

Seeking the Lost

by Rolfe Barnard

The sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking the Lord and the consequences of not doing so, highlighting the need for a daily experience of salvation.

Duration: 56:39

Scripture: Psalm 24:3, Acts 17:27, Ephesians 2:10

Topics: "Lost People"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher expresses gratitude for the visitors from other churches and acknowledges the need for consistent attendance to fully understand his message. He emphasizes the importance of proclaiming the claims and demands of God in Jesus Christ in every sermon. The preacher mentions that God will not lose a single person He has promised to save and that salvation is in the hands of a redeeming God. He urges the audience to seek the Lord and emphasizes the role of faith in finding Him. The preacher also acknowledges the challenges of preaching the unadulterated Word of God in a society that may not always be receptive, but expresses hope for a revival.

Transcript

...is shut up to a miracle in our country. The day has passed when the preacher can preach a pure, unadulterated message from the Word of God and receive a big period. And unless God is pleased in these days to send a great revival, then I don't know what the answer is.

And therefore, we believe the Lord has sent his servant, his prophet, to bring us a message that is not always easy to hear and apply, but one that we realize to be the voice of God speaking through his Word. And now, Brother Ralph Barnard, you bring us what the Lord has laid on your hearts. Dear heart, I fell in love with this young man last March a year ago, and his dear wife, but graciousness is not to be excelled anywhere.

He just sang, Will there be any stars in my crown? She'll have a lot for putting up with him, won't she? I had B.B. Caldwell with me many years ago, preaching for him, and he got up one night, tomorrow evening, God willing, I'll bring you a message on such and such, unless the rest of your dear pastor will preach for you. I guess I better not make such a move now. You're too straightened out.

This generation would like to get to heaven, but they just haven't got time. When I started out 36 years ago, I could build a crowd and keep it for a while, and that way somebody would listen to the Word of God,

and since no man has saving faith, God has to give it to men, and he gives it as men hear his Word. Why they hear the Word, that's while they say, that's God talking, and that's when the fellow gets saved.

But now it's off again, on again, coming again, planning again. But we hope that by the end of the week we may build a solid crowd. I see three or four faces that we had last night, but many visiting from other churches, and we thank God for you, but we know that it's not quite fair to you.

You cannot hear me just once. You've got to hear me all and everything else. I don't mean to do it, but that's what they say.

Every message, and I'm not here to indoctrinate the people or to straighten you out, but the pastor, he and I have been proclaiming the claims and demands of God in his son. And every message is preached so to know. And as we preach tonight, we're preaching on seeking the Lord.

Tomorrow night we hope to preach on the message God uses to induce sons to seek the Lord. To induce sons to seek the Lord. Remember that everybody that God promised Abraham is going to be saved.

You're not going to lose a single one. Remember that if God can get you lost, he'll save you. And I'd go crazy if I didn't believe this.

This isn't fatalism, this is just so. And if God can get you still long enough to let a little bit of word sink in and grant you faith, he'll save you. But chances are you're so busy you'll just have to live a while and go to hell.

You just ain't got time to get saved. You just ain't got time to get saved. Now, you had time to make a confession and join the church, but you haven't got time.

Had time to have what this says, a personal confronting of the soul by a gracious, redeeming God. This leads to repentance and faith. This leads to the terminating of a self-centered existence and the commencement of a Christ-indwelled life.

That's what it means to be saved. You have to meet God, the Christ. Is that right? Now, I don't know how long it'll take you to get saved.

It might take a half-second. It might take you 40 years, but it'll be time well spent. If you'd gotten to Christ, wouldn't you? A sovereign God, you can't limit him.

He can do things in a second. He can take 40 years if it seems good in his sight. You can get your glove and try to whip him, put him out of business, or you can just submit to the ways of the sovereign God.

Tonight we're speaking on seeking the Lord. Tomorrow night, the message God uses to induce some to seek him. Once in a while in the scripture, for instance in the book of Acts, a man asks, what must I do to be saved? And the answer was, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

But in no circumstances was that answer ever given to anybody unless the work of grace had already begun and they were in a repentant state just dying to be saved. The other injunction to men and women today and always is seek the Lord. How long? Till you find him.

How long that takes? Oh no, till you find him. Every Christian here tonight will testify to these words, I saw the Lord and afterward I knew. He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me.

I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee. For thou wert long beforehand with my soul. Always thou lovest me.

That's the testimony in the heart of every child of God. You know, I found out a long time ago that God's people are all right in their theology and their heart, they're crooked in their heads, you know. But when we get on our knees, God's people join and they give the glory to God and they know salvation through the Lord.

They say, Lord, speak to my boy. Isn't that right? So we don't need to fall out. Some of my doctrines don't suit you.

Don't get mad at me. If you're a Christian, you pray for me because if I can get you on your knees, your little differences, you'll find out they just cause you ignorance. I am one for both of us.

But in our hearts, we know it's God who saves. And we pray for God to save, don't we? If you'll turn tonight to the book of Psalms, at chapter 24, tomorrow night, the message God uses, not to induce all, but, thank God, to induce some. He never set out to save everybody.

He set out to save everybody he promised Abraham. Isn't that right, brother? He said, you see, you won't be able to count. I'm going to give them to you.

And God made a covenant with Abraham, and Paul says in the book of Galatians, that Jesus Christ is the blessing of that covenant. Now, if you don't like the way God runs this show, if you can get him off the throne, why, maybe he'll let you run it a while, but unless you can't, we just shut up to what the word of God reveals. It's not what God ought to do, but what he does.

And the gospel is just the covenant that God made with a man by the name of Abraham. He said, I'm going to give you a seed. Amen.

And the Lord said he ain't going to lose ne'er one. Hallelujah. Every last one of them the Lord's looking for and he's going to save them.

Might save you, I don't know. Don't expect you got time, have you? Huh? I mean it. I don't expect you got time to get saved, have you? The message God uses to induce some.

It ought to induce everybody. It's not God's fault. But it just induces some to become seekers after the Lord.

Not seekers after what the Lord can do for you. That's what you folks in Park Avenue do. Thank the Lord for what he's done for them.

You wouldn't know the Lord if you met him in the road. Nowhere in the scripture are we enjoined to seek him for what he can do for us. Any fool would do that.

You thought I'd give him away a dime. You'd just hire Taylor down the street after me, wouldn't you? In this generation they heard the Lord giving away something, but he hadn't given away something. He'd given himself.

The gospel is Christ, and Christ is the gospel, and salvation is Christ, and Christ is salvation. Salvation is a gift, but it's the gift of a person, not a thing. Isn't that right? Isn't that right? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you

could have salvation, not have to put up with the Lord? That's what this Sunday morning gang of so-called Christians come out to honor God, the one I worship, think they're doing God a favor.

They want to get to heaven, but they don't want to have nothing to do with Jesus. But you walk with him, or you go to hell. Is that right? Now, seeking the Lord.

In the 6th verse of the 24th chapter of the psalm, we are directly given the statement that everybody that gets saved is a seeker after the Lord. This is the generation of them that seek him. Have you had time to seek the Lord, a vital union with him? For it is not knowing about Christ, but knowing him that counts.

It's not a mystical admiration of Christ, but a vital devotion to him that counts. It's not just energy of the flesh displayed in service, but a spiritual service of being and doing, which will lead to a complete surrender to a sovereign Christ. To know Christ is to experience him, and to experience his power.

And the power that came last comes from him who sits on the throne. And to know Christ is to love him. And to love him is to serve him in utter loyalty and devotion.

Somewhere down the line, in order to accommodate ourselves to this damnable stuff they call the gospel for 60 years, we invented some terms. He's a consecrated Christian. There ain't no other kind.

You do not love the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, you're not saved. You do not serve him with utter loyalty and devotion, you're not saved. This is God's truth.

God tells people the truth. We're speaking peace when there is no peace. This half-hearted stuff most church members give out is just going to land them right square death in hell.

To know Christ is to experience him. And his power comes in your life when you experience him. And to know him is to love him.

And the mother who loves the child serves the child with utter loyalty and devotion. God bless you, my friend. There ain't no other kind of people except my sheep.

Listen to my voice. And they follow me. That's what the Bible, the Lord says.

Those who come to know and experience Christ are those who are seekers after him. After him. Verse 3 asks a tremendous question.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? That's a good question, isn't it? Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? In the Old Testament, many times they'll say the same thing from a little different direction. That's what he does. The question is this.

Who's going to go to heaven when he dies? We can understand that. Who shall ascend into his holy hill? You counting on it, Brother Finch? Who shall stand in his holy place? Would you kind of like to ask? Would you? I sure would. Well, I'll tell you.

Verse 4 describes the folks that are going to do that. See, this fits you. He that has clean hands and what? A pure heart.

That's the guy that's going to ascend into God's holy hill and stand in God's holy place. Brother, you need a perfect righteousness of your own, or you need to be clothed with the righteousness of God. No halfway

measure, Brother.

It's got to be perfect. You need to make your own heart pure or to get in touch with him who promises in the gospel a new heart. I'll give them.

No halfway measures will do. You're out of conduct's gut-pleased jaw, and you're out of conduct comes from a pure or an impure heart. Is that right? The rider of rock of ages cleft for me had it right.

Be of sin a double cure. Save from wrath and make me pure. Who's going to ascend into God's holy hill? Who's going to stand in God's holy place? Men and women who've been operated on, bless God, and their lives now are following the path that God predestined for them before they were ever born.

Ephesians 2, 9 and 10. He created you under good works which he has before ordained that you should walk. You do not choose your manner of living.

It's been chosen for you if you're a Christian. Do you believe that? Now take care of that with conduct. And then the blood of Jesus Christ, on the basis of it, God gives us a new heart and purifies it daily by the W-O-R-D word.

Three, of course, you're a Christian. You go to the word every day. You can go two days without it.

You can go into hell. You know nothing about salvation. We're made clean through the word.

Isn't that what Scripture says? What kind of people are these people who get a pure heart and clean hands? This is the generation of them that seek the Lord. God not only invites throughout the Scripture men to seek him. Seek ye the Lord while they may be found.

Somebody says, the Bible teacher will tell you, that is to the Jewish nation. I know. But most of the Jewish elect nation were going to hell.

They heard the gospel but they didn't mix faith with it and died and went to hell. Isn't that what Scripture says? In the Old Testament it says, If my people who call by my name would humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I'd hear them from heaven to heal the land. But that's not the recipe for revival.

That's how for a sinner to get saved. Well, that's talking to a bunch of unsaved Jews who had access to the blood of the covenant but never took time. They just didn't have time like you to ever take time out to mix faith with their hearing.

That's right, isn't it? Don't Paul tell us that only a little remnant of that gang were Jews? Sure he does. You ought to quit building your revival theology on language addressed by the king of the town. And the prophets would have to come and call them back to formal worship.

That's revival notes. Isn't that right, brother? No, God's people don't need to be humble. They've done been humble.

God's people don't need to praise him. The mark of spiritual death is prayerlessness. You either live a life of prayer or you don't know God.

God's people don't need to seek his face. 2 Corinthians 3 and 18 tells us that the main occupation of God's people is beholding in a glass that same, the glory of God, they are changed into the same image from glory to glory. God's people don't need to turn from thy wicked ways, bless God.

The scriptures say, nevertheless the foundation standeth sure. The Lord knoweth them that are his and let everyone that nameth the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. You can tell a Christian he's running from sin, he's not living in it.

He's not yet perfect but he's on his way, brother. It was the old time back if you say the tenor, T-E-N-O-R, tenor, the mainstream of his life is devoted to seeking and doing the will of God. That's right.

He stumbles but bless God he gets up and his face is in the way of the will of God. Amen. Oh, I wish we'd start telling Sunday morning church members a little of the truth instead of combing their hair and sending them on to hell.

God invites men to seek the Lord. In the day thou shalt seek me with all thine heart, I shall surely be found of thee. But God does a whole lot more than invite men to seek the Lord.

I'd ask you if you would to turn in the book of Acts to the 17th chapter. And this shocked me so years ago. It'd been in the Bible all the while but I never had seen it.

I'd read it a whole lot but I found something here that I'm going to take the time to read and show you to what lengths almighty God has gone to get men and women to seek the Lord. I want to read. This absolutely startled me the first time my poor little old dumb brain ever saw it.

Beginning in verse 22 of the 17th chapter of Acts. Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars Hill and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too religious, too superstitious. It really means religious.

As religious as all get out. For he said, as I passed by and beheld you, I found an altar with this inscription to the unknown God. They had a lot of them.

They were afraid maybe they'd lift one out and didn't want to offend him. So they built an altar. And now Paul says, this unknown God whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, he's the one I want to talk to you about.

Him declare I unto you. Now let's see what God did. And he did everything I'm going to read now for just one purpose that men should seek the Lord.

First God that made the world. This unknown God, the one that's unknown to the church people of Linford. They've never experienced his power.

This unknown God. You know what he did? Not the God you worship, but the God of the Bible. The God who called the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not the God who fills the churches full of people on Sunday morning and the picture shows and everything else on Sunday night with the same crowd. But this unknown God, you know what he did? He made the world. That's the God Linford doesn't know.

And he did something else. He made all things there is. Saying that he is Lord of heaven and earth.

He's the head man. This unknown God, ladies and gentlemen, with a sob in my heart. He's unknown to American people too.

He's the God of power. You touch him, blessed God, and dynamite from him will come into you. You'll live a transformed life, not a perfect life.

As different from the way you used to live as daylight is from God. This unknown God made the world. And everything's in it.

He's the Lord. He's the master, the despot, the dictator, the ruler of heaven and earth. He doesn't dwell in temples made with hands.

He doesn't need to worship with men's hands as though he needed anything. And this God does this too. He gave it all to all life.

He gave you your life. He created you. He gave you your life.

He gives you that breath you're breathing with now. And he's given you every blooming thing you've got. The jobs you've got.

He gives power to get wealth and everything else. Is that right? And he's done something else. He's made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth.

And of course you wouldn't believe this. You don't believe in the sovereign God, tell me all over this country. But he has appointed the times before appointed.

And he has appointed the bounds of their habitation. You know why you live in Greensburg? God. Huh? You know why you were born in America instead of Africa? God fixed that.

Huh? I wish you'd look at the trouble he's gone through. He's created the world and everything in it. He's given all men life and breath, everything they've got.

He's made us all of one blood. And he's determined the bounds where we live. And he went to all that trouble.

Well, verse 27 says, that in order that they should seek the Lord. If haply they might feel at him and find him. Though he be not far from every one of us.

For in him we live and move and have our being and so forth. Listen to me in this solemn moment. You see, nobody on God's earth knows your relationship or lack of it to the Lord Jesus Christ except you.

Nobody can say another person is a Christian. Nobody. I think, I would say, I tell you, ask that fellow.

Go, he's a gracious young man. So nice to this, to that. You know, I believe he's saved.

That's as far as I know. I know he's saved. Huh? So, it's just between you and God, honey.

If you're interested, it might be well for you to do what the scripture says. Let a man examine himself. I can't examine you.

Huh? But God sure has gone to a lot of trouble to induce you to seek the Lord. See what I mean? Unless my arithmetic's wrong, this sounds like this whole, what this thing's all about. He created the world.

He fixed the place where we live. For one purpose. We should seek the Lord.

If we do not spend our lives doing that, we've missed the boat. Huh? We've missed the boat, brother. The New Testament doesn't know anything about this stuff they call salvation, where you got saved and that settled it.

The New Testament knows about tasting of Christ and coming back the next day for another taste. Of eating him today and coming back tomorrow for another meal. Of coming to know him and walking.

In the book of Psalms, where the deepest Christianity in the Old Testament's given. Not this generation of self-satisfied stuffed pigs that have been told. Who have no hunger and thirst for almighty God every day of their lives.

But men and women who've tasted of him and he's good. They'll never get too much of God. Men and women who seek him.

He's the face they want to look into the first thing in the morning. And the last one they want to see as they close their eyes. Why should men seek the Lord? Because God commands it, the whole thing's about it.

But in this desperate day, I bid you seek the Lord. Seek a vital meeting with him. Seek to meet God in Jesus Christ.

Seek him until he, who when we were here in the days of this flesh, would say, thy sins be forgiven. And he's alive and he still speaks to men and grants to them the knowledge and consciousness that their sins are forgiven. And he still speaks peace that the world cannot give nor take away.

And you are a fool if you'll take anybody's word for it except his. Don't you call yourself a Christian until he gives you the knowledge your sins are forgiven. Don't you call yourself a Christian until he speaks peace to your troubled soul.

He still does it, brother. He's alive. He's alive.

And he still deals with seeking men. In this day of presumption, when we've substituted salvation by decision for what's been all the time salvation by revelation. Faith is Christ made real in death.

This is a day not of faith but of presumption. I ask you if you're a Christian, immediately you'll tell me something you've done, but I didn't ask you what you've done. I ask you if you're a Christian.

A Christian is the product of God's grace. A Christian is a result of something God's done. He's always the giver.

Or even he is the receiver. But there's no merit in receiving a gift, is there? And you wouldn't brag about your receiving it, would you? Well, why don't you cut it out? That time somebody asks you, you say, oh, yes, I said he cut my prostate off. Nobody asked you what you did.

Ask you whether God's done anything or not. Huh? Oh, yes. Your language betrays you, dear one.

You're depending on what you did. It ain't worth a dime. It's what he did and what he is that counts, isn't it? I bet you if in our churches we quit claiming the credit for saving ourselves, the glory might come back.

We'd start giving the glory where it's due to God. And men and women say, I'm a Christian because God saved me. All I did was to benefit.

He did all the work, all the dying, all the giving. All I can do is the receiving, ain't it? But we've been bragging about it. We're saying it because we accepted Christ.

But salvation is by God's revealing of Christ through the Spirit, through the Word, through your soul. And the decision that the Bible demands will bring that message Friday night. Christ, the great demander, is in response to the revealed Christ.

What you, dear folks, have done, you've accepted an unknown Christ. He's never been revealed to your heart. You took him on Mama, say so, or the preacher.

And there's no power in your life because you don't have Christ. But faith is Christ revealed to your inmost being. And you know it, and you experience it, and you taste it, and it's good.

Praise God. This is the day of presumption, not the day of faith. This is the day when men and women seek everything under God's hand and soul, except the one thing God ordained for you to seek, and that's the Lord.

Men have been taught that the sinner has the ability to believe of his own will. Thus we do not call on men to seek Christ, but the sinner does not have the ability to believe in Christ. God's got to make him able.

He does it as you hear the word. That's so, my friend. You better seek him.

He alone purchased saving faith for his people. It's his to give. He bought it with his blood.

You haven't got it. Seek him. Cry to God.

You said just pray, and that's a good way to get saved. Good way to get saved. While this generation of people have been taught that God's done his part, now it's up to you.

That's a lie out of hell. God's done his part. Thank God for it.

He's still working. But it is up to you. All on God's earth you can do is to seek.

But you can't save yourself. You can't give yourself faith. You can't work repentance in your heart.

That's the reason whether we have a crowd or whether we don't, we're going to be preaching every week. Why this church, and why this God and the pastor are going to all this trouble. We know what we're up against.

Ain't nobody got time to get saved now. It'd be a miracle if anybody does. Always has been.

We've got so many irons in the fire, just going to have to go to hell. Haven't got time for this. I know what I'm talking about.

I know what I'm talking about. We'll have time to get in the crowd. Half of you won't be back.

We're going to keep on. Because the only way on God's earth anybody ever is able to believe on Jesus Christ is through the hearing of the word of God. It's a miracle, God.

That old boy's carrying and he don't hear a word of it, but he keeps on listening and a miracle works and God will open his heart so he... incorruptible. It's a miracle, isn't it? We're not hard-shelled. We don't believe people are saved apart from the hearing of the gospel.

But we're not free-wheelers. We don't believe that a fellow make up his mind, believe I'll take Jesus. No, sir.

We're in the hands of God. But thank God we're in the hands of a redeeming God who delighteth in mercy and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked and awakes to the trouble of creating a world in which raising from the dead, sending the Holy Ghost and establishing this church and sending the gospel out. So you seek the Lord.

Happily you feel after him. You might find him, though he's not far from you, just as far as your faith is. That poor woman is having a premillennial conference in the city of Jerusalem discussing whether or not she's going to take the four, place the four during her act of tribulation.

And the Bible teachers and people with the notebooks was all there. And they're just crowding the Lord. And the little old woman that had suffered at the hands of many physicians, she said, if I could just get to him and touch the hem of his garment, I'd be made whole.

And somehow or another, she pressed through that gang of religious Bible students, never did intend to pass it on to somebody else. A lot of people were some sinners just wanted to be smart. Seek him, for he's the giver of all gifts.

Where shall sinners seek the Lord? Quickly. Three places. They are the same, but I approach them in three different ways.

Where shall a sinner seek the Lord? Seek him at the place of supreme desire. You'll never find him unless you want him supremely. Want him.

Not this damnable stuff about getting something out of him, but wanting him. Not this business of using him as a pirate's heap from hell, but seeking him. He's the lily of the valley.

He's the bright and morning star. He's the fairest of ten thousand. Everybody ought to know who Jesus is.

Seek him. Seek him. I wish, I wish, I wish we could get to the people.

I guess it's too late. I guess this generation's bound to go to hell. This is God's world.

God's purposes cannot be defeated. I'm happy in the Lord. If you're not in him, I'd love for you to be in him.

But I can't put you in Christ, but the Holy Spirit can. Oh, Christ will not share you with anything else. You'll seek him with all your heart or you'll never know him.

In the day thou shalt seek me with all thine heart, I shall surely be found of thee. Seek him. Seek him.

If you ever find him, the words I quoted a while ago will be yours. You'll know that he sought you before you ever sought him. But you needn't worry about that now.

You seek him with all your heart. You haven't got time to do that, have you? Most folks haven't. The place of supreme desire.

Old Job is picky to say, oh, where is he that I may find him? Where is he? He's right there at the end of your seeking him with at the place of supreme desire. With all your heart. You want him.

Him. More than everything else. I'd rather have Jesus than anything.

This world, of course, today will be the cry of the person who's on a quest of seeking him. That man who bought a field so he could get to the treasure. And he found out that the price of it was to give everything on earth he had to get the treasure.

That'll be you. Goodbye, Alma, if it's necessary. Goodbye, wife, if that's the price.

Goodbye, Job, if that's the price. There's a merchantman of that parable to find that pearl. If you ever want to come into a vital union with the Lord Jesus Christ, he'll become the object of your supreme search.

Seek him where? On holy ground I am now. Seek him prostrate at the feet of a sovereign God. Not dictating, but I mean stretched out.

Not trying to bargain with him. Ask him for redeeming grace and faith. Knowing he alone can give it, you can't.

There's danger there. And I speak with fear and trembling. I want to set forth a sovereign God and an unworthy sinner.

But praise God. The sovereign God that ruleth in the heavens is a redeeming God who so loved the world that he hung his only begotten son on a cross. Seek him like the drunken man reeling to and fro coming to wit's end corner.

Nowhere else to go. Lord God, I've got no claims. Not trying to swap anything.

If thou wilt, thou canst make me whole. The pastor said, the dear Lord said to him, I will. I think he said it to me.

He might say it to you. You don't have to, but I might. Amen.

Seek him where? At the place of supreme desire. Seek him where? Prostrated at the feet of a sovereign God. But to live in his hands, at his mercy, he can do with you as he pleases.

Is that all right? Did you know, my friends, that a hundred years ago, if you wished to become a member of any Baptist church in America, you stood up on your hind legs at the front of the altar, and they asked you this question, are you willing to be sent to hell if it'll bring glory to God? And unless they were willing to be sent to hell, if that'd bring glory to God, they weren't received as members. You'll never be saved until you quit trying to use God and just surrender to him. The archbishop of Canterbury, too, archbishop removed, made this graphic statement in his soul.

The only people who walk the streets of glory in heaven are the people who are willing to be sent to hell. The only unselfish act you have ever performed, if you have, is when you stood before God, not demanding, not claiming, but willing for redeeming God to do with you as it seemed good in his sight.

That's the only way you can be unselfish.

You better listen to this old preacher, telling you the truth, honey. You better throw away your claims and demands, and you better submit yourself to the mercy of a God who can do with you as he pleases. You're only to cry, Lord, if thou wilt, you can, you don't have to, I've got no claim on you.

Who knows, he may say, I will. David, be thou whole. Seek him where? Seek him in the last place, in the appointed way.

Two men went up to the temple to pray. One of them prayed in the appointed way with his face toward Jerusalem. How do we do it now? We turn our face toward Calvary.

For Christ, who is now on a throne, is on a throne now because he was on a cross. And you can't bypass the cross, no, you can't bypass the throne. You come by way of the cross, pleading one thing, the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Knowing that God took into your heart only on the merits of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and making that plea, you bow at his shrine, my Savior divine, my wonderful, wonderful Lord. And for God's sake, stay there until a union of peace has been forged between you and the living God. And he speaks to you.

And you know that your sins are forgiven. And you know that instead of bitterness you've got peace. As Finney would say, many went away declaring they were comforted by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Take nobody else's word for it except his. Come to the altar of the cross, that's the only altar there is. But don't trust the altar.

Come by way of the blood of Christ, the broken body of Christ, that's the altar. And stay there looking into the face of him on the throne until he does his work in you. Salvation is not believing some facts.

Salvation is being united to a person. Stay there until you and he have been made one. How long will it take? I don't know, maybe a second.

Maybe 40 years, okay. Seek him until you're joined to him. For you can't have the benefits of the shed blood without having him.

Amen? For he is so precious, so precious is Jesus, my Savior and King. Let's sing that old song. He's so precious.

Got any book you reckon? What's the number? Number 257. Let's stand and sing it, will you? 257. Yes, sir.

He's so precious. He is so precious. Let me sing that second verse.

This is the most tremendous thing I ever saw. Sovereign Redeemer. The Lord of Lords.

The one who by blood bought this world. He can do as it is with fleas, yes. And this verse is Scripture's truth.

He stood at my heart's door amid sunshine and rain. Isn't that wonderful? And patiently waited an entrance to gain. What shame that for long he entreated in vain.

For he is so precious. Not what he did for you, but he sang the glory. For he is so precious to me.

For he is so precious to me. Isn't that wonderful? My Jesus, good Lord. For he is so precious to me.

I'm going to sing the last stanza, and it could be to somebody out there. Feel it with your blood right now, that this moment is the beginning of an all-out search on your part for the living God in Christ Jesus. The seeking might find him before you got outside.

I don't know about that. But I'll seek him. How long? A long time.

I don't know when God stopped you. I praise him because he appointed a place where someday through faith in his wonderful grace I know I shall see him, shall look on his face. Amen.

For he is so precious to me. Sing it. For he is so precious to me.

For he is so precious to me. Isn't that wonderful? My Jesus, good Lord. For he is so precious to me.

My friends, this world don't give a hoop about your doctrine or your peculiar beliefs or your little fads and things like that. In the New Testament, they gossip Jesus. Go in a cafe and just start bragging on Jesus.

The waitress is liable to pause and listen. In God's name, quit trying to win somebody. Just witness.

Just praise the Lord. That's what they did in the New Testament, just bragging on the Lord. He's so precious to me and somebody.

They wonder who it is that's so precious to those people. Next thing you know, somebody's out coming. Who you talking about? Who you talking about? That's witnessing, brother.

This business you've got going out here and winning them. You didn't win them to nobody. They're going to hell yet.

But witnessing, witnessing, witnessing, praising the Lord! Boy, he's so precious to me. Isn't he?

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