



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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Paul's Persuasion

By: C. W. Naylor in *Heart Talks—Talk # 33*

Paul uses the term “persuaded” in the sense of assurance. When he said that he was persuaded of a thing involving God’s attitude, he meant that he was fully convinced that it was as it was stated to be. He meant that to him it stood out as a reality. It was a thing that he no longer questioned. In Romans 8:38 and 39, he speaks of one of the things of which he was persuaded. He did not seem to feel about it as some feel; and when they read what he says, they realize that they do not feel just as he did. He says, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Some people are all the time worrying lest they should be separated from that love, lest God’s love should be turned into hatred against them. They walk before him with fear and trembling. They are all the time questioning whether their conduct merits his approval. They are ever fearful lest they might do something that would bring his wrath upon them. Their life is a life of fear and of bondage. Paul had no such fears and no such feelings. He knew that the great heart of God is a heart of love, a heart of tender pity, compassion, and sympathy. He knew that God is tender toward his earthly children. Why, even when we were sinners, Christ died for us! and, the Father so loved us that he gave his only begotten Son. This love was for rebels. How much greater his affection for his sons! Instead of thinking that he might be easily separated from the love of God, and that he should have to be exceedingly careful lest he should be, Paul cries out, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (v. 35). By this he means, Who, or what *shall be able* to separate us?

Paul knew something of the strength of earthly love. He knew mother-love—how tenderly it holds its own. He knew that no matter where the son wanders, mother-love goes with him; mother-love calls him back; mother love yearns over him. He knew love in other forms—how tenaciously it clings to its objects. But the love of Christ, or the love of God in Christ, is above and beyond all this human love. And so he cried out, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Then he named some things and asked if they should separate us from God’s love, and when he looked at them all, he was still persuaded that nothing should be able.

Paul says, “Neither death nor life.” If death should lay his icy fingers upon us, it would be but the ushering into the more immediate presence of that great love. But if we must continue to live on in our earthly circumstances and surroundings, that very life cannot separate us from the love of Christ, for he will love us through it all. Through various changes, through all the trying situations that may face us, that love will hold us fast. Time and change cannot make that love grow cold.

Again, he says, “Nor angels.” God is in heaven, surrounded by the angels, but he wants us to understand that those angels cannot

There's a Deep Settled Peace

By: Herbert Temple & A. L. Byers in *His Praise Anew*

There's a deep settled peace within my soul
Since the blessed Savior died to set me free:
'Tis so sweet to live in his control,
And his faithful servant evermore to be!

There's a deep settled peace within my soul;
Skies that once were dreary now are always clear:
Praise the Lord for peace that maketh whole!
For the Lord in tender mercy lingers near.

There's a deep settled peace within my soul;
All my sins are gone that kept distress within:
My Redeemer made me free and whole,
And I tell the world that I am saved from sin.

There's a deep settled peace within my soul;
Full salvation's praise I'm singing o'er and o'er,
Trusting him to bring me to the goal,
Leaning on his blessed word forevermore.

I have peace, perfect peace within my soul,
Peace like a river that maketh whole:
Since Jesus died for me, Has cleansed and made me free,
I have peace, perfect peace within my soul.

take up so much of his time and attention that he will forget us. Nor can those evil angels that hate God and hate us separate between us and his love. Even Satan himself, their leader and master, has not power to come between us and the love of God. Ah, soul, do not be afraid. Satan has no knife sharp enough to cut that love. He has no strength to tear its tendrils out of our hearts. He cannot burn those cords that hold us. Even all his legions cannot touch that love, if we trust it and trust ourselves in God’s keeping.

Then he says, “Nor things present.” O my brother, sister, do you believe that? Do you believe that the things of this hour, whatever they may be, cannot separate you from the love of God? “Things present.” How many things there are

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The Death of Christ

By: John Bunyan (From the compilation — The Riches of Bunyan)

We read that Jesus Christ was never happier in all His life on earth, than when He was about to lay down His life for His enemies. At that moment, He thanked God and sang. Christ died and endured sin's price, and He did that all by Himself, with no intercessor between God and Him. He grappled firsthand with God's eternal justice, and it killed Him as the price for sin. No one was there to break the blow of God's justice against Him, making Him the curse of sin.

We can see that Christ died this cursed death by the frame of mind He was in at the time He was taken. Never was any mortal so frightened of approaching death as was our Lord Jesus Christ. He was confused beyond our ability to comprehend, gripped with sorrow: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" and "he began to be sorrowful and very heavy" (Matthew 26:37-38). Now remember, Jesus Christ was better able to grapple with death, even alone, than all the rest of the world put together. After all, He was infinitely anointed with the Spirit; He had perfect grace in Him; no one else has ever had so much of His Father's love as He did; no one else was ever so completely innocent and without sin as He was, and consequently no one else has ever had such a clean conscience as He did; other people have never had such a stock of good works to keep them company at the hour of their deaths as He did; no one else has had more assurance of being with the Father eternally in heaven than He did. And yet, when Christ was about to die, notice how weak He was, how perplexed by death, how depressed and sorrowful! The Bible gives us no reason for His feelings except the approach of death.

On the other hand, how often we poor mortals laugh at destruction when it comes, rejoicing when we face the grave, looking upon death as a part of our inheritance, in fact, something that will bring us relief and help (1 Corinthians 3:22).

Jesus could not do this, since He was dying for our sin; instead the nearer He came to death, the more heavy and oppressed He was by thoughts of the revenging hand of God. That is why He fell into an agony, sweating not as we do, when our death will merely sever body and soul, but: "He was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood" (Luke 22:44).

Why should death assault Him like this, stinging Him like a hornet? If Jesus had gone to die bearing only His own virtue, without a doubt He would have borne it lightly.

Human martyrs have always made little of death, since they have peace with God through Jesus Christ. The most painful torments that humanity and hell can invent barely faze them! But Jesus Christ *was* fazed, for He was a sacrifice for sin; He died our death and was made a curse for us. Oh, brothers and sisters, Christ died many deaths at the same time, for he died the death that each of us deserved. At His birth He was with the poor and the innocent, but He made His grave with the wicked and the rich, identifying with them in His death.

Our sin was inserted into the death He died, along with the awful separation from God that our selfishness causes, and that is why death was so bitter to Jesus Christ. The apostle speaks as if no one else had ever died besides Christ, but actually no one *has* died the sort of death He did. If we think of death as simply the deprivation of natural life, then death cannot explain the effect it

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Paul's Persuasion

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present. How many things there are that press in upon us! How many discouragements there are in life! How many perplexities! How many things that trouble! How many things that would draw us away! Yet, if we keep our trust in God, none of these things will be able to separate us from his love. None of these things will make him turn his back upon us.

"Nor things to come." Do you look into the future with dread? Do you see with forebodings the things that appear there? Do you think, "How shall I ever pass through it? How shall I ever overcome?" Ah, those things that are ahead of you cannot separate you from God's love. That love is going to securely hold you through them all. That love is going to be your strength and your safeguard, your hope and your all. Cast away your forebodings. Look to God with confidence until the confidence of Paul enters your soul and you can say with the same assurance that he did, "I am persuaded."

Again, he says, "Nor height, nor depth." It matters not if God is in heaven, high above us. It matters not if he is so great, so majestic, so powerful. His height above us shall not prevent his love from reaching us and holding us up. "Nor depth." It matters not to what depth we sink, whether it be depths of discouragement, or depths of fear, or depths in the feeling of our own helplessness. It matters not if God is very high and we are very low, if he is very great and we are very small; our depth shall not separate us from his height. His love will bridge the gulf.

O soul, trust in that love. Rely upon it. It will never fail you. It will securely hold you in the gales of life. Tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or perils or storms—none of these things shall be able to separate you from him. And the apostle continues to say, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (v. 37). Love will bear us up as with eagles' wings. It will make smooth the rough paths. It will give strength to the fainting heart. It will preserve us while in the midst of temptation; and even when we have come short of our expectations, when we realize that we have in a measure failed, that love will not cast us off, but will hold us safe and secure until the end. Let us look to that love and be confident, and rest in full assurance of faith, knowing that,

When the storm-winds rage, and the rain falls fast,
And the clouds hang low above,
I shall be secure till the storm is past,
For I trust my Savior's love,
And he knows the way, and he holds my hand,
And he will not let it go;
He will lead me home to that better land
Just because he loves me so.

I will trust his love, for it e'er will last;
It is rich and warm and free;
Through the years of life it will hold me fast,
And my help and comfort be.
To my waiting heart all its treasures rare,
As a sparkling stream shall flow;
In the joy of God I shall ever share,
Just because he loves me so.

Doubting Thomas

Luke 24:36-48; John 20:19-31
From Elsie Egermeier's Bible Story Book

The two disciples who had met Jesus on the Emma'us road hurried to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. When they reached the room where the disciples were, they went in and closed the door. As the two told how Jesus had walked and talked with them, Jesus appeared in their midst.

"Peace be unto you," he said.

But the disciples did not feel peace and quiet in their hearts. They were frightened. Was this a spirit?

To them Jesus said, "Why are you so troubled? Why do you have such thoughts in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, and you will see that it is I. Touch me and you will know that I am not a spirit. A spirit does not have flesh and bones."

The disciples looked at his hands and feet. It really was the Lord. They were so amazed that they didn't know what to do.

"Have you anything here to eat?" Jesus asked. And they gave him broiled fish and honey.

Then Jesus opened their understanding of the Scriptures. He said, Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day. Now repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

How the disciples rejoiced at their visit with Jesus! Thomas had not been with the disciples when Jesus came. Joyfully they told him, "We have seen the Lord."

But Thomas answered, "Unless I place my finger in the print of the nails of his hands and place my hand on his side, I will not believe."

Eight days passed. Again the disciples were together in a room, and the doors were shut. This time Thomas was with them. As suddenly as before, Jesus appeared to them, and said, "Peace be to you!"

While the disciples marveled at Jesus' strange coming, he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger in my hands and place your hand on my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Falling to his knees Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you believe. Blessed are those who believe even though they have not seen me."

Selected From Streams in the Desert, Vol. 1



Have you heard the tale of the aloe plant

Away in the sunny clime?

By the humble growth of a hundred years

It reaches it's blooming time;

And then a wondrous bud at its crown

Breaks into a thousand flowers;

This floral queen, in its blooming seen,

Is the pride of the tropical bowers,

But the plant to the flower is sacrifice,

For it blooms but once, and it dies.

Have you further heard of the aloe plant

That grows in the sunny clime;

How every one of its thousand flowers,

As they drop in blooming time,

Is an infant plant that fastens its roots

In the place that it falls to the ground,

And as fast as they drop from the dying stem,

Grow lively and lovely around?

By dying, it liveth a thousand-fold

In the young that spring from the death of the old.

Have you heard the tale of the pelican

The Arabs' Gimel El Bahr,

That lives in the African solitudes,

Where birds that live lonely are?

Have you heard how it loves its tender young,

And cares and toils for their good;

It brings them water from mountain far,

And fishes the sea for their food.

In famine it feeds them— what love can devise!

The blood of its bosom—and feeding them, dies.

Have you heard this tale—the best of them all -

The tale of the Holy and True,

He dies, but his life, in untold souls

Lives on in the world anew;

His seed prevails, and is filling the earth,

As stars fill the skies above.

He taught us to yield up the love of life,

For the sake of the life of love.

His death is our life, His loss is our gain;

The joy for the tear, the peace for the pain.



The Death of Christ

By: John Bunyan (From the compilation — The Riches of Bunyan)

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had on Christ, a person who was more righteous than an angel. In fact, even people who have lived blind, selfish lives, never wakened by their conscience, die quite peacefully. That is why we must conclude that the sorrows and agony of Jesus Christ came from some higher cause than death itself. What He suffered was the curse of God, total separation from Him because of sin, and that is something none of us have ever experienced.

Imagine the scene: At last they condemn Him to death, the death of the cross, and they hang Him up by wounds made through His hands and feet. For six hours He hangs between the earth and the heavens. No God appears to rescue Him. While He hangs there, some people make fun of Him and taunt Him. They say, "He saved others, but He can't save Himself." Others rip his clothes into pieces, casting lots for them, and still others laugh and tell Him to come down from the cross; when He says He is thirsty, they give Him vinegar to drink. And still no God appears to help Him.

Now the earth shakes, the rocks tumble into pieces, the sky becomes black, and Jesus cries out that God has forsaken Him. Pretty soon, He bows His head and dies.

And the only reason God ever gives for doing all this to His own Son is this: sin. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Christ Our Sacrifice

By: C. W. Naylor—(1 Corinthians 5:7)

Down from the portals of glory A King in his majesty came,
Humbled himself as a servant, To bear our transgressions and
shame,

He was despised and rejected, Hated by those he would save,
Yet he so loved guilty sinners, That freely his life-blood he gave.

Down in Gethsemane's garden, Behold him in agony there,
Guilt of the world laid upon him To Calvary's summit to bear.
Yet there was none that can help him, Must he thus suffer alone,
Innocent stand for the guilty, And die for their sins to atone?

See him led forth as a captive, His presence the multitude scorns,
See them array him in purple, And cruelly crown him with thorns,
Lead him outside of the city, Nail him on Calvary's tree—
Look on him there, guilty sinner, He's bleeding and dying for thee.

Look at him dying, bleeding for thee;
Tho' thou has slighted him often, Still sinner, he's pleading for thee.

Consecration

By: Mildred E. Howard & A. L. Byers

Since Jesus gave his life for me Should I not give him mine?
I'm consecrated, Lord, to thee, I shall be wholly thine.

I care not where my Lord directs, His purpose I'll fulfill;
I know he every one protects Who does his holy will.

Tho' he may call across the sea, With Jesus I will go,
And tell the lost of love so free, Till all his pow'r may know.

My home and friends are dear to me, Yet he is dearer still;
In my affections first he'll be, And first his righteous will.

My all, O Lord, to thee I'll give, Accept it as thine own;
For thee alone I'll ever live, My heart shall be thy throne.

My life, O Lord, I give to thee, My talents, time and all;
I'll serve thee, Lord, thine own to be, I'll hear thy faintest call.

Devotional

From Charles H. Spurgeon's, *Morning & Evening*

"Behold the man!" ~ John 19:5

If there be one place where our Lord Jesus most fully becomes the joy and comfort of His people, it is where He plunged deepest into the depths of woe. Come hither, gracious souls, and behold the man in the garden of Gethsemane; behold His heart so brimming with love that He cannot hold it in—so full of sorrow that it must find a vent. Behold the bloody sweat as it distils from every pore of His body, and falls upon the ground. Behold the man as they drive the nails into His hands and feet. Look up, repenting sinners, and see the sorrowful image of your suffering Lord. Mark Him, as the ruby drops stand on the thorn crown, and adorn with priceless gems the diadem of the King of Misery. Behold the man when all His bones are out of joint, and He is poured out like water and brought into the dust of death; God hath forsaken Him, and Hell compasseth Him about. Behold and see, was there ever sorrow like unto His sorrow that is done unto him? All ye that pass by draw near and look upon this spectacle of grief, unique, unparalleled, a wonder to men and angels, a prodigy unmatched. Behold the Emperor of Woe who had no equal or rival in His agonies! Gaze upon Him, ye mourners, for if there be not consolation in a crucified Christ there is no joy in earth or heaven. If in the ransom price of His blood there be not hope, ye harps of heaven, there is no joy in you, and the right hand of God shall know no pleasure for ever more. We have only woes. We have but to see His sorrows, and *our* sorrows we shall be ashamed to mention. We have but to gaze into His wounds and heal our own. If we would live aright it must be by the contemplation of His death; if we would rise to dignity, it must be by considering His humiliation and His sorrow.



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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.

Vacation Bible School

June 15-18

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages 5 - 12

Theme: Children of the Bible

