where He . . .

finished His work,

proved His love,

conquered His foes,

delighted His Father, and

merited everlasting honors and glories for His people!

O mystery of mercy!

Here is love beyond measure and degree!

O my soul, admire and adore!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Such poor, depraved, insignificant creatures!

"I have loved you, My people, with an everlasting love! With unfailing love, I have drawn you to Myself!"  
Jeremiah 31:3

The love of Christ is unending ; it is not a passion of His humanity -- but a perfection of His divinity . He has always existed -- and He has always loved His people. His people . . .

always had a place in His thoughts ,

have ever been before His eye , and

have always been loved by Him!

He has loved them -- ever since He knew them -- and He foreknew them from eternity! His love ran through the boundless ages of eternity past -- and fixed upon poor sinners who were to appear during the existence of time; and having fixed upon them -- His love maintains its hold!

When He created the earth , spread abroad the Heavens , and gave His decree to the sea -- His love was fixed upon His people! Their welfare, in connection with His Father's glory -- was the object which He sought in all things.

Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth! That Jesus should have fixed His love upon such poor, depraved, insignificant creatures -- and that from eternity past!

When we meditate upon eternity past -- we can say in reference to the most distant periods, "My Savior loved me then! He loved me from all eternity!" Glorious truth! He always loved me -- and He always will love me! He loved me . . .

before angels existed,

before devils appeared,

before sin was committed!

He loved me -- when the Godhead dwelt all alone! O the depths! Surprising mystery! It seems almost too good to be true! But God has said it, and my soul shall rejoice in it and praise Him for it!

His love to me is as eternal as His nature -- without beginning of days, or end of years. From His love, as from a mighty ocean , flows . . .

all the acts of His power ,  
all the displays of His benevolence ,  
all the manifestations of His grace , and  
all the provisions of His gospel .

It is sweet, to silently meditate upon the thought, of such a vile and insignificant creature as I am -- that Jehovah-Jesus not only thought of me -- but eternally loved me with all the strength of His Deity! He so loved me, as to be willing, when it became necessary -- to take my nature, and to save me by His humiliation, sufferings, and death!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

He is the infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent,  
gracious, just, holy, and unchangeable I AM!

The Lord Jesus Christ is God -- possessed of all divine attributes , and entitled to all divine honors . He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit -- God over all, and blessed for evermore! He is naturally, essentially, perfectly, and eternally possessed of everything peculiar to Deity.

He owes His existence to none. He says, "I am Jehovah, and beside Me there is no Savior!" He is God -- and there is no other. There is no other name given under Heaven, or among men, whereby we can be saved. He is the Rock of Ages . He is the infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, gracious, just, holy, and unchangeable I AM!

Angels worship Him,  
devils obey Him,  
saints love Him, and  
sinners will bow to Him!

He is the author of . . .

Creation,

Providence,

Redemption,

and Glorification!

He . . .

produced all things by His power,  
formed them by His wisdom,  
supplies them by His bounty,

rules them by His instruments, and  
employs them according to His sovereign will.

He is above all -- in the glory of His nature.

He possesses all -- by essential right.

He will judge all -- according to His righteousness.

All things are dependent upon Him, and  
all rational beings are accountable to Him.

Nothing can escape His eye;  
none can fly out of His hand!

He is exalted above all,  
and remains King forever!

He is . . .

the King of kings,  
the Lord of lords, and  
the only supreme Law-giver of the universe!

He is naturally, essentially, and eternally God:

one with the Father,  
equal to the Father,  
and infinite as the Father.

Thus, the Scriptures reveal Him; as such, saints acknowledge Him, and join the angelic host in worshiping, praising, and adoring Him!

As such, He loves all His people -- yes, He is love to them.

As such, they love Him -- and trust their eternal interests into His hands!

No person can have right views of the love of Christ -- who has not right views of the deity of Christ. His divinity gives lustre and glory -- to His love . If He were not God -- His love would be only a passion like ours, and would fluctuate and change. But being divine -- His love is an infinite perfection, and remains immutably the same!

He loves with all the majesty of God -- and with all the tenderness of man!

His love has the strength of God -- and the gentleness of sinless man!

He is all-loving -- and altogether lovely!

"Having loved His own who were in the world -- He loved them unto the end!" John 13:1

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

God at work!

"There is nothing too hard for You!" Jeremiah 32:17

There is nothing too hard for God to EFFECT:

"Is anything too hard for Me, says the Lord?"

"I know that You can do everything."

"He does according to His will among the armies of Heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth."

"He works all things after the counsel of His own will."

Nothing is too hard for God -- no change in providence -- however it may appear improbable, or impossible to us. He could bring water out of the flinty rock . He could supply quail to satisfy the needs, and gratify the lusts of His people in the desert. He could feed Elijah for twelve months by ravens , and for two years and a half more, by a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in the widow's cruse. He could inundate Samaria with plenty -- in the midst of famine and fearful desolation. If He wills it . . .

the fire shall not burn the three Hebrew youths,

nor the lions injure Daniel,

nor death hold Lazarus in the tomb.

What He has done -- He can do; for He is the same. And if necessary for the glory of His name -- He will do it, for He will not allow His name to be polluted.

"Providence" is simply God at work -- at work for . . .

the accomplishment of His decrees,

the fulfillment of His promises,

the manifestation of His character, and

the present and eternal welfare of His people.

He can . . .

give whatever we need,

do whatever we need, and

glorify Himself in giving to us, and working for us!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

How His eyes will sparkle with delight!

"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus!" 2 Timothy 2:3

"There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness , which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day!" 2 Timothy 4:8

Christian soldier, for encouragement in every conflict -- look up to your Captain for supplies -- and look forward to the glory that awaits you! The war will soon be over. Your discharge will soon be signed and sent to you. Home is even now in view!

The promised land will be far above our greatest expectations!

The glory to be revealed will far exceed our most enlarged desires!

The weight of glory will transcend our most comprehensive thoughts!

A crown is reserved for you! Not a corruptible crown of laurel or myrtle -- but a diadem. A diadem of glory! More durable than gold, more costly than any earthy monarch's crown. Gold, pearls, and precious stones -- are not to be compared to it! Its gems will sparkle brighter than the stars on a winter's evening! As a whole , it will shine brighter than the sun on a summer's noon!

It is a crown of glory -- a most glorious crown. Not merited by your labors or sufferings in the Lord's service -- but graciously promised , and gratuitously bestowed . Promised by your glorious Leader, preserved most carefully in the palace of the Most High God -- to be awarded to every faithful soldier at the final and grand review .

Yes, it will be placed on your brow by His hands , who . . .

won you to His service,

led you to the battlefield,

made you victorious, and

will rejoice in your honor and happiness forever!

It will be worn before God's own throne, before the angelic hosts, among God's saints forever. What thrilling joy, what ecstatic pleasure, what inconceivable delight -- will you realize, when you first feel it rest on your brow! What a look will your Savior give you -- when you lift up your head that He may place it on you, and your eye meets His!

Grace, free grace will shine most gloriously on that day! The songs of the enraptured company will be divinely sweet. O how our blessed Savior's heart will dance for joy! How His eyes will sparkle with delight! His mighty spirit will realize full satisfaction -- to see the whole of His redeemed people collected, arranged, and glorified before Him!

Not one missing!

All whom the Father gave Him -- there!

All for whom He offered up Himself as a sacrifice -- there!

All to whom He sent the Comforter -- there!

All who enlisted under His banner and were sworn into His army -- there!

Those who were once wounded, weeping, and lagging behind the regiment -- there! O glorious salvation -- in which every poor, maimed, weather-beaten, discouraged soldier of the cross shall share!

What a prospect is this! How bright, how glowing, how enchanting!

Then, O with what rapture we will sing, "Unto Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father -- to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen."

Surely, surely we ought to be fired with love, filled with zeal, and prepared for every conflict, however arduous -- by such a glorious prospect!

~ ~ ~ ~

If God had not helped us!

"I was pushed back and about to fall -- but the Lord helped me!" Psalm 118:13

The psalmist had been reviewing his toils, his trials, and his dangers; he commemorates his deliverances, his conquests, and his triumphs; and he ascribes the whole, to the help of God! If God had not helped him -- his faith would have failed, his expectations would have been disappointed, and his foes would have prevailed. Through the Lord, he did valiantly; and now, with joyful heart, he records the loving-kindness of the Lord.

How sweet to look back upon the rough road, the bloody battle-field, the scenes of peculiar trial. Then, if ever, gratitude will work within us, and praises will flow from our tongues and hearts. Delivered from the mouth of the lion, and the paw of the bear -- we thankfully acknowledge, "The Lord helped me!"

In looking back we see that we have needed help -- and more help than any mere creature could afford us!

The daily cross,

the inward conflict,

the domestic troubles,

the perplexities of business,

the state of the church,

the affairs of the world --

have all combined to teach us that Divine help was necessary!

If God had not helped us . . .  
we would have fallen into sin,  
we would have disgraced our profession,  
we would have been crushed by our foes,  
we would have fainted under our trials,  
we would have apostatized from the faith!

God alone knows what would have been the result -- if we had been left to our own resources. We needed help in infancy, in youth, in manhood. We needed help in prosperity -- and in adversity! We needed help in temporals -- and spirituals. We found our own strength -- to be weakness, and our own wisdom -- to be folly.

The feeblest of our foes -- would have been more than a match for us!

The least corruption in our hearts -- would have overcome us!

And we need help now -- as much as we ever did; for, unless the Lord helps us . . .

our foes will yet triumph over us,  
our crosses will yet prove to be too much for us,  
and we shall yet faint in the day of adversity!

The Lord has promised help. He has said, "Fear not -- for I am with you; be not dismayed -- for I am your God! I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness!" And because His people feel themselves to be vile, weak, and incompetent; He stoops to speak to them according to their own views of themselves and says, "Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel -- for I Myself will help you! declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel!"

Oh, precious promise, of a good and gracious God!

It extends to all times ,  
it embraces all circumstances ,  
it belongs to all believers , and  
it ensures us triumph over all our foes!

Yes, the strength of Jesus has been perfected in our weakness! We have found His grace to be sufficient for us; and to the praise of His glorious grace, in reference to all our trials, troubles, and conflicts -- we can truly say, "The Lord helped me!"

Oh, beloved, it is an unspeakable mercy to have God for our helper!

~ ~ ~ ~

When His influence is put forth within us

All that the Spirit does for us, and all that He works within us -- is of grace . He graciously . . .

quicken the dead,

instructs the ignorant,

liberates the captives,

restores the wanderers,

comforts the dejected,

strengthens the weak,

and sanctifies the impure.

His work is His delight -- and to see us holy and happy is His pleasure!

The Holy Spirit produces all our graces within us. He is the root -- and our graces are His fruits ; hence we read, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

When His influence is put forth within us -- then we . . .

believe God's Word,

hope in His mercy,

rejoice in His goodness,

cleave to His cause,

walk in His ways,

love His truth, His people, and Himself,

holiness is then happiness,

duties are then pleasant, and

even the cross lays light upon our shoulders.

But if the Spirit hides Himself, withdraws His influences, and leaves us to ourselves -- then we . . .

doubt and fear,

fret and pine,

kick and rebel,

rove from thing to thing, and

nothing will either please or satisfy us.

We often then . . .

question the past,

are wretched at present,

and dread the future.

But when He puts forth His power in us again . . .

our graces shoot forth like bulbous roots in the spring,

our sighs are exchanged for songs,

our fears are exchanged for fortitude,

our doubts are exchanged for confidence, and

our murmurings are exchanged for gratitude and love.

We then . . .

sink into the dust of self-abasement,

admire the forbearance and patience of God,

condemn our own conduct, and

wonder that we are out of Hell.

Then we take down our harps from the willows, and with a melting heart, a weeping eye, and a tremulous voice we sing, "The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance." Our wilderness is now turned into an Eden -- and our desert into the garden of the Lord!

Come, Holy Spirit, come, and produce a spring season in our souls!

Brethren, we need the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of grace -- to make us gracious and graceful Christians. Without the Spirit of grace . . .

we cannot live up to our profession;

we cannot copy the example of our beloved Master;

we cannot keep His commandments;

we cannot love one another as He has loved us;

we cannot sympathize with lost sinners as we should;

we cannot keep God's glory in view in all that we do;  
we cannot walk in high and holy fellowship with God;  
we cannot meet death with peace and joy!

~ ~ ~ ~

The life-boat of free grace!

"I am cast down!"

And why are you cast down?

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

Every duty I perform is so imperfect.

Every 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 temper is 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 realize 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 Jesus to save you from them -- 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 gloomy thoughts.

But we must look away from self -- for if we do not, we shall become anxious, doubting and gloomy! 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 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 all the glory of saving us, and He will get great glory by doing so, because we are such great sinners; and do not, 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 safe in Heaven at last!

As imperfect as you now are , and as imperfect you will be -- 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.

Hope in God, for you shall yet praise Him. 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!

~ ~ ~ ~

One hour after death!

One hour after death, WHERE shall I be?

One hour after death, WHAT shall I be?

One hour after death, How shall I be EMPLOYED?

One hour after death, What will be my FEELINGS?

One hour after death, How shall I THINK?

How differently we shall think of money, pleasure, the indulgence of our lusts, all that we now call great, grand, and desirable -- one hour after death! Let us endeavor to think now -- as it is probable we shall think then!

Let us place ourselves in Heaven -- and try to think there!

Let us place ourselves in Hell -- and try to think there!

How different will things then appear!

~ ~ ~ ~

He will show to the whole world what you have been doing in the dark!

"The Lord does not see it!" Ezekiel 9:9

"My way is hidden from the Lord!" Isaiah 40:27

The only thing some fear is exposure . They would not be exhibited in their true colors before their fellow-men -- for all the world! They wish to live and act in the dark. They do not fear the eye of God -- but they dread the eye of man! In public they are one thing -- and in private just the opposite! No one really knows them.

There is a vast amount of hypocrisy in the world. Multitudes wear a mask . They are not at all -- what they seem to be. The consequences will be fearful by and by.

Open sinners offend both God and men -- secret sinners offend God only!

But it is better offend the whole world -- than offend God!

The power of SIN is great. And one of the most fearful things in sin -- is its power of self-concealment. It hides its own deformity from many -- who are actually under its influence.

The subtlety of SATAN is great. He is said to deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Suppose he should have deceived you! If you are acting under his influence -- you have deceived yourself!

Your sin may be hidden from men , it may even be hidden from yourself -- but it is not hidden from God! His eyes are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. He searches the heart, and tries the thoughts!

The revealing day is coming! Then if wrong, God will set our iniquities before His face, and our secret sins in the light of His countenance. He will expose every secret sinner! He will show to the whole world what you have been doing in the dark! Hear His own Word, "For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing , whether good or evil!" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The sins that are hidden now -- will be hidden no longer!

The Judge on the throne will act justly and impartially, and will render to every man according to his deeds. "The guilt of Ephraim is stored up -- his sins are kept on record!" Hosea 13:12

Many will be condemned -- who expected to be acquitted!

Many will be driven to Hell -- who were sure of being invited to Heaven!

Every false covering will then be stripped off, every deceitful heart will be laid bare -- and no longer will anyone say, "My way is hidden from the Lord!"

Then shall be brought to pass the fearful prediction, "The sinners in Zion (God's professing people) shake with fear! Terror seizes the godless! Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?" (Isaiah 33:14).

~ ~ ~ ~

Up and at it!

"ALL at it -- and ALWAYS at it!"

This was what John Wesley endeavored to impress upon all his followers -- and this is what we would like to see impressed upon the mind of every Christian. We have much to do -- and we have little time to do it in. We had need therefore, to be up and at it!

If ignorance is to be chased away,

if gospel knowledge is to be circulated,

if souls are to be saved,

if children are to be taught,

if churches are to grow,

if villages, towns, and cities are to be evangelized

-- then we had need be ALL at it -- and ALWAYS at it!

This is just . . .

what the times call for,

what the Gospel inculcates,

what Satan dreads,

what the carnal world dislikes --

therefore let us be " all at it -- and always at it."

Let everyone undertake that part of the work for which he is most adapted -- and persevere in that which he commences.

How many there are who profess Christ -- who are doing nothing!

How many may easily do twice as much as they currently do.

Is it surprising . . .

that the church is in such a poor spiritual state,

that Popery spreads,

that ignorance prevails,

that congregations are thin,

that little is accomplished,

that ministers are dispirited, and

that mature Christians are going home to sigh?

No! It is not at all surprising! The wonder is, that things are not worse!

Self-denial is rarely practiced,

the flesh is indulged,

the world is loved,

the earthly is preferred to the spiritual -- and the present to the future.

Let us all go at it, and let us be always at it -- until we hear the Master's voice calling unto us and saying, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord!"

But if we . . .

neglect duty,

despise warning,

love ease,

court pleasure,

hunt for honor,

use our Lord's money selfishly,

and settle down upon our lees --

we shall by and bye see the day, when we will wish we had been ALL at it -- and ALWAYS at it!

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain!" 1 Corinthians 15:58

~ ~ ~ ~

### Three Bad Companions!

We are all of us, at times, thrown into company which we do not like; and when so, the best thing we can do is to get out of it as quickly as possible! But sometimes we find that this is more easily said, than done. I have seen some aged people pestered with these very bad companions, and they could not get rid of them if they would!

That the young may beware of these three rascals, I will point them out:

POVERTY is the first bad companion. This is often brought on by imprudence , and lack of frugality . When work was good, and health was strong -- no provision was made for a rainy day. By and bye, trade failed, strength departed, and old age came on -- and then appears the pitiable object, a poor old man! We shall need many little comforts in old age, which we can very well do without now while in good health; therefore, if God has given us the opportunity, let us lay aside a little for old age.

It is hard to beg when the head is gray, to be frowned upon by the wealthy, or be obliged to go into "the poorhouse." These things may be avoided by many, if they would live frugally.

Reader, if you are young, make up your mind, that if poverty should be your companion when you are old, that you will be able to say, "This was not brought on by my intemperance, self-indulgence, or forgetfulness of the future -- but by the wise providence of God!" Then you will have a source of comfort, which many elderly people have deprived themselves of.

PAIN is the second bad companion. The pains of old age often spring from the follies, sins, and recklessness of youth. Pain cannot always be prevented -- but very much is brought on by ourselves. Many old people are full of pains, which are the effects of their carelessness, rashness, and wickedness in youth. A poor old man full of pain is to be pitied; and yet if we knew the origin of many of his pains -- we would be obliged to say that he himself is to be blamed. Friends, if you would not have pain for a companion when you are old -- live simply, take regular exercise in the open air, and stay away from rich foods.

PROCRASTINATION is the third bad companion. This has been called "the thief of time!" As, therefore, it would steal one of your most precious jewels -- beware of it!

~ ~ ~ ~

And what do many do?

Silver and gold are given to us as God's stewards -- and we are to use them for His glory. He often gives them, and then seems to leave us to ourselves, saying, "I will just see what you will do with them."

And what do many do? Look . . .

at their opulent homes,

at their lavish furniture,

at their plush clothes,

at their vain amusements,  
at their expensive foods,  
at their . . . . .

But I forbear!

Only just look on the other hand, at what they give . . .  
to support the ministry,  
to assist missions,  
to circulate the Bible,  
to distribute tracts,  
to relieve the poor, etc. etc.

Can we say of such people, as Paul did of others, "None of us lives to himself?"

If these are God's stewards -- are they faithful?

~ ~ ~ ~

Living expositions of the truth!

Coldness and lukewarmness in the ways of God, are peculiarly offensive to our Lord and Savior; for if anyone deserves our whole hearts, if anyone ought to have the whole of our energies -- it is Jesus!

We should be zealous for the truth of the gospel.

It is God's mind.

It is the revelation of the Savior's love.

It is the remedy for the sinner's woes.

It is the charter of the Church's privileges.

It is dear to God's heart.

It is watched over with a jealous eye.

It should be prized as inestimably valuable.

It is . . .

the mirror , in which God is seen;

the map , on which our road is marked out;

the law , by which our duty is made plain!

"That they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything!" Titus 2:10

We should zealously adorn the Gospel. Not by the tinsel of human eloquence -- but by a consistent and holy walk .

We ought to be living expositions of the truth!

In our conduct -- the nature and tendency of the Gospel ought to be seen!

By our meekness and gentleness,

by our fidelity and prudence,

by our self-denial and benevolence,

by our temperance and brotherly kindness,

by our patience and fervent love --

we ought to adorn the most holy truth of God!

God calls for it.

The Gospel is calculated to produce it!

~ ~ ~ ~

It is high time to awake out of sleep!

"Be zealous!" Revelation 3:19

The zealous Christian is sure of . . .

God's blessing,

the approbation of his own conscience,

the opposition of Satan,

the frown of every lukewarm professor,

and the commendation of all godly people.

Let us warm our hearts at the fire of God's love!

Let us quicken our motives by a visit to the cross!

Let us sharpen our weapons by communion with the Spirit!

Let us seek the grace, the courage, the strength necessary at the mercy seat -- and then let us zealously fall to work. Let . . .

the work of God be our delight,

the welfare of our fellow-men be our aim,  
and the glory of the Lord be our highest object!

Let us live in earnest . Let us live to purpose .

By the shortness of time,  
by the solemnities of death,  
by the realities of eternity,  
by the danger of lost sinners,  
by the vigilance of Satan,  
by the poor state of the Church,  
by the character of the present times,  
by the command of God,  
by the example of primitive believers,  
and by the counsel of the Lord Jesus --

let us stir up our hearts -- and stir up one another to "Be zealous!"

Brethren, the time is short, and " It is high time to awake out of sleep! "

By the spread of Popery,  
by the activity of infidelity,  
by the condition of our cities,  
by the needs of the Church,  
by the woes of the world,  
by the authority of God,  
by the blood of the cross,  
by the promise of the Spirit,  
by the prospect of success,  
by the rest of the grave,  
by the glories of Heaven,  
by the terrors of Hell,

by the rewards of activity, and

by the condemnation of the lukewarm and the slothful

-- allow me to beseech you to "Be zealous!"

Be zealous today -- tomorrow you may die!

Be zealous in time -- and in eternity, you will rejoice that you have been so!

~ ~ ~ ~

Can this be -- for such a vile wretch like me?

"By the grace of God I am what I am!" 1 Corinthians 15:10

Lord, You have said, "I will cast all your sins into the depths of the sea!" They shall be carried into a land of everlasting forgetfulness . And to confirm all, You have added, "I will never leave you nor forsake you!" Is this, can this be -- for such a vile wretch like me? O wondrous mercy! O boundless sovereign, everlasting, unchangeable, love! Yes, it suits me, because it is all of grace, free grace , from first to last -- without works, and without boasting.

O how shall I sufficiently admire, bless, praise, and adore the grace "that buries all my sins" and rejoice in that glorious righteousness in which I stand perfect before a holy God! I feel ready to cry out, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, for He has clothed vile, polluted, Hell-deserving me -- with the garments of salvation! He has covered me with the robe of righteousness!"

Why is this? O Lord, why is this -- that I am made to hear your pardoning voice -- while thousands are left to perish in their sins, who are much better than I am? It is even so, Father -- for so it seems good in Your sight.

O wondrous depth of sovereign grace, without either a shore or a bottom! Lord, lead me into it, and there let me bathe to all eternity! May I know the wondrous love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge! I now feel as if I was lost in an endless subject -- the astonishing love of Christ -- the sovereign, boundless, bottomless, free, and eternal love of Christ! O how wonderful that such a poor, vile, wretched, nothing creature, as I am -- should be interested in it! Surely none but Jesus could , and none but Jesus would -- so love one so vile as me; but He has done it!

What shall I render unto the Lord, my covenant God -- for His boundless mercy to such a guilty, Hell-deserving, sinner as I am? O Lord, may I gaze, admire, and adore!

~ ~ ~ ~

The height of folly, arrogance, and weakness!

O to be well pleased with all that my Heavenly Father appoints for me in this valley of tears! Yet, how prone I am . . .

to murmur at the Lord's inscrutable ways,

to call into question His infinite wisdom, and

to arraign His wondrous love at the bar of my poor reason!

This is the height of folly, arrogance, and weakness -- and yet I am often guilty of it!

"Oh, a wretched man I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" Romans 7:24

~ ~ ~ ~

Draw me -- or drive me!

The following is an excerpt from the diary of James Smith:

It has just occurred to me, that the reason why the Lord has of late allowed me to be so severely tried -- is that I have been very little at His throne of grace . Nor have His promises appeared so precious, pleadable, and suited to my case.

Jesus is determined to have me often at His throne , and if the invitations and promises of His Word will not draw me there -- then He will send trials to drive me there! Blessed Jesus, are you not saying to me by every trial, "Call upon Me! Make use of Me! See what I will do for you!"

What a proof of the deep depravity and base ingratitude of my heart is this -- that You are obliged to send trials and troubles to bring me to Your feet! Yet it is so! For unless drawn by the cords of Your loving-kindness, or driven by painful trials -- I seldom come to You with earnestness, fervor, and life!

I am so prone to wander, to be light and trifling -- troubled by shadows , and excited by mere trifles! I abhor myself because I am vile! O how base my heart is, to despise so glorious a privilege, and to neglect so choice a duty!

O Jesus, cleanse it by Your precious blood!

O Holy Spirit, purify it by Your sacred operations, and keep it by Your power!

O Righteous Father, devote it wholly to Yourself! Give me submission -- help me patiently to carry my cross after Jesus, though it is rough, heavy, and galling. From the depths of my heart I can say,

"A sinful, weak, and helpless worm;

On Your kind arms I fall!"

What a proof of the loving-kindness of Jesus to my soul is this -- that He will not allow me to be comfortable or happy, while living at distance from Him!

Blessed Jesus! pardon me, correct me -- but never leave me to myself! Draw me -- or drive me ; but never allow me to live long at a distance from You!

Gracious Lord Jesus,

keep me near You,

looking to You,

living for You,  
leaning on You,  
believing in You, and  
expecting from You, all that I need!

Surely this is a sweet life -- living on Jesus alone, making Him all in all!

"O bring me to Your sacred feet,

And let me rove no more!"

~ ~ ~ ~

It blights and blasts!

The following in an excerpt from the diary of James Smith:

December, 1850.

Popery and the aggression of the Pope, just now engage almost everyone's attention. Many liberals appear to me to sympathize a great deal too much with the Man of Sin

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/james-smith/treasures-from-james-smith/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**