

The **Victory Voice!**



Mom/ Dad/ the Family!

May/June 2016



Pastor Elmo Parker

"Behold Thy Mother"

Jesus gave seven sayings from the cross. He gave three between nine and noon and four from noon to three. It is interesting to note that the first three had absolutely nothing to do with His sufferings! Bear in mind that no one ever suffered like Jesus did. His physical suffering, as horrible as it was, pales when compared to the spiritual suffering of our Lord. Yet for three hours He didn't say one word about His agony!

The first words from His mouth were concerning OTHERS. He cried, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!" His concern was for the well being of others, even those who were putting Him to death.

As we hear Him speak another time, we hear Him say to one of the thieves, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Our Lord would later cry, "...into Thy hands I commend my spirit" and "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" We don't hear those cries until He has cared for others!

There is yet another cry from our Saviour's lips. These words were spoken on the day and at the very moment that the Old Testament focused upon—the great day when the payment for man's sin was made! What words will God's Sacrifice utter to further enlighten His people? Perhaps He will tell us more about the justification He is securing for us on that cross! Perhaps He will tell us more about the Paradise of which He spoke earlier! Surely at such a moment as this He will utter some great theological truth we have not heard before.

Shhhh! - Hear Him speak, "John, take care of Mama!" To me these are some of the sweetest words in the Bible! Our Lord is dying in shame and ridicule—His blood is being

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spilled as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and we hear Him tenderly speak of the care of His mother.

I would have you notice three things that our Lord gave his mother that day—things that every child ought to give their mother. He gave her:

1. THE ASSURANCE OF WHERE HE WAS GOING—HEAVEN.

Does YOUR mother have such assurance? Does she know where you are going? Our Lord spoke words of assurance within the hearing of His mother. She heard Him plainly say:

- a) "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise"
- b) "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit"

Yes, her heart was broken! She had known since the day the angel announced His coming birth. The pain and sorrow that she was experiencing were comforted only by the truth so long held in her heart—**HER SON WAS GOD'S SON!** Now He is paying the price for man's sin! When the price is paid He will go back to His Father, back to Heaven!

Every mother should have the assurance that here child will be in Heaven!

Tell Mother I'll be there,
In answer to her prayer
This message blessed Saviour
To her bear.
Tell Mother I'll be there,
Heaven's joys with her to share.
O Saviour, tell my mother
I'll be there.

II. THE ASSURANCE OF PROVISION FOR HER LIFE

It is very interesting that Jesus did not say at the beginning of His ministry, "John, I want you to take the responsibility of caring for my mother." Jesus took care of her himself!

Oh, what a generation of irresponsible, shiftless people who let their mother rot in some "care center" while they don't so much as go to see her! Maybe the center IS the best place for her, but YOU need to be there for her! She was there for you! SHE "inconvenienced" her self a few times for YOU!

The Bible is not silent on this subject!

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

III. A SON WHO WAS IN THE WILL OF GOD.

Her son could honestly say:

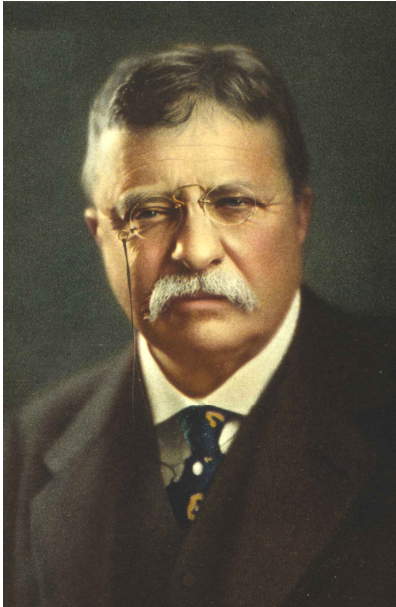
Joh 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Joh 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Every Christian mother would say with the Apostle John, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3Jn 1:4)

One closing thought; the Lord gave John the greatest gift a man could give. Jesus gave John a MOTHER! Friend, aside from His own dear Son, God's greatest gift to you was your mother! LOVE and CARE for her!





President Theodore Roosevelt

Good and Wise Mothers in the Home!

President Theodore Roosevelt

A speech given by
President Roosevelt in
Washington on March
13, 1905, before the
National Congress of
M o t h e r s .

In our modern industrial civilization there are many and grave dangers to counterbalance the splendors and the triumphs. It is not a good thing to see cities grow at disproportionate speed relatively to the country; for the small land owners, the men who own their little homes, and therefore to a very large extent the men who till farms, the men of the soil, have hitherto made the foundation of lasting national life in every State; and, if the foundation becomes either too weak or too narrow, the superstructure, no matter how attractive, is in imminent danger of falling.

But far more important than the question of the occupation of our citizens is the question of how their family life is conducted. No matter what that occupation may be, as long as there is a real home and as long as those who make up that home do their duty to one another, to their neighbors and to the State, it is of minor consequence whether the man's trade is plied in the country or in the city, whether it calls for the work of the hands or for the work of the head.

No piled-up wealth, no splendor of material growth, no brilliance of artistic development,

will permanently avail any people unless its home life is healthy, unless the average man possesses honesty, courage, common sense, and decency, unless he works hard and is willing at need to fight hard; and unless the average woman is a good wife, a good mother, able and willing to perform the first and greatest duty of womanhood, able and willing to bear, and to bring up as they should be brought up, healthy children, sound in body, mind, and character, and numerous enough so that the race shall increase and not decrease.

There are certain old truths which will be true as long as this world endures, and which no amount of progress can alter. One of these is the truth that the primary duty of the husband is to be the home-maker, the breadwinner for his wife and children, and that the primary duty of the woman is to be the helpmate, the housewife, and mother. The woman should have ample educational advantages; but save in exceptional cases the man must be, and she need not be, and generally ought not to be, trained for a lifelong career as the family breadwinner; and, therefore, after a certain point, the training of the two must normally be different because the duties of the two are normally different. This does not mean inequality of function, but it does mean that normally there must be dissimilarity of function. On the whole, I think the duty of the woman the more important, the more difficult, and the more honorable of the two; on the whole I respect the woman who does her duty even more than I respect the man who does his.

No ordinary work done by a man is either as hard or as responsible as the work of a woman who is bringing up a family of small children; for upon her time and strength demands are made not only every hour of the day but often every hour of the night. She may have to get up night after night to take care of a sick child, and yet must by day continue to do all her household duties as well; and if the family means are scant she must usually enjoy even her rare holidays taking her whole brood of children with her. The birth pangs make all men the debtors of all women. Above all our sympathy and regard are due to the struggling wives among those whom Abraham Lincoln called the plain people, and whom he so loved and trusted; for the lives of these women are often led on the lonely heights of quiet, self-sacrificing heroism.

Just as the happiest and most honorable and most useful task that can be set any man is to earn enough for the support of his wife and family, for the bringing up and starting in life of his children, so the most important, the most honorable and desirable task which can be set any woman is to be a good and wise mother in a home marked by self-respect and mutual forbearance, by willingness to perform duty, and by refusal to sink into self-indulgence or avoid that which entails effort and self-sacrifice. Of course there are exceptional men and exceptional women who can do and ought to do much more than this, who can lead and ought to lead great careers of outside usefulness in addition to--not as substitutes for--their home work; but I am not speaking of exceptions; I am speaking of the primary duties, I am speaking of the average citizens, the average men and women who make up the nation.

Inasmuch as I am speaking to an assemblage

of mothers, I shall have nothing whatever to say in praise of an easy life. Yours is the work which is never ended. No mother has an easy time, the most mothers have very hard times; and yet what true mother would barter her experience of joy and sorrow in exchange for a life of cold selfishness, which insists upon perpetual amusement and the avoidance of care, and which often finds its fit dwelling place in some flat designed to furnish with the least possible expenditure of effort the maximum of comfort and of luxury, but in which there is literally no place for children?

The woman who is a good wife, a good mother, is entitled to our respect as is no one else; but she is entitled to it only because, and so long as, she is worthy of it. Effort and self-sacrifice are the law of worthy life for the man as for the woman; though neither the effort nor the self-sacrifice may be the same for the one as for the other.

....No wrong-doing is so abhorrent as wrongdoing by a man toward the wife and the children who should arouse every tender feeling in his nature. Selfishness toward them, lack of tenderness toward them, lack of consideration for them, above all, brutality in any form toward them, should arouse the heartiest scorn and indignation in every upright soul.

I believe in the woman keeping her self-respect just as I believe in the man doing so. I believe in her rights just as much as I believe in the man's, and indeed a little more; and I regard marriage as a partnership, in which each partner is in honor bound to think of the rights of the other as well as of his or her own. But I think that the duties are even more important than the rights; and in the long run I think that the reward is ampler and greater for duty well

(Continued on page 6)

done, than for the insistence upon individual rights, necessary though this, too, must often be. Your duty is hard, your responsibility great; but greatest of all is your reward. I do not pity you in the least. On the contrary, I feel respect and admiration for you.

Into the woman's keeping is committed the destiny of the generations to come after us. In bringing up your children you mothers must remember that while it is essential to be loving and tender it is no less essential to be wise and firm. Foolishness and affection must not be treated as interchangeable terms; and besides training your sons and daughters in the softer and milder virtues, you must seek to give them those stern and hardy qualities which in after life they will surely need. Some children will go wrong in spite of the best training; and some will go right even when their surroundings are most unfortunate; nevertheless an immense amount depends upon the family training. If you mothers through weakness bring up your sons to be selfish and to think only of themselves, you will be responsible for much sadness among the women who are to be their wives in the future. If you let your daughters grow up idle, perhaps under the mistaken impression that as you yourselves have had to work hard they shall know only enjoyment, you are preparing them to be useless to others and burdens to themselves. Teach boys and girls alike that they are not to look forward to lives spent in avoiding difficulties, but to lives spent in overcoming difficulties. Teach them that work, for themselves and also for others, is not a curse but a blessing; seek to make them happy, to make them enjoy life, but seek also to make them face life with the steadfast resolution to wrest success from labor and adversity, and to do their whole duty before God and to man. Surely she who can thus train her sons and her daughters is thrice fortunate among women.

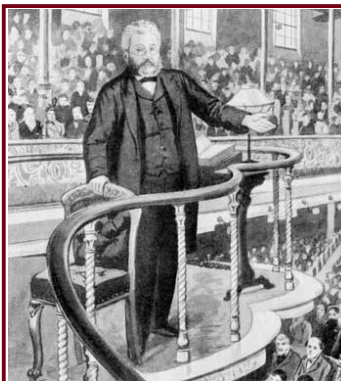
....There are unpleasant tendencies in our American life, made evident by articles such as those which I actually read not long ago in a certain paper, where a clergyman was quoted, seemingly with approval, as expressing the general American attitude when he said that the ambition of any save a very rich man should be to rear two children only, so as to give his children an opportunity "to taste a few of the good things of life."

This man, whose profession and calling should have made him a moral teacher, actually set before others the ideal, not of training children to do their duty, not of sending them forth with stout hearts and ready minds to win triumphs for themselves and their country, not of allowing them the opportunity, and giving them the privilege of making their own place in the world, but, forsooth, of keeping the number of children so limited that they might "taste a few good things!" The way to give a child a fair chance in life is not to bring it up in luxury, but to see that it has the kind of training that will give it strength of character. Even apart from the vital question of national life, and regarding only the individual interest of the children themselves, happiness in the true sense is a hundredfold more apt to come to any given member of a healthy family of healthy-minded children, well brought up, well educated, but taught that they must shift up, well educated, but taught that they must shift for themselves, must win their own way, and by their own exertions make their own positions of usefulness, than it is apt to come to those whose parents themselves have acted on and have trained their children to act on, the selfish and sordid theory that the whole end of life is to "taste a few good things."

The intelligence of the remark is on a par with its morality; for the most rudimentary mental process would have shown the speaker that if the average family in which there are children contained but two children the nation as a whole would decrease in population so rapidly that in two or three generations it would very deservedly be on the point of extinction, so that the people who had acted on this base and selfish doctrine would be giving place to others with braver and more robust ideals. Nor would such a result be in any way regrettable; for a race that practiced such doctrine--that is, a race that practiced race suicide--would thereby conclusively show that it was unfit to exist, and that it had better give place to people who had not forgotten the primary laws of their being.

To sum up, then, the whole matter is simple enough. If either a race or an individual prefers the pleasure of more effortless ease, of self-indulgence, to the infinitely deeper, the infinitely higher pleasures that come to those who know the toil and the weariness, but also the joy, of hard duty well done, why, that race or that individual must inevitably in the end pay the penalty of leading a life both vapid and ignoble. No man and no woman really worthy of the name can care for the life spent solely or chiefly in the avoidance of risk and trouble and labor. Save in exceptional cases the prizes worth having in life must be paid for, and the life worth living must be a life of work for a worthy end, and ordinarily of work more for others than for one's self.

The woman's task is not easy--no task worth doing is easy--but in doing it, and when she has done it, there shall come to her the highest and holiest joy known to mankind; and having done it, she shall have the reward prophesied in Scripture; for her husband and her children, yes, and all people who realize that her work lies at the foundation of all national happiness and greatness, shall rise up and call her blessed.



C. H. Spurgeon

CHILDREN

Psa_127:3

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

This points to another mode of building up a house, namely, by leaving descendants to keep our name and family alive upon the earth. Without this what is a man's purpose in accumulating wealth? To what purpose does he build a house if he has none in his household to hold the house after him? What boots it that he is the possessor of broad acres if he has no heir? Yet in this matter a man is powerless without the Lord. The great Napoleon, with all his sinful care on this point, could not create a dynasty. Hundreds of wealthy persons would give half their estates if they could hear the cry of a babe born of their own bodies. Children are a heritage which Jehovah himself must give, or a man will die childless, and thus his house will be unbuilt.

"And the fruit of the womb is his reward," or a reward from God. He gives children, not as a penalty nor as a burden, but as a favour. They are a token for good if men know how to receive them, and educate them. They are "doubtful blessings" only because we are doubtful persons. Where society is rightly ordered children are regarded, not as an encumbrance, but as an inheritance; and they are received, not with regret, but as a reward. If we are over-crowded in England, and so seem to be embarrassed with too large an increase, we must remember that the Lord does not order us to remain in this narrow island, but would have us fill those boundless regions which wait for the axe and the plough. Yet even here, with all the straits of limited incomes, our best possessions are our own dear offspring, for whom we bless God every day.



H. A. IRONSIDE AT 20 YEARS OF AGE

MY CONVERSION TO GOD

by Harry A. Ironside

mosphere of eternity. Yet in a very real sense, they were the bane of my boyhood. Their searching, "Henry, lad, are you born again yet?" or the equally impressive, "Are you certain that your soul is saved?" often brought me to a standstill; but I knew not how to reply.

California had become my home ere I was clear as to being a child of God. In Los Angeles, I first began to learn the love of the world and was impatient of restraint. Yet I had almost continual concern as to the great matter of my salvation.

From a very early age, God began to speak to me through His Word. I doubt if I could go back to the first time when, to my recollection, I felt something of the reality of eternal things.

My father was taken from me, ere his features were impressed upon my infant mind. But I never have heard him spoken of other than as a man of God. He was known in Toronto (my birthplace) to many as "The Eternity Man." His Bible, marked in many places, was a precious legacy to me; and from it, I learned to recite my first verse of Scripture at the age of four. I distinctly recall learning the blessed words of Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." That I was lost and that Christ Jesus came from heaven to save me were the first divine truths impressed on my young heart.

My widowed mother was, it seems to me, one of a thousand. I remember yet how I would be thrilled as she knelt with me as a child and prayed, "Father, keep my boy from ever desiring anything greater than to live for Thee. Save him early, and make him a devoted street-preacher as his father was. Make him willing to suffer for Jesus' sake, to gladly endure persecution and rejection by the world that cast out Thy Son, and keep him from what would dishonor Thee." The words were not always the same, but I have heard the sentiment times without number.

To our home there often came servants of Christ—plain, godly men, who seemed to me to carry with them the at-

I was but twelve years old when I began a Sunday-school and set up to try to help the boys and girls of the neighborhood to a knowledge of the Book I had read ten times through, but which had still left me without assurance of salvation.

To Timothy, Paul wrote, "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15). It was this latter that I lacked. I had, it seemed to me, always believed, yet I dared not say I was saved. I know now that I had always believed about Jesus. I had not really believed in Him as my personal Savior. Between the two, there is all the difference that there is between being saved and lost, between an eternity in heaven and endless ages in the lake of fire.

As I have said, I was not without considerable anxiety as to my soul; and though I longed to break into the world, and was indeed guilty of much that was vile and wicked, I ever felt a restraining hand upon me, keeping me from many things that I would otherwise have gone into; and a certain religiousness became, I suppose, characteristic. But religion is not salvation.

I was nearly fourteen years old when, upon returning one day from school, I learned that a servant of Christ from Canada, well known to me, had arrived for meetings. I knew, ere I saw him, how he would greet me; for I remem-

bered him well and his searching questions, when I was younger. Therefore I was not surprised but embarrassed nevertheless when he exclaimed, "Well, Harry, lad, I am glad to see you. And are you born again yet?"

The blood mantled my face; I hung my head and could find no words to reply. An uncle present said, "You know, Mr. M—, he preaches himself now a bit and conducts a Sunday-school!"

"Indeed!" was the answer. "Will you get your Bible, Harry?"

I was glad to get out of the room and so went at once for my Bible and returned after remaining out as long as seemed decent, hoping thereby to recover myself. Upon my reentering the room, he said kindly, but seriously, "Will you turn to Romans 3:19 and read it aloud?"

Slowly I read, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." I felt the application and was at a loss for words. The evangelist went on to tell me that he too had been once a religious sinner till God stopped his mouth and then gave him a sight of Christ. He pressed on me the importance of getting to the same place before I tried to teach others.

The words had their effect. From that time till I was sure I was saved, I refrained from talking of these things, and I gave up my Sunday-school work. But now Satan, who was seeking my soul's destruction, suggested to me, "If lost and unfit to speak of religious things to others, why not enjoy all the world has to offer, so far as you are able to avail yourself of it?"

I listened only too eagerly to his words, and for the next six months or thereabouts no one was more anxious for folly than I, though always with a smarting conscience.

At last, on a Thursday evening in February 1890, God spoke to me in tremendous power while out at a party with a lot of other young people, mostly older than myself, intent only on an evening's amusement. I remember now that I had withdrawn from the parlor for a few moments to obtain a cooling drink in the next room. Standing alone by a refreshment table, there came home to my inmost soul, in startling clearness, some verses of Scripture I had learned months before. They are found in the

first chapter of Proverbs, beginning with verse 24 and going on to verse 32. Here wisdom is represented as laughing at the calamity of the one who refused to heed instruction, and mocking when his fear cometh. Every word seemed to burn its way into my heart. I saw as never before my dreadful guilt in having so long refused to trust Christ for myself and in having preferred my own willful way to that of Him who had died for me.

I went back to the parlor and tried to join with the rest in their empty follies. But all seemed utterly hollow, and the tinsel was gone. The light of eternity was shining into the room, and I wondered how any could laugh with God's judgment hanging over us like a Damocles' sword suspended by a hair. We seemed like people sporting with closed eyes on the edge of a precipice, and I the most careless of all, till grace had made me see.

That night, when all was over, I hurried home and crept upstairs to my room. There, after lighting a lamp, I took my Bible, and with it before me, fell upon my knees.

I had an undefined feeling that I had better pray. But the thought came, "What shall I pray for?" Clearly and distinctly came back the answer, "For what God has been offering me for years. Why not then receive it, and thank Him?"

My dear mother had often said, "The place to begin with God is at Romans 3 or John 3." To both these Scriptures, I turned and read them carefully. Clearly, I saw I was a helpless sinner, but that for me Christ had died and that salvation was offered freely to all who trusted in Him. Reading John 3:16 the second time, I said, "That will do. "O God, I thank Thee that Thou hast loved me, and given Thy Son for me. I trust Him now as my Savior, and I rest on Thy Word, which tells me I have everlasting life."

Then I expected to feel a thrill of joy. It did not come. I wondered if I could be mistaken. I expected a sudden rush of love for Christ. It did not come either. I feared I could not be really saved with so little emotion.

I read the words again. There could be no mistake. God loved the world of which I formed a part. God gave His Son to save all believers. I believed in Him as my Savior. Therefore, I must have everlasting life. Again, I thanked Him and rose from my knees to begin the walk of faith. God could not lie. I knew I must be saved.



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Grandma's Tool Box!

Before a carpenter can build a house he must have a blueprint. How foolish it would be to just start building! God has a "blueprint" for us to use in order to build our house, that is our LIFE correctly. The Lord plainly states, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jer 29:11) The Lord has His plan for our life and we are wise if we build by His blueprint, the Bible.

I takes time to build a life, just as it takes time to build a house. It doesn't just spring up over night. I was saved at the age of 13. That was many years ago and God is still working on my house. I long ago passed the three score and ten of which the Bible speaks of as the length of a long life and am most certainly nearing my "completion date!" As long as I live I want to glorify the Lord.

As we think of building our lives it is only logical

use "tools" to do so; just as a carpenter would. We will use these tools to build upon the foundation of our lives. The foundation must be Christ! The Apostle Paul wrote, "other foundation can no man lay...." No matter how fine our tools may be, if we build upon a bad foundation or no foundation, we can expect our house to crumble! The Lord Jesus said:

Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Mat 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Mat 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Mat 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the

fall of it. The Grandma is wise who builds her life on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having our foundation sure, we now need tool with which to build. The first tool we need is a hammer. God said, "Is not my word like ... a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jer. 23:29) As I read and study the Bible I find that it:

1. It is the very mind of God
2. It tells the way of Salvation
3. It is the doom of lost humanity
4. It brings happiness to Believers
5. It brings Wisdom
6. It brings Holiness when obeyed
7. It brings also Joy and Peace
8. It gives direction to my Life
9. It is Food to strengthen me
10. It will Comfort and Cheer

Study it carefully and follow its directions. It will lead you to Calvary—to the empty tomb—to a resurrected life in Christ—and at last, to Glory for eternity!

Another very necessary tool is a saw. Our "saw" is love! The carpenter uses the saw to cut lumber to different lengths. When he is finished all of those pieces fit together to make one beautiful house. Our house, (life) is made up of love. That love has its beginning in the love of God for us. The Bible declares that, "God so loved the world that He have His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn. 3:16)

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (Jn 4:11) We must al-

low the love of God to fill our lives and make us a beautiful creation of His. Love for the Lord, our family, other believers, and the world will serve to build up and not tear down! The Bible declares, "...Now abideth faith, hope, Charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity." - I Cor. 13:13)

We want our house to be, "on the level," so we will need a LEVEL! Our level is FAITH. Faith is the tool that keeps us from wavering. Faith keeps us on the level—in perfect line with the standard and according to the blue print. Hebrews 10:23 admonishes us, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...." As my house gets older (I'm now a great grandma!) I think about the legacy that I shall leave. I want my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to know that my faith is strong and on the level. I want them to know that they too can be on the straight an narrow! I want them to know that faith in the Lord works!

If we are going to build we had better have some nails! Our nails are the prayers we offer before the Lord. They are the strength of our faith! They are what "holds it all together." We need to pray for our family: for our children, our grand children, and our great grandchildren, that:

1. They will all be saved
2. That they will stand against evil
3. For those who are (or will be) their mate

May the Lord help us to have our "Tool Box" filled with the right tools and give us the skill to use those tools wisely and correctly in the building of our houses!





From My Heart

I Remember Mama

by Beverly Hennesy Judge

I remember Mama
And the things she taught to me,
When I was just a little tyke
Sitting at her knee.

Her guidance and direction
All came from God above
And it was meted out to me
In fairness and in love.

And as I grew, instruction, too,
Took on a different slant.
She sometimes had to teach me by
"You shall" or "No, you can't."

Her life was hard, she was strong;
She knew it was a test.
She labored long and earnestly,
And always did her best.

She taught responsibility,
Character and love;
Success determined only if
It honored God above,

As years went by, and I left home,
Education did not cease.
I looked to her for wisdom
Which seemed only to increase.

My training then was not the same
For instead of words and looks,
New ways she had to show me things
Not often found in books.

For by example and her deeds
And how she lived her life,
I yet could be instructed
Although I was a wife,

When I became a mother
And had children of my own,
She still advised and counseled me
Though I was long since grown.

As I remember Mama,
She seems to me to be
The very best instructor
God ever gave to me.

For even in her later years
Her body wracked with pain,
She always had a smile for me
And seldom did complain.

She sometimes talked of going home,
Was ready for God's call,
She's there now with her Father
Inside the jasper wall,

After all these years, I miss her still.
I long to see her face,
Her gentle smile, her laughing eyes,
And feel her warm embrace.

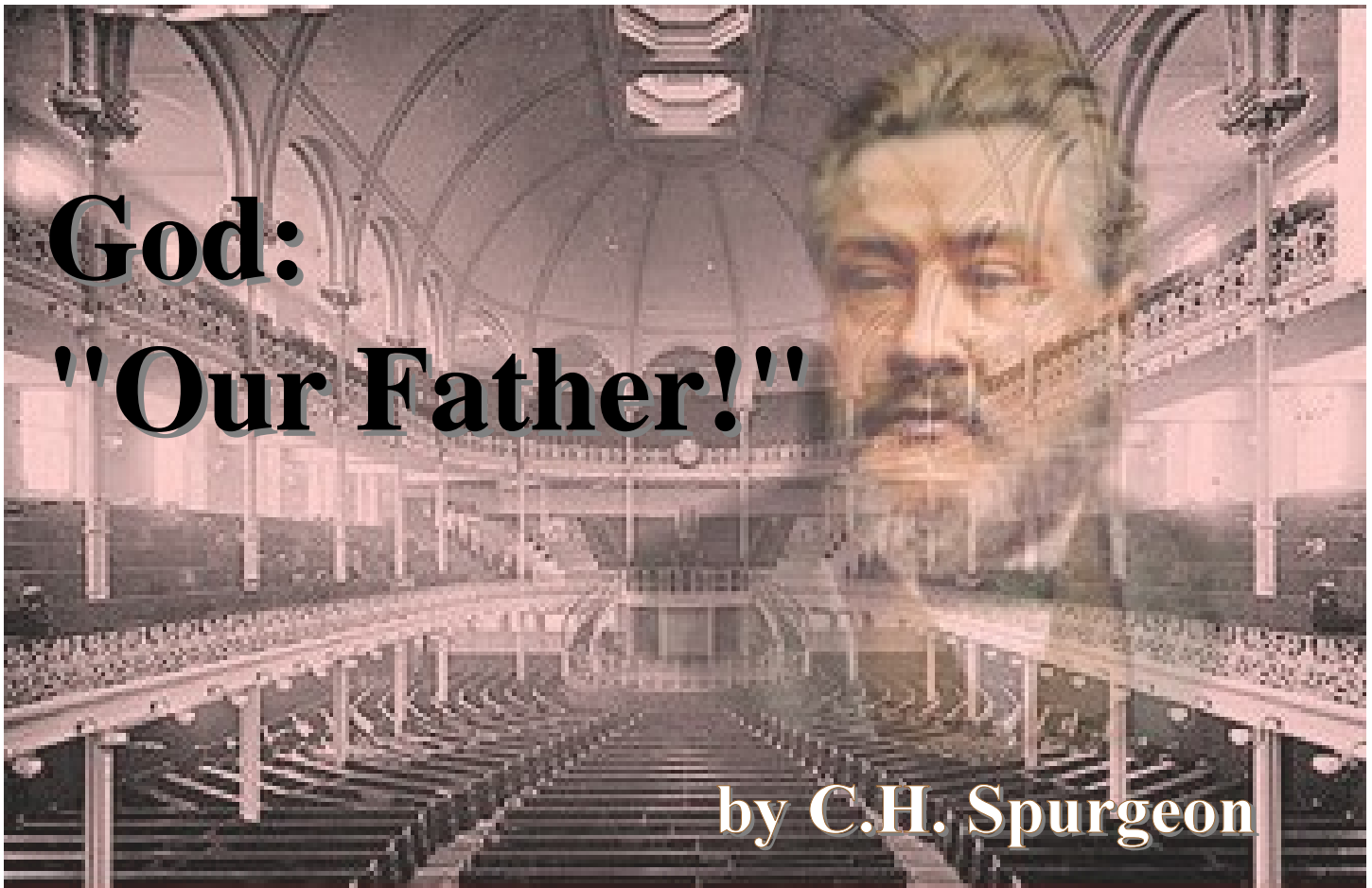
When I remember Mama
And the principles she taught,
I trust that I have learned them well
And do things as I ought.

I've a message for my mama.
I'd like to tell her, please,
That, "I remember, Mama"
It'll set her mind at ease

To know that lessons so well taught
By one who loved me so,
Are not forgotten nor ignored
By me on earth below.

Yes, I remember Mama.
And I'm thankful as can be
She's the one that God did choose
To teach and mother me.



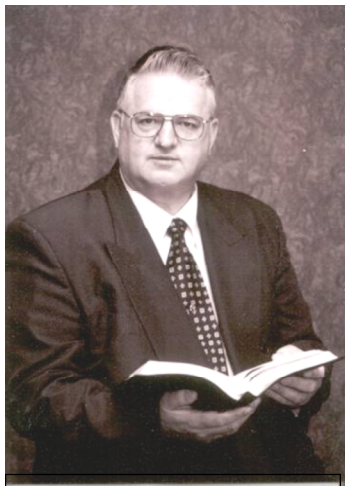


God's people are doubly his children, they are his offspring by creation, and they are his sons in Christ. Hence they are privileged to call him, "Our Father which art in heaven." Father! Oh, what precious word is that. Here is authority: "If I be a Father, where is mine honour?" If ye be sons, where is your obedience? Here is affection mingled with authority; an authority which does not provoke rebellion; an obedience demanded which is most cheerfully rendered-which would not be withheld even if it might.

The obedience which God's children yield to him must be loving obedience. Do not go about the service of God as slaves to their taskmaster's toil, but run in the way of his commands because it is your Father's way. Yield your bodies as instruments of righteousness, because righteousness is your Father's will, and his will should be the will of his child. Father!-Here is a kingly attribute so sweetly veiled in love, that the King's crown

is forgotten in the King's face, and his scepter becomes, not a rod of iron, but a silver scepter of mercy-the scepter indeed seems to be forgotten in the tender hand of him who wields it. Father!-Here is honour and love. How great is a Father's love to his children! That which friendship cannot do, and mere benevolence will not attempt, a father's heart and hand must do for his sons. They are his offspring, he must bless them; they are his children, he must show himself strong in their defense.

If an earthly father watches over his children with unceasing love and care, how much more does our heavenly Father? Abba, Father! He who can say this, hath uttered better music than cherubim or seraphim can reach. There is heaven in the depth of that word-Father! There is all I can ask; all my necessities can demand; all my wishes can desire. I have all in all to all eternity when I can say, "Father." ■



DR. ANDREW TULLY

FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS

(Proverbs 31:10-31)

The Bible has a lot to say about women, and especially MOTHERS. Billy Sunday once said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." How true that is!

At this time of the year when we celebrate a special day set aside to celebrate motherhood, I often think of my own dear mother. Some of the sweetest memories that I enjoy are the memories of my own mother. She was born in England to a Congregational minister and his wife; that was in the day when Congregational ministers believed the Bible and preached it faithfully.

She married Leonard Tully and together they brought seven children into the world. I was the seventh, born in November of 1945. Two of my siblings I have never met; one died in infancy and the other died as a result of disease picked up in the bomb shelters in England during World War II.

*My mother went to be with the Lord in 1972, after a long and arduous struggle with cancer. There are **seven (7) great qualities** that my dear mother had that I would like to share with you. It is my hope and prayer that in our day of loose living, forgotten morals, and characterless society, all mothers or prospective mothers will desire these traits in their lives also.*

MOTHER HAD A SAVIOUR

My mother received Jesus Christ as her own personal Lord and Saviour as a thirteen year old girl in a Christian home. By her own testimony she was won to Christ by her minister father. She came to the place where she realized that she was a sinner (Romans 3:23), she knew that the only payment there was for being a sinner was eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23), she believed that Jesus Christ died for her and arose the third day (Romans 5:8), and then she responded and personally received the Lord Jesus Christ as her own personal Saviour (Romans 10:9-10).

As a teen-ager she got away from the Lord and married an unsaved man; however, later on in life, when she was stricken with the cancer that eventually took her life, she came back to the Lord and thus lived for her Saviour the last nine years of her life.

The most important quality that a mother can possess, or anyone for that matter, is that of being a child of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Dear reader, if you have never personally received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, it is my prayer that you will stop even now and do so.

MOTHER HAD A CHURCH

My mother was away from the Lord for much of her life, but as soon as she came back like the prodigal, she immediately got herself into a good Bible-believing church in Richmond, California, my parents' place of residence. One cannot be too faithful to a good church. God demands in Hebrews 10:25 that we "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together...but so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

Jesus died for the church (Ephesians 10:25); He is Lord of the church; it is His body. To be unfaithful to the church (His body) is to be unfaithful to Christ (the Head). One's attitude toward the local church is a good measuring stick of his attitude toward Christ. Jesus told Saul of Tarsus, who had spent his life thus far persecuting "the church," "Why persecutes thou ME?" (Acts 9). The Lord Jesus Christ takes our attitude toward the church personal. Our attitude toward the "body" is indicative of our attitude toward the "head" of the church.

MOTHER HAD A BIBLE

Once my mother got back to the Lord I often saw her reading her Bible. She knew that the Bible is the Word of God; and she was determined to know Him better in His Word (II Timothy 3:16-17).

One cannot over-emphasize the importance of personal involvement in Bible study. II Timothy 2:15 commands us to “study” the Word of God. We see in this verse that the study of the Word of God approves one as a “workman that needeth not be ashamed.” One cannot neglect the Bible and be a good Christian. The Bible is God’s Letter of encouragement, love, and instruction to the children of God. The first and foremost activity of every day of our lives ought to be diligent study of God’s precious Book.

MOTHER HAD A PATHWAY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE – SHE PRAYED

My mother believed that God heard and answered her prayers. She knew the value of a consistent prayer life. She was not much to pray out loud and in public; she left that to the men. However, she knew that those moments of solitary communion with God were the lifeline of her Christian life and walk with the Lord. The writer of Hebrews put it this way, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). A praying mother is the most powerful force known to the kingdom of God.

MOTHER HAD A TREMENDOUS TASK – RAISING HER CHILDREN

Proverbs 22:16 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

My own mother had quite a task in raising seven children. I am sad to say that during the formative years of many of my siblings my mother was out of fellowship with the Lord, and as a result many of them did not turn out for the Lord. However, I will never forget the principles my dear mother installed in me when I was at home. She had an immeasurable part in my being saved, growing in the Lord, and then entering the ministry. Her part in my 53 years in the ministry is beyond measure. Like Billy Sunday said, “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”

MOTHER HAD A HOPE

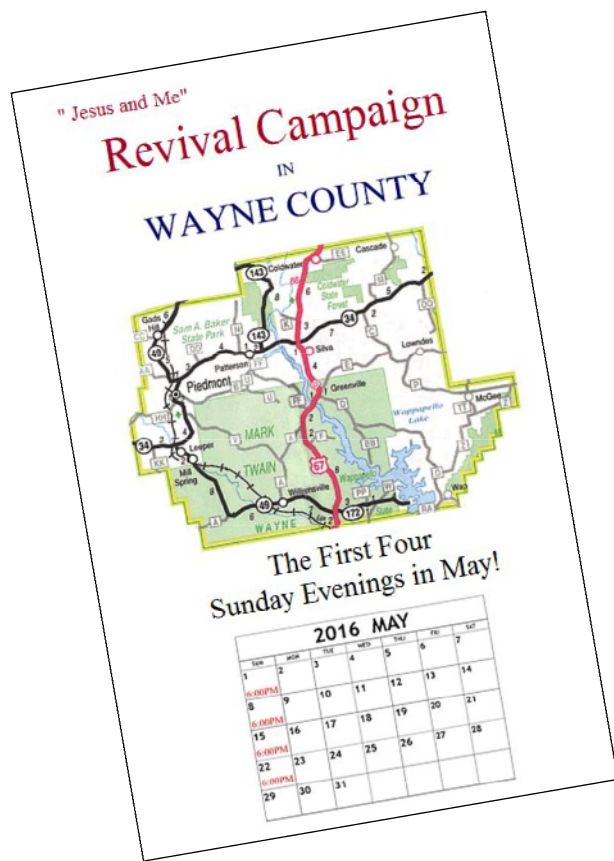
As mentioned above, my mother struggled with cancer for nine years, and it eventually took her life. However, as she approached the end she was happy to know that in death she would graduate to Heaven and be in the personal presence of the Lord, whom she loved and attempted to serve during her final years.

The reason that God wrote the Bible was that we might know beyond a doubt that Heaven is our home. “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye HAVE eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13).

My friend, if you die without Jesus Christ and go to Hell it will be because you failed to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:9, 13).

My dear mother had the assurance that she was Heaven-bound because she had a faith that she placed in the Saviour of the world (John 3:16). She had saving faith (Acts 16:31); but she also had faith in the promise of Romans 8:28 and 29 that everything that came into her life was part of the plan of God to make her more like His Son. Then she also had a faith in her future (John 14:1-6). She faced physical death with joy and the assurance that when she passed from this life she would immediately be in the presence of the Saviour whom she loved. Thus, according to my dad’s testimony, she died with a big smile on her face. I remember as a seventeen year old boy in high school the day that I my pastor took me to the hospital on the way to school to see my mother, who was facing uncertain cancer surgery. After we prayed with her and left the room, the pastor looked at me and said, “You need to go back in there and hug your mother and tell her that you love her!” I did just that.

I praise the Lord for my mother and the influence she had on my life. She was saved – and she lived the last years of her life for the Lord. She was the most valuable influence on my life at that time. Never underestimate the value of a godly mother!



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