

Reality of Hell (12.6.1985)

by Nigel Lee

The sermon emphasizes the reality of hell and the importance of sharing the gospel with others, highlighting the consequences of rejecting God and His gospel.

Duration: 1:16:17

Scripture: Ezekiel 3:16, Luke 16:26, Acts 20:26, Romans 3:23, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Topics: "Hell"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of seeking God's guidance and purpose for our lives. He encourages the audience to reflect on what God is saying to them and what He wants them to do. The speaker also highlights the significance of Christ's teachings on hell and how they should not be disregarded. He further explains that these teachings do not diminish the purpose of Christ's death on the cross. The sermon concludes with a reminder that just as Jesus cared for his disciples' physical nourishment, he also cares for their spiritual well-being.

Transcript

Narrow road that leads to life, but only two roads. We turn to 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. We'll read from verse 7 to verse 9. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Verse 9, they will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. In Luke chapter 16, you remember the Lord is speaking of the rich man and the beggar at his gate. The rich man is one day in hell, called out to Abraham.

One of the few things that Abraham has to say in the New Testament. Verse 26, Abraham says that between you and between us there is a great chasm fixed so that you who want to cross over either way cannot. Ephesians chapter 4, the Lord has been speaking in his verses of a road that leads to sure destruction of there being two destinations and only two.

Now chapter 4 of Ephesians, verses 17 and 18. So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Paul says there are people who are utterly cut off from the life of God for two reasons. One is ignorance, the other is hardness of their heart. Some don't know the gospel and others have hardened their hearts against it.

Both, both cut off from the life of God. Ephesians chapter 2 describes people as being dead in their sin, without life in their souls. As for you, verse 1, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

Verse 5 says exactly the same. He made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression and sin. Now how many more verses do you want? Do you want me to go on for another half hour with verses from the New Testament like this? Because it would not be so difficult.

Turn to 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 3 and 4. Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God. Hudson Taylor came to believe that the lost were on their way to hell and it turned his life upside down.

He said I would never have thought of going to China had I not believed the Chinese were lost and needed Christ. He went to China in the closing years of the 19th century. He was gripped by the fact that a million people a month were going to hell in China without Christ every month.

It turned his life upside down. Now I want this same truth to grip us. And you say, you say, but look I've got some questions about this.

I'm not sure about this. I want to ask you some questions. Well let's ask some questions.

What about the innocent person who's never heard of Christ? Is he going to be condemned? The innocent person living in the Amazon jungle, are they going to be condemned? If they're innocent. You don't need to worry about the innocent. Those that are absolutely innocent are absolutely safe.

You have a good long job trying to find one. Because people in those places have deep guilty consciences about how innocent they are not. Will you say to me, what about, okay, the non-innocent person who's never ever heard of Christ.

Will they be judged for not believing in Christ when they've never even heard of him? Of course not. How could they be? How could God judge them for not believing in someone of whom they have never heard? They are not rejected because they've turned their backs on Jesus Christ. They have an earlier, deeper problem.

They are judged because they have already rebelled against, not the Son, but God the Creator, God the Father. Turn to Romans chapter one, verse 18. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

Why we say, what's their problem? Verse 20. For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse. Verse 21.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Many people you may meet this summer have never, never rejected Christ. That's not their problem, they've never heard about him.

God won't judge them for rejecting his Son, until they do. But they have already turned their backs on their Creator, God. The moment you meet them, they are already under the judgment of God.

We read here in Romans one that they have not given God glory. Secondly, they have gone their own way. Thirdly, they have trusted in their own religion.

And fourthly, as a result of all this, their works and their lives have become awful in God's sight. Ephesians chapter 2, verse 12, describes these people. Cut off from Christ, not part of God's promises, God's covenant.

Without hope and without God. Now what happens if people don't hear the word of God forever? If people all over the world, knowing about God, have nonetheless turned their back on him, what happens to them? The millions in China have actually increased since Hudson Taylor's time. How will God judge? God judges people by the light that they have had.

The problem is that every single man and woman finds himself condemned by his own conscience. Romans chapter 2. You therefore, verse 1, have no excuse. You who pass judgment on someone else.

For at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same thing. The man in a primitive tribe in India. He has some sort of moral standards, because he criticizes others in his tribe.

He judges them. And his problem is that he himself falls by his own standards. And God at the very least can take this man's own standards and measure him by them.

Chapter 2, verse 12. All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law. And all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

It doesn't say that those who sin apart from the law have an even chance of perhaps escaping. They perish apart from the law. Romans 3.23. Do you believe this? Dear friends, do you believe this verse? Are you going to take a big pair of scissors and cut some of these verses out of the Bible, because they're rather awkward to live with? Word of God says that everybody actually, in the sight of God, all have sinned, all fallen short of the glory of God.

You may say to me, but look, God is so loving, surely God himself couldn't be satisfied that people would go to a lost eternity. Surely everyone will be saved in the end, surely. All this first century talk of being lost and under judgment, that's just colourful language to scare people.

I believe that's wrong for at least five reasons. For a start, it denies the free will of men and women. If everybody is all going to finish up in the same destination in the end anyway, what's the point of them being able to choose now? You see, God does give human beings real choices.

Not play game choices, but real choices leading to real destinations. God gives to people the freedom to keep God out of their lives. A man or a woman says, no, I don't want God coming close to me.

I don't want God interfering in my life. God will ultimately simply underline that choice. He has to make a place where such people may be gathered to eternal, because he's given people the right to choose not God, as well as God.

Secondly, these ideas, they deny the authority of the word of God. Matthew 25, verse 41. Then the King, the Lord, will say to those on his left, depart from me, you who are cursed into the eternal fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

To say that these things are not true, it destroys the authority of God's word. Thirdly, these ideas, they minimize sin. It makes atheism and Christian discipleship have the same results in the end.

It suggests that we do not reap what we sow when the word of God says that we do. And ultimately God doesn't mind what we do. God watches and cares deeply how we live and how we think.

Fourthly, these ideas, they make Christ and his disciples out to be liars. Because Christ, our own loving Lord Jesus Christ, spoke more of the doctrine of hell than anyone else in the New Testament. The early church preachers don't talk about it very much, but Christ did.

Because he alone perhaps had the right to. Because he had come to live and to die in order that men and women might be set free. Are you going to turn around and say, Christ you're a liar, I don't believe what you're saying.

And fifthly, these ideas take away the whole point of Christ's death on the cross. Men and women the world over will all ultimately be saved, gathered home to glory with God, no matter what they believe or do. What was the point of Christ's death on the cross? Apostle Paul believed that he was a debtor to both Greeks and barbarians.

He'd been given the gospel to share, to give away. And it was wrong if he thought of keeping it to himself. Paul says, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

He could not continue to live selfishly, only for himself, in the light of what he knew to be true. Now let me ask another question. What happens if I don't tell people the gospel? Can I turn you to Ezekiel chapter 3. We'll read from verse 16.

It came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the Lord came unto me saying, son of man I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. Therefore hear the word at my mouth and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked thou shalt surely die and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way to save his life.

The same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand. I tell you this, this is strong stuff friends, this is life-changing stuff. The watchman is on the city wall and he sees the enemy coming.

If he warns the people, well they may be killed anyway, but it's no longer his responsibility. If he does not warn them, they may well be killed, but it is his responsibility. God has commissioned us to take the gospel to men and women.

Paul lived in the light of these truths. Acts chapter 20 verse 26. Paul you see has gathered the elders of the church in Ephesus around him.

He knows that he's not going to see them or their church ever again. He's just come dropped in on a boat and he's on his way back to Jerusalem. He says this, I declare unto you elders today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. The blood of Ephesus is no longer on my hands he says. I've done the door-to-door work here.

I've preached on the street corner. I've taught the converts. I've prayed over the city.

I'm ready to go, but I'm now leaving the responsibility for the city in your hands dear men. See Jesus Christ is the only hope of men and women in this world. Even those saved in the old testament were saved not by keeping the law, but by trusting in God.

Don't imagine that people in the old testament were saved by law-keeping. No one ever has been except Jesus himself. Abraham was saved by faith hundreds of years before the law was given.

What happens in their hearts is exactly the same as happens in ours except that we have more knowledge. They sense that they need God's mercy. They hear something of God's word.

They cry out to God in faith believing his word. God looked down on Abraham and said that man's faith it justifies him because he believes in me. We find folk all through the old testament believing in God and they're saved by Christ even though they don't know of Christ.

The cross of Christ is effective back into time as it is forward. We are commanded now in this day this age to go and take the gospel of Jesus Christ to folks, men and women already under the judgment of God. We will now offer them Christ the crucified one so that they may not just be condemned in their own consciences, but they may understand something of how God's grace has come to reach down to people like us.

Now they may still reject us, they may still laugh in our face, you will still get doors slammed before you, but you are fulfilling your responsibility to God. You're going to men and women with the gospel that they may respond if they wish. Now I find this, I find it heavy.

I find all this, everything that I've said so far, it could leave me rather, you know, I could easily become some humorless fanatic. It could weigh me down into, into deep depression all this. And so I want to come to the second half of what I want to say tonight.

We can only carry this God-given knowledge and responsibility in the fullness of God's Spirit. You know we, we need the ministry of the Holy Spirit to help us stay joyful and balanced in life as Christians. And I want to talk about what the Holy Spirit is seeking to do in your for you now.

We've got a, we've got a tremendous job before us haven't we this summer. Loving people whom we don't know, for Christ's sake. You know some of you are going to get not just growled at by the dogs, you may even get bitten by unbelievers' dogs.

You may feel like calling down the wrath of a righteous God on that dog. You may find enormous great man-eating mosquitoes, you know, approaching. It's when they stop making the noise you worry.

They, they have, they have soprano mosquitoes in Switzerland. There may be times too when you live in a town or a village and just quietly alone by yourself, your heart breaks for that place. You know men, it's not a shameful thing to weep over a city.

You begin to carry on your soul something of the burden that God has for these places. Jesus wept over Jerusalem because he saw their state. They'd received so much they had stoned the prophets.

Now they were about to crucify their own unique Messiah himself. Jesus wept. So don't be ashamed if you sometimes find this, the burden of these truths to be deep in your soul.

But I, I want to encourage you and I want to challenge you with the work of the Holy Spirit too. Let me say three things that he does. God the Holy Spirit is praying for you.

Romans chapter 8 verse 26. In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We don't know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us.

With groans that words cannot express. He who searches our heart knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with the will of God. That is tremendous.

We have two problems says the verse. We have two problems says that verse. We are weak and we're ignorant.

We don't know what to pray. Sometimes we're weak you know in our prayer lives aren't we? So we start up a new club within OM, a new secret society for the people who feel guilty about their prayer life. And the folks who really wish that their prayer life was better, I'm going to sign up first.

I've got a few other, a few other people signing up here. You know we're weak and the Holy Spirit prays for us. We're also ignorant.

We don't know what to ask. Sometimes we come before God and we put on a great show. God may actually be trying to deal with something in our lives and we're yapping on about something else.

The Spirit of God knows your real need system. He knows exactly your fear. You may be afraid of door-to-door evangelism.

I have been terrified of door-to-door evangelism ever since I first knocked my first door. It's still true. I still do it.

But when I go to my first door I normally don't have to knock at all. My knees make enough noise just to. You know God, the Holy Spirit knows about your fears.

Some of you maybe feel you haven't got enough inner resources just to go through the coming month or two months. The Holy Spirit knows. Some of you are already homesick.

The Holy Spirit knows. The Holy Spirit knows perhaps some of the guilt feelings that you're still carrying. The uncertainties about which way to go in life.

Maybe you're coming towards the end of the conference and you feel I haven't really met God here yet. Just the business of living seems to take up all my time. I haven't really met with the Lord in this place yet.

You feel bad about that and the Holy Spirit knows. Some of you have had big responsibilities that it's drying you out inside. Aren't you glad that the Holy Spirit knows about that and prays for you? The Holy Spirit, says Scripture, knows both the mind of God and your real need.

That's the first ministry of the Holy Spirit I want you to think about. All through your coming team life, He's going to be praying for you. You may feel you haven't got many prayer partners.

Well you've at least got this one. God Himself knows exactly how to pray for you. Something else the Holy Spirit will do.

He will convict of sin through you. You know even though I work in England a good deal as an evangelist, I have never ever ever convicted a person of sin. I cannot.

It's not in my power. God does it. That is not something God ever gives over to man.

He may use man, but God does the convicting. And John chapter 16 verse 8, when the Holy Spirit comes He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. He promises to use it.

But you know I'm glad that I don't have the power to convict people of sin. I would be a terribly dangerous person. Living with me as my wife would be an almost impossible thing if I could convict her of sin.

We would hurt people. The Holy Spirit convicts at the right time and in the right way and with the right gentleness. And He promises to do it through you.

You may not always know what's going on, but He comes to use us. I can remember sitting in a university in Britain. I got into conversation with a fellow alongside me.

He was going to be one of these supersonic pilots in the British Air Force. And I was asking him about this. And I said, this sounds terribly, terribly dangerous.

Isn't it dangerous? Yeah, he said. I said, could it, could it shorten your life? Yeah, yeah. I said, I mean all this screaming round corners at twice the speed of sound.

Couldn't that damage you in some way? Yeah, he said, yeah, I suppose it could, yeah. And I said, oh why do you do it? He said, well you know when, when you, when you love something so much, you're even prepared for it to shorten your life. I said, that's amazing.

I know someone else who believes that. Jesus Christ. A religious nutcase.

I explained to him why, why Christ died. He'd walked straight into the trap. He had walked into a trap.

But after a bit, he, he got up and went away to play with his airplane, you see. And there was a fellow sitting opposite of, the other side of the table, looking very serious. He'd listened to the conversation.

He said, could I ask you a question? He asked question, after question, after question, for about an hour and a half. All the usual questions, you know. What about the people who've never heard of Christ? What about the problem of suffering? Is the Bible untrustworthy, etc, etc.

All the usual ones. And when, when the long conversation was over, he just hung his head and looked very serious. Oh dear, he said, I think I'm going to have to become a Christian.

I said to him, I think you are. I said, but I haven't got time to talk to you right now. I've got a meeting in five minutes, I said.

You see, when God's working, you can trust God to carry on working. I said, just come up to my room, I'll give you a little booklet quickly. You read it, do what it says, and I'll see you tonight.

I met him that evening. He was, he was waiting just by the door of the room where I was to go and, and speak. He was sort of floating up in the air with a big smile on his face.

I said, you, you did it, didn't you? Yeah, yeah, he said, yeah. God had got hold of him. God had convicted him of sin, and he'd found Christ.

A prepared heart. I think of a girl who came along to meetings in another university. She would not become a Christian.

She came night after night after night. We were giving out copies of John's Gospel. She had her own copy, she'd read it, but she would not, she would not become a Christian.

What was the problem? I bet if I asked you to guess, most of you would guess. Yeah, she had a boyfriend in London, and she wasn't sure what he would think. And a relationship with him seemed to mean more than a relationship with Christ.

We came to the end of the week of meetings, and she still wasn't a Christian. But she kept reading the Gospel. She read a little book about how to become a Christian.

God was convicting her in her heart, secretly, where no one else could see. And finally, she gradually came to value Christ even more than her friend in London. She thought one day, I must, I must give my life to Christ.

I must stop this playing around, get cleaned up. She rang, she telephoned the boyfriend that evening. He had just come back into the house a few minutes before.

He'd been at the Louis Palau meetings in London, and had just gone forward. Finally, you know, the very day that she finally surrenders to Christ, and becomes a Christian, she finds that he's already dealt with the boyfriend already, you know. God wants to use you.

Now, in his own way, in his own timing. You know, sometimes you're joyful, and sometimes you're sunk in depression, and it all depends on what happens outside of you. Jesus said, my peace I give to you.

It is not going to be like the world gives, which depends on outward circumstances. You are to be teams of, of peaceful, joyful people, no matter what happens. You, you can have a team leader who loses the entire team's money within 24 hours of leaving this place.

All four tyres of your vehicle are punctured simultaneously on the French autobahn. Sickness breaks out on the team. I've known teams where these things happen, you know.

And Jesus says, you're to know my presence in that situation. Oh, well, if, if Jesus is on the team, well, I mean, that's different. We don't need to panic, or argue, or fight, or worry, do we? Jesus is on the team.

Oh, we'll let him deal with it. I think of a team that was setting off to drive from Sarvanton to India. Everybody in, in our base in Sarvanton, the European headquarters, they gathered around the back of this truck, and they, they prayed as the team set off for India.

Real disciples, you know, going for two years, three years. We won't see them again. They had been preparing for months for this moment.

They were going to drive from Sarvanton to Delhi. Half an hour later, they, they turned up back again. They hadn't been able to find their way out of the one-way street system in Sarvanton.

Now, even, even in those crazy circumstances, we, we can know that the joy and the peace that comes from the presence of Jesus. You know, when you get married, certain changes occur. And it isn't just that you men, you have fewer holes in your socks, and, and more holes in your bank account.

The change is that a person becomes much more real and present in your life. Supposing you said to me, are you, are you married, Nigel? And I said to you, well, I mean, I, I do a lot of washing up. I seem, I seem to pay bills all the time.

Whenever I have, have my breakfast, there, there always seem to be children around. I, I suppose I must be married now you've asked me. What would you think of that as a reply? It's stupid.

No, I am married. I have a relationship. I was on the phone to her this morning.

It doesn't depend on what you do, but the sense of the closeness of the other person. And I say to you, are you, my dear friend, are you a spirit-filled disciple of Jesus the Lord? And you say to me, well, I, I'm going on OM for a summer. I try to read my Bible regularly.

I don't take drugs or anything like that. Do you really sense the Lord's close presence? That is one of the first great results of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself becomes close and personal and real in your day-to-day experience.

You have confidence in his word, in evangelism. You see the way in which the sword of the Spirit pierces right into the hearts and minds of men and women. And you yourself will be fed as a believer.

You know, I find so many Christians, especially as they've been going on in Christian work, perhaps for many years, inwardly, they can be starving. Do you remember the Lord feeding the 5,000? He gave out the bread and the fish to all those people. And when it was all over, Jesus said, now each of you 12, you take a basket and pick up the bits.

Why do you think he did that? All these crumbs and scattered bits on the ground. What's the Lord doing? Is he against feeding the birds or something? Is it the Keep Palestine Tidy campaign or something? What's the point of it? What do you think those disciples did when they each had a basket of bread for themselves? They had been waiters at a meal, hadn't they? And what do waiters do with the food that's left over on people's plates? They often eat it. Take the steaks back out into the kitchen and eat it themselves.

And the Lord is saying, you know, at the end of a day's work, I also care for the feeding of you, my children. Look, dear friends, you are going to give yourself, give your youthful energy to give out the bread of life to people around Europe this summer. But the Lord does not want you to go to bed spiritually hungry at the end of the day.

Jesus said something about that in John chapter 4. He arrived weary and tired by the well in Samaria. And a short while later, he says to his disciples, you know, I don't need the food that you've brought. Thank you very much.

My food is to do the will of him that sent me. What actually feeds me, says Christ, is doing my father's will consciously, daily, deliberately. I want to urge you to serve the father.

Do what you do daily to serve him. Not OM. If you serve OM or if you serve the church or if you serve your team leader, you won't get that kind of feeding which the Lord promises to his servants.

When you're filled with the Spirit of God, you know the presence of one who cares for you and feeds you. Secondly, if you're filled with the Spirit of God, you will grow in character to be like Christ. 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 6. In this, that's these trials that are coming, and in your salvation, you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that your faith, which is of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though it's refined by fire, your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Christ is revealed. Peter says this, your faith is like a lump of unpurified gold. All sorts of impurities are mixed up in your faith right now.

Wrong motives, unhelpful habits, wrong ways of thinking about God himself, impurities from the area that you were cut out of still left inside you. The Lord is going to take your faith and he's going to put it in his own special fire. Your faith is going to be tested.

What happens when you put a lump of unpurified gold into a melting pot? Melts. The muck and the dirt, it rises to the surface. And you look and you say, well what's happened to my gold? It's gone.

And the goldsmith says, just quite a minute, you watch me. And he he scrapes off the surface of the liquid gold, the rubbish that's coming out. And he will carry on doing that as more and more impurity comes to the surface.

When will he stop? The goldsmith will only turn off the heat when he can see his own reflection in the surface of the gold. The Lord is going to use this summer to draw some of the impurities out of your faith. And you're going to find perhaps the fire and maybe the scraping process not so easy to live with.

But let the goldsmith have his way. Surrender your life into his hands. He will continue until he sees his own reflection in your character.

Don't have a life that's pushed around by feelings. You know, so often our feelings are quite unreliable. You know, you feel tired or you feel crossed with someone or you feel depressed.

Don't make decisions then. I wake up slowly in the morning. Are you the kind of person that sort of comes to a bit, you know, slowly? Don't always know where you are.

I travel around a great deal and wake up in some very strange places. I remember the day after I got married. I was waking up in a small hotel in Scotland and my eyes were just sort of half open and I was peering around thinking, what on earth am I doing here? My feelings were of doubt and confusion.

Am I going to have to preach somewhere today? And then a voice said, hello. I remembered I got married yesterday. You know, I tell you, no lie, I had completely forgotten.

Feelings, they're not entirely reliable and predictable. Don't trust them. Don't have a life that's pushed around by feelings.

Have a life that's based on the word of God. Jesus wants you to know his presence. He wants you to grow in character, to be like himself.

And if you're filled with the spirit of God, you will begin to share the goals of Jesus. And my wife and I came back from India. We knew that we could never ever again settle down into a little comfortable, materialistic, soft life in Britain.

We had seen too much. We'd driven across Afghanistan and Iran and Turkey. We'd come to know more of God's holy word.

And so we committed our lives to be involved in world evangelism. We tried to go and live abroad. I tried jobs in Singapore, in Nepal, in India.

Every time I tried, God just seemed to shut the door in my face. The Lord said, I want you to stay for the time being back in the UK. He said, he wanted me to stay for the time being back in Britain.

And I said, Lord, only, only if you will let me continue to be involved in a ministry that touches the ends of the earth. World evangelism is one of the great goals of Jesus Christ. And he wants every single one of us here to be involved right the way through our life, not just for one or two months in the summer.

Because that's where he's going. Everything Jesus asked his disciples to do in the gospel, it involved his own presence. He said to Peter, you get out of the boat and walk on the water to me.

You come to where I am. He said to his disciples, you take up the cross and you follow me. You go where I'm going.

He said, later you go now, you disciples, you dear beloved disciples, go to the end of the earth. I will go with you. We go with him.

Because that's where he's going. The Holy Spirit loves Jesus so much that he wants every single person in the world to know about him. I want to ask you tonight, are you filled with God's Spirit? Have you ever asked him to totally take over the whole of your life? So that your goals and his goals are identical? So that there's no blockage in your life? No sin that's kept quietly, secretly in some little corner? You allow him to speak to you and to convict you, so that through you he might touch others? It's so simple.

Are you willing to turn from sin? Turn from having any further control over your own life and ask him to fill you and control you from now until the day you see him face to face? Jesus isn't really interested in you just doing missions for a summer. Jesus didn't suggest that you take up your cross, carry it a few steps and then put it down again and go back to the old life. I wonder are there people here who have a sense of holding back a little bit on the Lord? What sort of a gospel are you going to preach this summer? Are you going to tell other people that Jesus Christ can satisfy their deepest needs? Is he meeting yours? Are you going to ask other people to give their lives wholly to Christ? But you know that there's compromise, there's selfishness still in your own heart.

Friday morning you get in those vans and you start to roll across Europe. Are you ready to go yet? Should you perhaps stay on here a bit longer? No you get right with the Lord tonight. Say Lord I want your gospel to be real to me.

I want my whole life to be yours to control forever. What's holding you back? Is it a friend back home? Maybe for some of you it is. But you know your friend, that person that you think of right now, they need Christ too.

And maybe you're too close to them so that they cannot really see the Lord. Is it a career that you're worried about? That if you let the Lord control your life, that chosen career that you secretly want and your parents maybe want for you, that you're afraid it will not happen? There is no better life than serving the King of Kings. Or is it a bank balance? Is it a bank balance you're worried about? Is it money? You know that you're holding back on the Lord.

Why don't you invest it in heaven? No rust, no inflation, no moth, Jesus said so. Don't allow, please friends, Satan to persuade you that going your own way in any detail is better than going with Christ. You're finally giving your life to the Lord.

There's a moment of struggle always isn't there? Say Lord I want to be one of those men and women who are always instant quick to repent when you convict. I want you Lord to use me in world missions forever and for always. Give him your life.

Do you remember as a kid what it was like when you had toothache? With this will end. The old pain in the tooth. And you knew that if you told your mother she'd take you to the dentist.

I'm old, I'm old you know, I'm old. I remember real dentists. And I remember lying in bed at night and I used to bite the pillow on a wretched toothache, I don't want to go to the dentist.

But I knew, I knew that if I went on like this life would be a misery. So I would tell my mother eventually. And she'd take, take me to the dentist.

And it was always a bit painful. But do you remember that feeling when you come out of the dentist? And he said, I don't want to see you again for however, you float along. You know, get sorted out with Christ.

Come to him. Give him your life. I'm going to ask that, I'm not going to ask that people stand and make any commitment to him that way tonight.

But it is a time for decision. I'm going to ask that you take those pieces of paper that you fetched earlier. And we're going, we're going to write down two things.

We're going to have a time of total silence. I want to ask you to write down first, what is God saying to me? What is the asking of my life? And secondly, what am I going to do about it? You wait, you pray, you think. And to ask that these papers later, if you wish, you can either put them in the back of your Bible or you bring them up and just put them on the table in front of you.

It is between you and the Lord. You write in any language, it's not for me. God, what are you saying? What do you want with my life? What are you going to do? Let's now silently just bow our heads and consider and pray.

Meanwhile, I will lead us in prayer and then I ask that the meeting be silently brought to a conclusion. Thank you, Lord, that with the comfort of your presence, we can face some of these heavy things in scripture. Lord, fill us with your grace.

Help us to see as the disciples saw those nail-pierced hands. Lord, use us. Thank your God that you satisfy us deeply as you take and fill our lives.

Cleanse us and fill us with new power. May we be so much in love with Jesus. Men and women, see something of the glory of God in our life.

Lord, we respond to your love with the worship and thanksgiving of our hearts. Hallelujah. You have silence in here.

Folk can bring those papers if they wish or keep them if they wish to remind themselves of what they wrote. I ask there be, again, no conversation until you are well outside the room. I just ought to say that if there are some here who would like to have counsel, who'd like advice or help to pray through something, don't hesitate to ask your own country leaders to give the time.

They're most willing, they told me tonight, willing to get alongside if you approach them with any need that you have.

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