

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day October 2nd 1910

Morning Sermon

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished. (2 Peter 2:9)

The apostle Peter styled himself *a servant, and an apostle of Jesus Christ. (ch.1)* He was God's servant, and he was an apostle of Jesus Christ. He is writing to those *that have obtained like precious faith...through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.* It is no small mercy, beloved, to be a partaker of like precious faith as Peter and the apostles were partakers of. Faith is the gift of God. We cannot remind you too often of this. It does not stand in the wisdom of man; it stands in the power of God. One grain of faith is of infinite value. One grain of faith is more precious than a million worlds. O if you are a partaker of like precious faith, you will go to heaven. I am as satisfied of it as I am of my own existence.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises. (2 Peter 1:2-4) These are sure to all the seed, *for all the promises of God in Jesus Christ are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (2 Corinthians 1:20)* O my friends, what an unspeakable mercy it is, then, to have the grace of faith, and to be numbered with the people of God, and to follow hard after the Lord Jesus Christ, to seek to have administered unto us an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle could write to these persons, and say: *We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:16, 21)* Then in the chapter from which our text is taken, he tells them of false teachers. *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (v.1)* As though he would say: as there are false teachers among the people, so in the Christian church there shall be false teachers, ungodly men, evil men, men who will creep into the church, as Jude mentions in his epistle. And you will find, friends, in the Christian church there are false teachers, and they will bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

I do not think that reference is made here to these persons being bought with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find that, when reference is made to redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ, grace is mentioned. If you look for one moment at *Deuteronomy 32 verse 6* you read: *Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?* So I say that has no reference here to persons being bought with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, for everyone that is purchased by such a price must get to heaven. But these persons, the prophets of old said: *these are thy gods which brought thee up out of Egypt. (see Exodus 32:4)* As a church, often we are plagued, if I may so put it before you, as a Christian church we are plagued with false teachers. What the apostle is bringing before these sons of God is this – that terrible destruction will befall these people.

But God's eye is upon His people, even as it was upon just Lot. And so, poor child of God, God's eye is upon you, in all your temptations and afflictions. And His eye is also upon these unjust persons, these ungodly men, and He knoweth how to reserve them unto judgement to be punished. What a remarkable deliverance was that of just Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah. And the angels took hold of

his hands and led him out of the city. The Lord knoweth, friends, how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust to the day of judgement to be punished.

I want to speak to you of these two characters – the godly and the ungodly, and the temptations of the godly. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of their temptations, the time is fixed, the time is appointed. Your temptations, your trials, may take you by surprise, but they do not take God by surprise. God will be with you in them, and deliver you from them. The Lord will do this, while the ungodly will be reserved unto the day of judgement to be punished. A blessed character is the godly. “Am I a man of God, a godly man?” Now, I know this is the exercise of those that are godly, oftentimes. “Am I a godly man?” The Word of God is very plain – you may test yourself. Come to this blessed Book, and test yourself by the Word of God. “O,” say you, “that does try me sometimes, when I come to the Word of God. It makes me tremble.” I am glad to know it! Would to God that there was more trembling at the Word of God. God looks down from His holy dwelling place upon these tremblers.

Now, every godly soul is enriched with godly sorrow for sin. Look at this for a moment. It is no use a man putting himself among the godly unless he knows something of godly sorrow for sin. My dear hearers, do you know what it is to groan because of sin? Have you godly sorrow for sin? Can you honestly say this from the very bottom of your heart: “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”? That man is a man of God who falls before God and confesses his sins. *For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found. (Psalm 32:6)* O how helpful that portion of God’s Word has been to my soul! Many times has that been helpful to me when I could not put myself among the godly. But you can put yourself among those that groan over sin. *For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found.* Now, I do believe, friends, that is a solemn assertion in your minds. It is. But I believe there are heaps of professors who never pray to God after this manner. Thousands will say today: “Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners.” But do they feel they are miserable sinners? It is not the honest feeling of their souls before a heart-searching God. But everyone that God takes in hand knows what it is to come with the burden of guilt upon the conscience. That is God’s gift. There is only One that can save. That One is the Man who came down from heaven to earth. I believe you will say:

*A Man there is, a real Man,
With wounds still gaping wide,
From which rich streams of blood once ran,
In hands, and feet, and side. (Joseph Hart)*

You believe that, do you? Yes, you say, I do. Where did you get this faith from? As the Lord liveth, it did not come from nature. It is not flesh and blood that can reveal these things. This is the Lord’s doing. So that every godly man has godly sorrow for sin, and faith in the Person of the Son of God, and comes to God supplicating His holy majesty. I believe there are such in this house of prayer. I think of some of you are in secret, and I believe I have among you, my dear hearers, those that are sighing for pardon and peace through Christ. And I say concerning you, blessed souls, Ah, that man is a blessed man, who wants the peace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ. You cannot get it any other way. God is a God of peace, and there is no peace worth having but that which comes from God, as we heard on the past Wednesday.

*This covenant, O believer, stands,
Thy rising fears to quell;
Sealed by the Surety’s bleeding hands;
In all things ordered well. (John Kent)*

So now you see the Lord makes a sinner know something of sin, and gives him godly sorrow for sin. *They shall look upon (him) whom they have pierced. (Zechariah 12:10)* Poor sinner, your sins

pierced Christ, and as they pierced Christ you will never have anything of penal wrath for sin. You will know something of the burden of sin. Christ has drunk the wrath of God due to sin. God will not, cannot –

– *payment twice demand,*
First at my bleeding Surety's hand,
And then again at mine. (A M Toplady)

You know enough to bring you before the Lord, to make you groan, as the pains of hell get hold upon you. You will never taste the hell that Jesus Christ tasted for you.

He bore it for a chosen race,
And thus became their Hiding-place. (Jehoida Brewer)

Some of us have looked upon Him whom our sins have pierced, and we have said:

The soldier pierced His side, 'tis true,
But we have pierced Him through and through. (Joseph Hart)

O what love, to think that Jesus should condescend to be made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God within Him!

Having thus said a few things for the comfort of those that are seeking God, let me say this – that the godly are sometimes favoured to realise that they are God's – when they can say, "My God is mine." Well now, come, let me ask you: Have you ever been able to say it? To say, "My God is mine."?

My God, my Father, blissful name!
O may I call Thee mine? (Anne Steele)

Has there been a time when God the Holy Ghost has borne witness with your hearts that you are the Lord's? I can look back at the moment to one spot – O what tears I shed, when the Lord favoured me to say: "My God, Thou art mine. My God, I will praise Thee."

Now, the godly man, he hates evil. You have the life of God in your soul, and do you love evil, and sin, and those things that God hates? It is impossible. You say you hate evil, you hate every evil way. O blessed man of God, he is ready to go through anything, if I may so put it. He is ready to go through anything, he is ready to follow the Lord. You will say that is strong language. Not a bit too strong! I would put it stronger, if I could. That man loves God, fears God, knows the salvation of God, and has a single eye to the glory of God, and is a servant of God, and serves God. Paul had the witness within: *Whose I am, whom I serve. (Acts 27:23)* You have the witness within, if you know anything of these things by gracious exercise. You would never have a sinful thought, you would be holy, live without sin, serve the Lord, and go into the lions' den, rather than deny Him. *Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone.* A godly man fears God, worships God, has a single eye to the glory of God, and will serve the Lord as enabled by the blessed Spirit of the living God, *whose I am, and whom I serve.*

Now, there are the persons mentioned as the godly in the words I have read by way of text. And you will find it has been in all ages, even down to the present moment of time, for these righteous souls to be vexed by the filthy conversation of the wicked. Isaiah dwelt among an ungodly people. The Psalmist says: *Gather not my soul with sinners. (Psalm 26:9)* God separates His people from all others. And they are a people formed for Himself. And they serve God, and worship God, and hate every evil way. Now, they are the persons that meet with persecution. *Marvel not, says John, if the world hate you. (1 John 3:13)* *Yea, all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)* I look at these words sometimes: *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer*

persecution. If you are a godly man, the devil will try you. The world and your own wicked heart will try you. There is no man of God but who knows something of being tried. You ransack the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation, and see how God tried them. It is written: *The Lord trieth the righteous.* The Lord tries them, tempts them.

Some persons say the Bible contradicts itself. God tempts man – that is, God tries man, He proves man. God tempts no man - that is to evil. He never tempts to evil. But He does try man. Look at Abraham – what a godly man! Now I can follow you, you say. Abraham was a godly man. Did not God try him? Did not God tempt him? God did tempt Abraham. Though Abraham had waited twenty five years, and a son had been given him, then God says, *Take thy son for a burnt offering.* But whilst we are speaking of these things, bear in mind God knows how to deliver the godly. Abraham was satisfied of this, but he did not know how He would deliver him. He said: *God will provide Himself an offering.* He spake of going to worship, and coming back with his son. He was willing to offer him up, accounting that God was able to raise him up from the dead. He was strong in faith, was Abraham. Just as he took the knife – look at the words – we may again have to look at them later on – just as he took the knife in his hand, just about to be plunged into the throat of his son: *Abraham, stay thine hand.* The Lord knows how to deliver the godly, and He knows the time when to deliver the godly, and it is fixed from everlasting, from all eternity. Do you believe it? It was fixed, the moment of deliverance. *Abraham, stay thine hand. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly.*

We leave the subject for this morning. May the Lord add His blessing.

Afternoon Sermon

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished. (2 Peter 2:9)

As the Lord was pleased to help us, we took a little notice this morning of the character, the godly. And we mentioned that the poor soul that is brought to pray for forgiveness of sins is godly; that man that smites his breast and says: *God be merciful to me, a sinner.* For forgiveness of sins shall everyone that is godly pray unto the Lord in a time when He may be found. The soul will one day find the Lord. The Lord has found him, and taught his heart to fear, and given him godly sorrow for sin, and faith in the bleeding Lamb. The bleeding Lamb will be made known to him. He will look upon Him as having union to Him.

We noticed that the Lord is sometimes very graciously pleased so to favour the poor sinner so that at times he can say, “I am the Lord’s.” And that man loves God, and the things of God, and hates evil. He loves the things that God loves, and would live nearer to the Lord, have his mind stayed upon God, and be kept from evil. That was a good prayer of Jabez that the Lord would keep him from evil. And it is a good prayer, friends, that the Lord would keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us.

Now that man reverences the name of God. God appears to him a holy God, a heart-searching God. And to such an one God will show Himself. God shows Himself to a poor man as pure, as a God that cannot look upon sin, as a God that hates evil, as a God that cannot do wickedly, as a God infinite, fearful in praises, doing wonders. My friends, have you ever been there? It comes right home to my own soul: What do I know of God? What has God shown me on Himself, the great I AM? You know if God has shown you these things. I shall ascribe great things to Him. O what a great God he is! Holiness we ascribe to Him. Angels veil their faces whilst they ascribe holiness unto Him. Sinners thus wrought upon by the power of the Holy Ghost ascribe holiness unto God.

Now these godly persons know what it is to be vexed, for the righteous soul to be vexed with the filthy conversation of the ungodly. But God knows how to deliver them. You ransack the Word of

God, and perhaps you will not find one but who is made to experience these things. You find Ezra mourned because there was so much wickedness in the land. He rose up from his heaviness, and fell down on his knees before the Lord, and said: *O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. (Ezra 9:6)* So then, Ezra knew what it was to have his righteous soul vexed by reason of these things among the people. And the Psalmist says: *Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved. (Psalm 119:55 & 158)* So you see, friends, that the godly are grieved by reason of these things. And they make an honest confession unto the Lord concerning these things. *Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips: for mine eye have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. (Isaiah 6:5)*

Now, the godly are men that are marked. God says to this man with the weapons: “Go and destroy these persons, but do not come nigh to them upon whom is the mark.” God marks His people. Do not say you are a godly man unless you have known something of these things. Every godly man groans over the abominations that are done in the land, especially for those that they feel within. *We...groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. (2 Corinthians 5:4)* O how much there is in this sin-stricken world that causes the godly to grieve, how much that vexes their ears and eyes! And how many things, I repeat, which cause them to hang down their heads, and to sigh in secret before the Lord their God. The temptations, the afflictions, and soul exercise of the godly. It does not mean simply that the Lord knoweth how to deliver them from the temptations of the devil, but from those things that vex their righteous souls – not that we would exclude the other.

But we have reference here, more especially, to what the apostle has been writing about concerning God delivering Noah. Only Noah and seven souls were saved. Noah is referred to as the eighth person. God knew how to deliver Noah, and Lot, and their families. And O, what a terrible destruction followed after they were delivered! And this is the argument of the apostle – that this same God who delivered them knows how to deliver the godly from temptation, and to pour out judgement upon the unjust. And there is something most sweet to my soul in connection with the words of our text. *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.* What is your faith? What is it that tries you, that vexes you? God is able to deliver you. The Lord knoweth how to deliver you. You perhaps think there can be no deliverance. But God know how to do it, and God will bring it about. His eyes are upon the righteous; His ears are open to their cry. *Call upon me in the day of trouble.*

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, out of affliction, out of trials, out of persecution. God knows how to deliver. And as we said this morning, the time is appointed when He will deliver – the Lord knoweth. You come to look at it for one moment. He is infinite in knowledge. He knoweth the days of the upright. He is infinite in knowledge. He sees, and He knows all things. The Lord knoweth how to deliver you. He stopped the mouth of the lions in the case of Daniel. Why, one would have expected that before he got to the bottom of the cage he would have been killed. But God delivered Daniel. He delivereth; He rescueth. He knew how to deliver those three Hebrew children. The fire had no power. Men may take these portions of the Word of God, and ridicule the Bible, but O, says the child of God, my God stopped the mouth of the lions, and saved the furnace from even touching those men cast into it.

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation. Why, look at that poor woman: her husband has died in debt, but He (through Elisha) says: Borrow vessels, not a few, and sell the oil, and pay thy husband’s debts. Nothing is more painful to a child of God than not to be able to pay their way, and to live honestly in the sight of God and man. Many a godly man has died in debt. But that does not encourage the child of God to get into debt. And he will seek for God to keep him, to live honestly in His sight, and in the sight of all men. Well God knew how to deliver the poor widow, and He did. And He commanded a widow woman to sustain Elijah. How mysterious are God’s

ways! Who would have thought that God would have commanded a poor woman to sustain the prophet? And so He did not command a millionaire to sustain him.

Is anything too hard for the Lord? O how wonderful God's way is! You say we do not hear of miracles in our day. Yes, we do! Perhaps not in the same way as we used to. I have a dear friend, a godly minister, and he has been in the hospital, and God has provided for him. He says he has never seen God after this manner before. If you are in God's hands, He will take care of you. *Thy bread shall be given thee, and thy water shall be sure. (see Isaiah 33:16) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.* Those clouds over your head that threaten to burst – they shall burst, but with blessings on your head.

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head. (William Cowper)*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. (Psalm 34:19) Casting all you care upon him, as we heard last Wednesday, for he careth for you. (1 Peter 5:7) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6) O what a mercy to have a God to go to, and to spread the matter before Him, and ask Him to deliver you! *The Lord knoweth how to deliver.*

I have a friend who says his work is a little hell to him. God knows how to deliver that man, as He has delivered some of us. O my friends, it is an infinite mercy to be separated from these men of the world, and to have that in us which loves God, and the things of God, and to have grace to serve God in our day and generation. *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.* Blessed godly! O I say, blessed godly! Blessed souls that know these things by way of gracious experience. O I say, blessed indeed are the people of God, though they may have these painful dispensations, they will prove God's faithfulness and power. Some of us have had these solemn dispensations, and we have seen men of God in them. Our dear friend wrote to me and made this remark (O how true!): It is worth, friends, going into the deep to see the works of the Lord, and to watch His hand, that God who commanded delivered for Jacob. *Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD. (Psalm 107:43)*

Let us turn our attention for a few minute to the other character that is mentioned – the wicked, the man that loves evil, those things which God hates, which are abomination to the Lord. O what solemn characters are mentioned in the context. O the ungodly, those ungodly men that are brought under our notice in the words we have written here. God overthrew the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Those men whom Noah preached to paid no attention. God drowned them. Do not think for one moment the ungodly will escape. God delivered the godly, as we have mentioned. But terrible destruction came upon the ungodly. His eyes behold them. His eyes are upon the wicked as well as upon the righteous. His eyes are upon evil men, and God is longsuffering, and we read of vessels of wrath fitted for destruction – ungodly men, licentious men, wicked men, haters of God, and hateful, unjust, in his sins and in his blood.

O my friends, what shall we say? Such were some of you, but ye are washed, and justified in the name of the Lord. *Who maketh thee to differ?* What a mercy to be made to differ, to be taken in hand by the Lord, and not be left as the unjust are left, to fill up the cup of their iniquity. Do not think there was an end to those persons that were burned. They are not annihilated. No, they are not. God has not done with them, if I may use such an expression. Men may laugh at these things, but the Word of God is true. He knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation, *and to reserve the unjust, wherever their bodies may be, and their spirits in hell, unto the day of judgement to be punished.* There is a day, friends, in which the Lord will judge the world by that man whom He hath appointed – the last judgement day in the words of our text.

The day of judgement. O how awful to think of that solemn day! Day of wonders, as you were singing in the closing hymn this morning. For I shall see Him, they which have pierced Him. *It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement. (Hebrews 9:27)* As man dies, as the tree falls, so it shall lie. As a sinner dies in his sins, so he will be in the day of judgement, at the resurrection of the dead. Daniel speaks of these men solemnly. All that are in their graves shall come forth. God knows how to *reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished.* Thousands of years roll by, man may look at it as a measure of time. What is time to God, when you come to consider it in the night? O I say, what is time, what are a thousand years to God, a million years to God? A year is a long time to look forward to, but after the year has gone, what a short time as you look back. But what is time to the Almighty? He dwells in His own eternity. And the wicked will have to come forth.

O my friends, how solemn! How do these things affect you? What are your thoughts concerning the day of judgement? All who are in their graves will have to come forth, and stand before God, and give account of the deeds done in the body. I have sometime felt this, ah, solemnly felt it, all that I have done will be presented to my eye. Sins of childhood, and of ripe years, come before one's eye in a few moments at times. O what a catalogue! When these things rise up, and are presented to our mind, what would you say? I know what I say sometimes:

*That, had I not Thy blood to plead,
Each sight would sink me to despair. (Joseph Hart)*

O it speaks peace. And then to think this, that all these things are buried in the red sea of Christ's blood, never to rise up against us! The wicked will rise with all their sins upon them. God reserves them.

In *Matthew 25* we have these words expressed: *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* But to those on the left: *Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. (v.33,34,41)* No salvation for the devils. He did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains and darkness, to be reserved unto judgement, prepared for the devil and his angels. O how solemn! Men have crept into the church and denied these things, and they say there is no such thing as a day of judgement, and there will be no such thing as being punished. God will judge the world by that man whom He hath appointed. And we are told in the Word of God that they shall be destroyed from His presence. *God reserves them unto the day of judgement to be punished.* And they will be banished from His presence into that place where hope and mercy never can come. Cast out from the presence of the Lord, where the worm dieth not, and where the fire is not quenched.

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished.

May the Lord add His blessing.