

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
Lord's Day afternoon December 11th 1910

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. (1 Peter 1:10)

When we sat down we were speaking of what awaits those who are called unto God's eternal glory by Jesus Christ. O what a sight it will be, to see the God-Man in that human nature in which He suffered! We noticed this morning that every sinner that is called by grace, and enters God's eternal glory, it must be through sufferings. Through sufferings great Christ reigns in heaven, and do you expect to see Him but through a way of suffering? You never will see Jesus as He is, but through a way of suffering. *If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him. (2 Timothy 2:12)* No cross, no crown. I heard from a minister during the past week, and he said, "We are not without our promised tribulations." I thought, "Ah, my friend, I can say the same." *In the world ye shall have tribulation. (John 16:33)* *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)* God gives grace, and He crowns that grace with glory too.

Peter knew the path these saints would be called to tread; therefore he commends them to the God of all grace. And this brings us to notice that the apostle, in pleading with the Lord on behalf of those He has called to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, addresses Him as *the God of all grace* – all the grace they need from the time divine life enters the soul until they commit their soul into the hands of God. What ever grace they need they will live to prove Him to be *the God of all grace*.

Let me begin here with the seekers. You are seeking God's pardoning grace. He is the God of that grace. You want the Lord to bless your soul with a felt sense of forgiving love. He is the God of that grace. He has been gracious to you in bringing you to feel your need of pardoning grace, and the very feeling of your soul is:

*Plenteous grace in Thee is found;
Grace to pardon all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within. (Charles Wesley)*

O can you answer to it? Is there something in your breast that echoes to it? Yes, say you, that is the desire of my soul. Christ has given you grace to feel your need of pardon. And you come to the throne of grace for pardon. May the Holy Ghost help you to come with holy boldness.

Who can forgive sins but God? The pope cannot forgive sins. We are being sold into the hands of popery every day. I feel this increasingly. There are men in the Church of England, and I believe those men have dispensation to receive men into the Church of Rome. I do not wonder that God's judgements are upon us. Would to God He would raise up another Luther. Popery is making rapid strides. None can forgive sins but God. Sooner or later, those that thirst for forgiveness of sins shall drink of that pardoning love which flows from the river that John saw. The Lord is still able to speak and say: *Son, daughter, thy sins are all forgiven thee. Go in peace. He is the God of all grace.*

Now there are some in this congregation who have tasted this. Perhaps there are some members of this church, and you dare not say you have tasted it. God has raised you to a hope in His mercy, you have been baptised on the profession of your faith, and you are waiting to taste pardoning grace. You would not part with that hope for all the world. Your *hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness*. You want the God of grace to speak to you with almighty power: *Thy sins are all forgiven thee*. Well, plead your cause, pour out your heart before Him. He is the God of justifying grace.

We shall only just be able to touch upon the things which come to our mind. He is the God of sanctifying grace. He is the God of all the grace you need. He is the God of persevering grace. You say, "I do need the grace of perseverance." You say, "I want the Lord to visit me as He has done in days that are past. *Draw me, and I will run after Thee.*" O my friend, He is the God of renewing grace. He can cause you to say: "*Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib. (Song 6:12)* O what grace I feel to need to keep me!" That was a good prayer of Jabez: that he might be kept from evil. (*1 Chronicles 4:10*) You know what it is, some of you, to want grace to keep you from evil. Christ prayed that His disciples might be kept from evil. (*John 17:15*) If you love this world, the love of the Father is not in you. There is that in me that would go after the world, but blessed be God, there is that which would not have it. *Keep me from evil.* May I be in the world, but not of it. *Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. (Psalm 17:5)* Give me grace to live nearer to Thee. Form me for Thyself. What a mercy to be kept from evil!

When I have heard the rabble of late, I have said: Lord, keep me from evil. I do not say that you, as a godly man, are not to be concerned as to what takes place in the nation. I never have been a politician. Enter into thy closet, and lay the matter before the Lord, and pray to Him on behalf of the nation.. Do not mingle with them. It comes very close. We may argue about what takes place in the nation, but the Word of God says: *Come out from among them...touch not the unclean thing. (2 Corinthians 6:17)* I love my nation. I pray for my nation. My dear pastor used to say that the poor woman in the garret, praying for the nation has more power than any politician. That woman has a single eye to God's glory, and is willing to suffer with the nation for its sin. I have often thought of Elijah – he shut up heaven by prayer. May you seek grace to walk before God with a good conscience. Walk uprightly in His fear, and have a single eye to His glory. May He keep you in the hour of temptation, and from bringing a reproach upon the cause of truth.

Perhaps that is what keeps some of you back from speaking of the things you have tasted of the Lord's dealings with you. You say, "Perhaps they would not receive me, or if they did, I might bring a reproach upon the cause of truth." Well, friends, God is as well able to keep you in the church as He is out of it. O what a mercy that He has all that grace you need! Whether you have lost property, or family losses, or health – what ever losses – there is grace in God to help you to be patient under every cross.

I felt very low when the words of my text dropped into my soul. *Joseph Hart* was right when he said:

*Pore not on thyself too long,
Lest it sink thee lower;
Look to Jesus, kind as strong –
Mercy joined with power.*

God can give ministerial grace, just the grace I need. He is *the God of all grace*. I have felt that, if God was not the God of all grace, we might exhaust that grace – just the grace that soul needs. Let us seek grace, then, *whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28,29)*

I shall have to leave the subject. I will just read what the apostle prayed to the God of all grace on the behalf of those He had called into His glory, that after they had suffered a while – not for long – for if you and I were to suffer from the day of our birth to the day of our death, it would not be one hundred years, only a day with our Lord. *After ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.* Whether we shall be led to take up the subject again we must leave. We are in the Lord's hand. May He add His blessing, and to His name shall be all the praise.