

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's Day January 1st 1911

Morning Sermon

*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:5,6)*

I trust my soul was solemnly exercised this morning before I left my bed. I hope there was a thirsting in my heart for real happiness. The thought came to my mind: Doubtless one and another will say, "I wish you a happy new year." And I will say to that person, "I wish you the same." Then immediately another thought came: How can I wish a person in darkness, and dead in trespasses and sins, and maybe dead in a profession, a happy new year? As many of you, my dear friends, who are partakers of grace, I wish you a happy new year, and much happiness in the year.

*Happiness, thou lovely name,
Where's thy seat, O tell me where?
Learning, pleasure, wealth, and fame,
All cry out, "It is not here."*

Object of my first desire –
O what a mercy, my dear friends, if you can come in here!
*Object of my first desire,
Jesus, crucified for me;
All to happiness aspire,
Only to be found in Thee. (A M Toplady)*

There is no real happiness to be found – only in Christ. I have found happiness, comfort, rest, and salvation there. Have you? What sort of Christmas have you had? My thoughts have travelled to Brockham Green, and I have wondered how you have been spending your Christmas, and as to whether you have been favoured in your meditation, and to go to Bethlehem. I do not know when two lines of a hymn so broke me down as they did last Lord's Day when they were given out. The words were:

*Let us with humble hearts repair
To little Bethlehem, and there
Adore our infant God. (Joseph Hart)*

By precious faith I saw my infant God, and did adore Him. As I gazed, I trust with the eye of faith, upon that infant Babe, my soul was humbled within me with the thought of His love for me. *Many waters cannot quench love. (Song of Solomon 8:7)* And it did appear to me I was leaning hard upon Him, and speaking to Him of His love to such a worthless worm of earth.

*O the love of Christ to sinners!
Who can make its wonders known?
Endless love He fixed upon us,
In eternity that's past. (William Gadsby)*

O what a mercy to have any experience in these deep things of God!

This epistle from which our text is taken was addressed to *the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ*. I wish you to notice particularly that the apostle speaks of the church being *in the Father*. We are apt to think of the church being in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is so, friends. But all that dwelleth in Christ dwelleth in the Father, and in the Holy Ghost. The Father

Himself loves us through Jesus Christ. O what a blessed union there is between the eternal God and the church! O what an unspeakable mercy to be brought by the grace of God to know anything of these things!

The apostle speaks of the coming of Christ, and of some being asleep. When the Lord comes, He will bring them with Him. *We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. So shall we ever be with the Lord. (ch.4:14,17)* O my friends, just you look at this expression, and may the Holy Ghost favour you in your meditation. O where would you be? Where would I be? If I know my heart aright, I would be for ever with the Lord. Would you? If I am a child of God, I shall be for ever with the Lord. Alive or asleep, I shall be with Him. O to look forward to that time, and there –

– *from the rivers of His grace,
Drink endless pleasures in. (Isaac Watts)*

Sin cleaves closer to us than our skin, but to think the time will come when there will be no more sin! The apostle says in writing to these saints that there was no need to write to them *of the times and seasons. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.* I have read that the pains of a woman in travail are as severe as it is possible for human beings to bear. What solemn words! *They shall say, Peace and safety, but sudden destruction shall come upon them. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness.*

It was about 6.30 last night when these words arrested my attention: *Ye are all the children of light, and children of the day.* What a mercy, I thought, if I can go before my church and say: *Ye are all the children of light – not of the night, nor of darkness!* Well, those that are united in church fellowship should be all the children of light. But alas, it is not so. It comes very close, friends. I want to bring matters right home. Close preaching won't hurt you. It never did a child of God any real harm. The closer the preaching, the more a gracious soul cleaves to it, though it cuts you off. I know what I am speaking about. There will be that going out of heart for the minister, and for the prosperity of your own soul. If my preaching is close, I hope there will be a cleaving to me and to my preaching. I have begged of the Lord to give you a spirit of prayer for me. Ask the Lord to give me a pastor's heart, and to give me wisdom. I need your prayers. Ask the Lord to help me, and to help you through me, that there may be a flowing together to the goodness of the Lord for wheat and for wine, and for the young of the flock and the herd.

It will be a mercy if this year upon which we have entered should prove to be the best year we have known as a church and people. I solemnly feel my days are rapidly passing away. I do want to honour God, and to be clothed in my body and spirit, and for Him to be magnified in me, whether it be by life or death. Help us to live to Thy honour and glory. There is nothing worth living for in this world but to be found doing the will of God. O what a sin-polluted world, and the love of many waxeth cold. Men turn their hearts from the truth unto fables. We tremble for the rising generation, and beg of the Lord, if it is His sovereign will to give us peace in our time. I sometimes wish I was out of it. Last Lord's Day I wept bitterly before I left my bed by reason of these things. But we had to get up and go forth and preach the word of His grace, and we trust with a measure of unction and power. Lord, make use of me. O make use of me this morning, if it could please Thee. I want to try and cast up the highway. What a mercy when the minister is enabled to do this!

Now are you exercised as to whether you are the children of light, and not of the night or darkness? "I am so dark, it is midnight with me." It is not to say you are not a child of light because there is so much felt darkness. *Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)* Let us look into the matter. If you are an exercised soul, you will listen to every word that falls from my sinful lips. Where art thou? A person came in to see me last evening – he could only stay five minutes – he was stocktaking. I said, "Do **you** take stock?" I repeated it. At last, he saw what I meant. O my friends, do you know what it is to take stock? What sort of a year has it been that has

passed into a never-ending eternity? Well might one say: “All time is no time when time is past.” Examine yourselves and see as to whether you are in the faith. It makes you tremble sometimes when you come to look matters fairly and squarely in the face. I have been asleep – lost in sleep, so to speak. Is not it solemn? It is true.

Well, where there is this working within, there is hope. The children of light are exercised concerning these things. Many today will make resolutions. I said this morning that I shall have a good congregation. People will go to chapel today, but it will only last a few weeks, and then they give up going for a time. The child of grace wants grace given him to keep these resolutions, and to do the will of God. What an unspeakable mercy to be a child of light, that is, to have gospel light. *Now is the accepted time...the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)* O to know the day of salvation, to see light in God’s light! *If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.* I wish there was more of this, friends. *The blood of Jesus Christ...cleanseth us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:7,8)* The child of light walks in the light. He wants the Lord to be his light. A sinner in his sins and in his blood is in darkness, in the darkness of death, unregeneracy and unbelief.

Well, let me put it after this manner. You are not walking in the darkness, in unregeneracy and unbelief. Ye were one time in darkness, but there came a time when the Lord gave you light, and there were discoveries made, and this caused you much exercise and distress, and brought you with earnest supplication before Him, and you felt yourself a ruined and lost man. The Lord Jesus Christ was given *a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel. (Luke 2:32)* There is no real spiritual light but what comes from God. O what discoveries! You never thought there was such evil in you as you now see, and you cried out from the depth of your soul, feeling: “What shall I do? What will become of me? Lord, have mercy upon me.” Ah friends, perhaps it is here a little, now there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept. God cannot look upon sin with any allowance. O I am nothing but sin, a mass of pollution, black as any fiend, black.

Unless light has come, you are in darkness, you are in the darkness of death. But if the light has come, you are a child of light. If you do not know it, you shall know it, and be brought blessedly to realise it, and say in God’s own good time, way, and manner what the psalmist saw: *The Lord is my light and my salvation...of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)*

May the Lord add His blessing.

Afternoon Sermon

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:5,6)

When we sat down this morning we were speaking of the Lord giving light. Every vessel of mercy will know in God’s own good time what it is to receive light. One would hardly have thought that Saul of Tarsus was a vessel of mercy. The time came when the Lord gave him light. The Lord struck him down on the way to Damascus. The light of God shone into the man’s soul. And he used such language as this: *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)* This is just what God does in the experience of every vessel of mercy.

Every seeking soul will, sooner or later, have the revelation of the Person of the Son of God. If you are a seeking soul, you shall not die until you have seen the Lord’s Christ. Ah, say some of you, I wish I could believe it. I have been longing for months and years to receive it. Is there room in your heart for Christ? There was no room for Him in the inn. There is no room in the hearts of

unregenerate sinners for Him. But the Lord has made room in your heart, and come and taken possession of it. That He will, I know He will. *Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37)* That is your sheet anchor. He will never cast out one that feels his need of Him. Plead your cause, and tell Him what is in your heart. He will not be offended. He loves to hear seeking souls tell Him what they feel towards Him.

*Tarry His leisure, then;
Wait the appointed hour;
Wait till the Bridegroom of your souls
Reveal His love with power. (A M Toplady)*

He will reveal His love with power. I speak it with reverence – He must! You know salvation came to Zacchaeus. I do not know that he was seeking salvation. Out of curiosity he climbed into the tree. But when the blessed Christ came where he was, He said: *Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. This day is salvation come to this house. (Luke 10:5,9)* The Lord will come, and send you a great Saviour, and He will be your light, and you will be manifest as a child of light, and walk in God's light. You are willing to come to the light. If you have the light of God in your soul, you will want to come to the light. You are willing to come to the light. You want things to be made right, and a light to shine upon your road that leads you to the Lamb. You do not want to have a name to live and be dead. You are willing to be reproved, and to be dealt with as the Lord deals with His children. They are brought to see God's light.

These words dropped with power into my soul on one occasion: *Thou art my light.* He is the way and the truth. It is a mercy when we do realise this, and have the witness in our souls. The Lord Jesus Christ gives them an understanding that they may understand the scriptures. Blessed are the eyes of these children of light, for they see, and their ears, for they hear. O what a mercy to know something of this light, and not to be left in Egyptian darkness! *Behold, O My people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves. (Ezekiel 37:12)* *Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. (Ephesians 5:14)* Christ shall give thee light. O my dear hearers, bear with me before I pass on, as I put the question to you. Are you a child of light? Can you say with the witness in your breast: "We are not of the night. We were of the night, but now we are no longer of the night, nor of darkness, but children of the night." Would to God it were true of every member whose name is enrolled in the church books.

I purposely read the 25th chapter of *Matthew* that I might mention this. The kingdom of heaven is likened unto ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. It is not every professor, or member of the church, or minister that is wise. It comes very close. Men may go forth with the lamp of profession, as these ten virgins did. O how solemn, how painfully sad! They all slumbered and slept, and yet at any moment the bridegroom might come. They were fast asleep. Is not it solemn? Where is the church at the present time? Where is the professor at the present time? How is it with you? How is it with the man in the pulpit? *Therefore let us not sleep as do others.* I sometimes say we have in this blessed Book doctrine, experience, and precept. And we need them. It is possible for a professor to contend for doctrine, to love it. A minister said to me the other day, "I know a man that likes sound doctrine, but there is nothing said about the covenant. You may love sound doctrine and be damned." It is a solemn statement to make, but it is a fact. There is a gracious experience of the doctrine when the soul is wrought upon by the Holy Ghost.

*Though God's election is a truth,
Small comfort there I see,
Till I am told by God's own mouth,
That He has chosen me. (Joseph Hart)*

He will want the blessed Spirit to give him to see his calling. And that man will be diligent, and will have ministered unto him an abundant entrance into the kingdom of grace. That man will love God's precepts. I think I can honestly say my soul loves God's precepts, and would seek grace to be found doing the will of God.

Therefore let us not sleep. There is a danger of falling asleep as do others. I do not know how it is with you, but I do solemnly feel the days and months are fast passing away. *Time, what an empty vapour 'tis. Let us walk as children of the light. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (Romans 13:12) Walk circumspectly, nor as fools, but as wise. (Ephesians 5:15) Let us not sleep.* When a man sleeps he is dead to the world. A child of God may be asleep, and dead to the things of God. Do you follow me? But he cannot sleep as he once slept. But he may be in a very solemn place. The spirit of slumber may come over him, just as a person may come into a place of worship and fall asleep, and be dead as to what the minister is saying. The late John Warburton had a deacon or a member who always went to sleep when he was preaching. His excuse was that he could trust him, but he liked to hear what the supplies said, for he could not trust them. *Therefore let us not sleep.*

You know what it was, some of you, after the day of your espousal, to have the spirit of slumber. The church says: *I sleep, but my heart waketh. (Song of Solomon 5:2)* Ah, when the Lord begins to work, and the heart waketh, there is a coming forth, and a rising from the dead, as this light is communicated. The Lord comes and lightens the soul, and this is the feeling of the soul: "O Lord, let me not sleep." Ah, there is a needs-be to be awake. When we wake from sleep we shall live together with Him. *Christ...died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10)* This is another sleep referred to here. Here the apostle exhorts them to guard against the Spirit of slumber. May you and I be guarded against it. Perhaps I am more guilty of this than any in this house of prayer. I need grace from the God of all grace.

Let us watch and be sober. What a needs-be there is to watch! As we have entered upon another year – I should like to branch out here, but time will not allow – *Let us watch.* Let us watch our spirits. Christ said to His disciples: *Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. (Luke 9:55)* They would call down fire from heaven upon them that did not follow after Christ as they did. O what a needs-be there is to watch, and to be made awake, so to speak! O may we have grace given unto us to watch, and to watch the Lord's hand – to be very watchful, very prayerful. *Let us watch, and be sober* – sober minded. It takes this in, friends, to be sober in all things. Do you meet with many who are fruitful in every good work, or many who can testify of the grace of God working mightily in them to this end? We do not know how or when we may be attacked. We know that Satan desires to have every child of God. *Be sober, be vigilant, says the Apostle Peter, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)* We may soon bring guilt and condemnation into the conscience. *Therefore let us watch and be sober.*

A wise man's eyes are in his head; an unwise man walks in darkness. O to have our spiritual eyesight anointed with eye salve – to watch and be sober! Let me say this, my dear people, before I sit down. The desire of my soul for you is, not only for you as a church and people, but you outsiders as well, oftentimes my heart goes out for you, that you be made manifest as children of the light. May you not sleep as do others, but *watch and be sober.* May you know something of these deep things for yourselves.

*May His presence through your journey shine,
And crown your journey's end.*

Amen