

Notes of Sermon Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's Day morning July 16th 1911

*And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.
(2 Thessalonians 3:5)*

It will be an unspeakable mercy if the Lord is pleased to direct any of our hearts this day into His love, and into the patient waiting for Christ. It is the desire of my soul that the Lord will direct my heart into His love, and it is my soul's desire that your hearts, my dear hearers, may be directed into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

This epistle was written by the apostle *Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. I want you to particularly notice this. The church was chosen in Christ from all eternity. *LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations (Psalm 90:1)* And this church to whom the apostle writes, he speaks of them as being *in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. We cannot say this of every church that is planted – that that particular church is *in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*. There are churches and churches, and professors and professors. It is the work of God's ministers to take forth and separate the precious from the vile, and if he does not do this he is not God's servant. You will find that in the ministry of Christ there was a solemn separating of the precious from the vile. It is a solemn work, and no man is called to this work but what he feels the solemnity of it. I often feel and express it, that if, with a good conscience I could keep out of the pulpit, I would, and never enter it again. I do solemnly feel the solemnity of the work of the ministry. The apostle says: *Who is sufficient for these things? Our sufficiency is of God. (2 Corinthians 2:16 & 3:5)*

Now, the apostle exhorted the church of the Thessalonians to pray for him. *Finally, brethren, pray for us. (ch.3:1)* If the great apostle needed an interest in the prayers of the saints, O how much we need an interest in your prayers! Brethren, deacons, members, pray for us; hearers, pray for us. We need an interest in your prayers.

*Wrestling prayer can wonders do;
Bring relief in deepest straits!
Prayer can force a passage through
Iron bars and brazen gates. (Isaac Newton)*

*While Moses stood with arms spread wide,
Success was found on every side;
But when, through weariness, they failed,
That moment Amalek prevailed. ((William Cowper)*

Brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you; and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith. (ch.3:1,2) All men professing faith have not faith – that is what the apostle means. He does not mean all men dead in trespasses and sins, but he means all men in the professing church have not faith. Men may get into the church, and into the pulpit, and yet they may not have faith, that is, the faith of God's elect. It is an unspeakable mercy to be a partaker of precious faith. *By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)*

Well, the apostle would have an interest in their prayers, that the word might have free course, and be glorified, and that they might be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men, for all men have not faith. But he says God is faithful, who has called us unto the kingdom of His glory. He that has called us to the work is faithful. He will be with us, and not only be with us, but He will establish us and

confirm us, and keep us from evil. He had the confidence that the Lord, who had begun a good work in these people, would carry it on. O what a mercy when the minister can go before His people and give utterance to such language! And I think I can honestly come before you, and give utterance to such language. You are in our heart, *and the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

Having then, you see, an interest in the prayers of the church, he prays for the church after this manner. We have a blessed eternity brought under our notice in this portion of the Word of God. There are three Persons in the indivisible God-head, and they are co-equal and co-eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The apostle prays the Holy Ghost, the Lord that He would direct their hearts into the love of God the Father, and with the patient waiting for Christ.

*I love the incarnate mystery,
And there I fix my trust. (Isaac Watts)*

God the Father is eternal, Christ is eternal, the Holy Ghost is eternal – three Persons in the indivisible God-head. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God and our Lord, direct your hearts into the love of God. God the Holy Ghost directs the hearts of the people of God into the love of God the Father. Is it not sweet when the heart is directed into the love of God the Father? John says: *He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. (Revelation 22:1) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God. (Psalm 46:4)* It is ever flowing. God is love in Christ, and may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God the Father.

I know there are those in this house of prayer whose hearts have been directed into the Love of God. I shall never forget how these words dropped with divine power into my soul on one occasion: *The Father Himself loveth you. (John 16:27) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. (1 John 3:1)* Sometimes we are apt to have hard thoughts concerning the Father. O the love of God the Father in predestinating us unto the adoption of a child. *Whom He did foreknow, He also so did predestinate...and whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:29-31)* God is for His people in election. Well might the psalmist say: *The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. (Psalm 118:6)*

When your hearts are directed into the love of God, you triumph in the love of God. Are you ankle-deep in the love of God this morning, or knee-deep, or swimming in love? The man of God had a vision. And he was *brought out of the way of the gate northward, and led about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; and the waters were to the ankles. (Ezekiel 47:2,3)* They were ankle-deep in love. O what a mercy to know the love of God after this manner! And the time will come when you will be knee-deep in love, and the time will come when you will swim in it. If ever we taste the love of God, we shall not be satisfied until we get to heaven and swim in His love throughout the countless ages of a never-ending eternity. Let me say this for the encouragement of any tried soul who has tasted the love of God in a precious Christ. You will get to heaven. You have been singing:

*Is He a Sun? On thee He'll shine.
Is He thy God? He'll bring thee through. (Henry Fowler)*

Paul, in 8th *Romans*, having spoken of the love of Christ, says: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? He names death first. But death will not separate us from the love of God – not death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor*

depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (v.35-39) There can be no separation. The Father has manifested His love in the gift of His dear Son. He did not spare Him. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should have everlasting life. (John 3:16) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10) He sent Him forth in the likeness of sinful flesh, and prepared a body for Him, and sent Him forth to suffer, bleed and die in the room, place and stead of millions that He chose in Him.

The Lord direct our hearts into the love of God the Father as a God that pardoneth sin, as a God that delighteth in mercy. O how sweet it is to have a taste of the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost! This is how the Holy Ghost directs the hearts of the redeemed into the love of God, and He gives a new heart, a clean heart, and renews within us a right spirit. There is no love to God in a natural heart. Bear with me whilst I make this expression. As many of you are in a state of nature, there is no love in your heart to God. There must be a passing from death unto life, and the soul that is born of God has a new heart, and this new heart is directed into the love of God the Father, and here the soul finds rest.

*Law and terrors do but harden,
All the while they work alone;
But a sense of blood-bought pardon
Soon dissolves a heart of stone. (Joseph Hart)*

When the Lord sheds His love abroad in the heart of the sinner, that heart is directed into the love of God. I could take you to the place where the Lord once broke my heart under a felt sense of His everlasting love to me, as the words dropped with almighty power into my soul: *Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)* His love is better than wine. O it does reconcile me to all that the Lord calls me to pass through in this vale of tears, and I say, "It is in love." Does He smile? It is in love. Does He chasten? It is in love. Is it not so, friends? God is all love to His people, and when your hearts are directed into His love, you feel that you are in the hands of God, and that He loves you. The Father's hand will never cause the child of God a needless tear. God puts our tears in His bottle. The time will come when all tears shall be wiped away.

*There shall we see His face,
And never, never sin;
There, from the rivers of His grace,
Drink endless pleasures in. (Isaac Watts)*

The Holy Ghost direct your hearts into the love of God the Father and the eternal Son. O the love of Christ! I wish I had the tongue of an angel that I might speak of the love of Christ! To think that Jesus Christ who loved the church should undertake to come into this world, to suffer in our room, place and stead, and undertake to present us faultless before the throne of God with exceeding joy. One says:

*He saw me ruined in the fall,
Yet loved me notwithstanding all. (Samuel Medley)*

He has entered into covenant engagement, and He will fulfil that engagement, though He sees me ruined in my sins and in my blood, yet He comes to save a man of sin, and that which was lost. *Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given* – the Son of David, God's eternal Son. He spares Him not, He sends Him forth. Paul says: *Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. (1 Timothy 3:16)* That Babe in Bethlehem's manger, the Child born, the Son given, *His shoulders held up heaven and earth.*

O may God the Holy Ghost direct your heart and my heart into the love of Christ. Angels gaze in astonishment that He should veil His deity in human flesh. He has created the world, and yet there is no room for Him in the crowded inn. There is no room in the heart of a sinner for Jesus Christ.

*The crowded inn, like sinners' hearts,
(O ignorance extreme!)
For other guests, of various sorts,
Had room; but none for Him. (Joseph Hart)*

Until He makes room in the heart, there is no room for Christ, and then the sinner fears He will not come. Persons say, "Give your heart to God; believe, and be saved – that is all you have to do." Well now, look here friends. It just comes to this: there is not a sinner in a state of nature who wants Jesus Christ. Not one – and they would never want Him. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. Until the time came when the Lord quickened your soul, you never wanted Christ. And when you did begin to want Christ, you feared that He would never have anything to do with you. But He will; He will come and save that sinner. It is recorded in His blessed Word, and sometimes we sing, and blessedly sing:

*All the fitness He requireth,
Is to feel your need of Him;
This He gives you,
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam. (Joseph Hart)*

And having come to this, the Holy Ghost will direct your hearts into the love of Christ.

*The time of love will come,
When we shall clearly see,
Not only that He shed His blood,
But each shall say, "For me." (A M Toplady)*

And their heart will be directed by the blessed Christ into the love of Christ. Paul said: *Who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

I have redeemed thee, and having redeemed thee, He calls thee, and having called you by His grace, calls effectual reach your heart. He will make known His love unto you. O friends, He will. Are you thirsting for redeeming love, pardoning love, peace? And is your heart set upon the things of God? Do you want Jesus Christ? Is there a place in your heart which none but Christ can fill? Is this the longing of your soul: Give me Christ, or else I die? Lord, reveal Thyself to me. Your heart will be directed, sooner or later, into the love of Christ. You will taste the love of Christ. The time of love must come, though you may have to wait for it. I would not say it is possible to have it just when you like. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:26)

*To praying souls He always grants
More than they can express. (John Newton)*

O my friends, you had better wait until God comes and reveals Himself to you, than to say Jesus Christ died for sinners, and I am a sinner. A person came to me on the very borders of despair, and I asked her how she came by her religion. She said, "It is written: *Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and I am a sinner.*" I said, "I do not wonder that you are brought where you are. It will not do. You must be brought with godly repentance for sin, and everyone must be washed in the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness." This will cause love to spring up into the soul to Jesus Christ, as the love of Jesus Christ is shed abroad in the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost. *I love the LORD, because He hath heard the voice of my supplications. (Psalm 28:6)* The Holy Ghost's office is to take of the things of Christ, and to reveal them. Who knows the mind of God the Father, and of

His Son, but the Holy Ghost? Who can reveal the things of Christ but the Holy Spirit? Natural men discern not spiritual things, but the spiritual man discerneth all things, and as the Holy Spirit takes of the things of Christ and reveals them, the heart is directed into the love of Christ.

And you say, some of you have said it as I have: *The love of Christ which passeth knowledge*. His love is greater than the love of women. He loves His people, and the Father loves them, and the Holy Ghost directs the heart into the love of Christ.

*Endless love He fixed upon us,
In eternity that's past;
Nor will ever take it from us;
Endless love shall ever last;
Love redeemed us,
And will ever hold us fast. (William Gadsby)*

The Lord direct us into the love of Christ. There is nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ; tribulation, destruction, famine, peril, sword, can never separate us from the love of Christ. (*see Romans 8:35*) I do not wonder that, as the apostle's heart was directed into the love of Christ, he said: *He loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)* And when the Holy Ghost reveals this to you, you are astonished, and you say, "Why me, O God, why me? O what condescension to take me from the dust of death, and to set me among princes, even among the princes of the people. And to give me to see that there is every blessing in Christ Jesus that my soul needs, and to sit with Him in heavenly places!" This is, in some measure, to have the heart directed into the love of Christ.

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

(The afternoon sermon, on the same text, was not taken down.)