

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's Day July 17th 1910

Morning Sermon

I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Timothy 4: 6-8)

The apostle had come to the end of his Christian life, to the end of his Christian ministry. He was about to be offered, about to be poured out. He was already being poured out, already come to the last, waiting to suffer martyrdom, to be put to death, to be offered up. One would scarcely have thought that the young man who had held the clothes of Stephen when he was stoned to death, would have been called to suffer as he had to suffer. *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24)*

The apostle would indeed testify of the grace of God. He knew the grace of God. What he was, he was by the grace of God. And by the grace of God, having preached the glorious gospel of the blessed God, he was ready to be put to death for Christ's sake, for the gospel's sake. *Yea, he says, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. (Philippians 2:17)*

I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. The hour has come; I am ready to die. And he looks back, friends, in this solemn hour, and he looks forward. He looks back upon his past life, upon his past ministerial labours. He says: *I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith.* He looks forward, and shall I say: *beholds eternal joys his own. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day – and unto them also that love His appearing.* We may not be called upon to suffer death, and die as he died. But friends, we shall have to die, to face death. O the question forces itself: Am I ready to die? If this was the hour of my departure, when I must leave this world, am I ready?

*Are you ready to meet God/
Are you made a real Christian,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood?*

*If my hope on Christ is stayed,
Let Him come when He thinks best;
O my soul! be not dismayed,
Lean upon His loving breast;
He will cheer thee
With the smilings of His face. (William Gadsby)*

O what an unspeakable mercy of mercies to be ready!

*Prepare me, gracious God,
To stand before Thy face;
Thy Spirit must the work perform,
For it is all of grace.*

*In Christ's obedience clothe,
And wash me in His blood;
So shall I lift my head with joy
Among the sons of God. (Elliott & Toplady)*

Everything in the world is uncertainty. We know not what an hour may bring forth. Thus what a mercy to be ready! *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 24:44)* How we watch for the last words of dying saints, and those that are near and dear to us in the ties of nature, for something to fall that shall encourage us to hope that it is well with them. We have sometimes sat by the bedside of loved ones to hear what they have to say, and they have –

– *passed the river, telling
The triumphs of their King.*

O that this poor man in the pulpit, and that you, my dear hearers, when you come into the swellings of Jordan, may *tell the triumphs of your King.*

He says: *It is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (Romans 7:17)* I thought: it is no more the apostle, but sin that dwelleth in him. *I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. (Galatians 2:20)* I do not look upon the words of the apostle as boastful words. He speaks to the praise of the grace of God. He forms His people to show forth His praise. He calls them out of darkness into light. When they give utterance to such words as we have in our text, it is to the praise of the grace of God. The apostle was a soldier; every Christian is called to fight. You remember we read just now (*2 Timothy 2:2*): *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* Timothy was a soldier; Paul was a soldier; Christians are soldiers. They are called to fight, and to active service. And they fight under the banner of King Jesus, the Captain of their salvation. O what an unspeakable mercy to have grace given unto us to wage a good warfare!

*Gird thy loins up, Christian soldier;
Lo! thy Captain calls thee out. (Joseph Hart)*

We are called to fight, and it is a lawful fight. Paul says to Timothy: *Fight the good fight of faith.* It is a good fight – it is, friends. It is hand to hand, if I may so speak.

There are three enemies we may mention as having to fight with: the flesh, the world, and the devil. There is not a man of God in this house of prayer, but who knows something of having to fight against these enemies. The apostle knew what it was. *The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh...so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Galatians 5:17)* Does not the flesh lust against the Spirit? God has put enmity between His seed – the seed of Christ – and the seed of the woman. And every child of God will know something of the lust of the flesh. *What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies. (Song of Solomon 5:13)* I said to a friend last Wednesday at Burgess Hill, “There is something in me that is after the pleasure of sin. Do you find it so, my friend?” He says, “It is so, but there is something else, I hope, that says:

*Let worldly minds the world pursue,
It has no charms for me;
Once I admired its trifles too,
But grace has set me free.” (John Newton)*

Now the flesh will try to get the mastery. The Spirit will fight against the flesh. Sometimes, friends – I will tell you honestly – there is nothing but flesh, fleshly feelings. It seems at times as though it is all flesh, and there is no Spirit. And we live to prove: *that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing. (Romans 7:18)* The flesh will not keep us in the things of God. It will give us many a groan, many a tear. *Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (v.24)* Ah my friends, it is a mercy to find that, though we sometimes fear it is all flesh, there is something that opposes the flesh. There is another something that fights against this fleshly feeling. Sometimes you are brought low in this fight. Sometimes you think it will be the master. It cannot be, friends, if we are under grace. We know something of the spirituality of the law, and we may tremble

lest sin will have dominion over us. But if we are led by the Spirit, we are not under the law. We shall have the victory through Christ, though we sometimes feel the unequal warfare, and that sin will have dominion over us. *Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14) Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. (2 Corinthians 9:15)*

I believe there are hosts of professors who know nothing of this warfare. What every man shall know, every child of God, every one shall know the plague of his own heart – which none but God give – something of the warfare. Do not you know something of this day by day, some of you, something of the lustings of the flesh, and sometimes of the fightings of the Spirit? Ah my friends, it is so. And by reason of these things you are brought on your knees before the Lord. You must have help from the Lord. You feel weak in yourselves. And you know this, that unless God helps you, you will sin and sin until you sink into a never-ending hell. You cry that Christ may reign in your heart through righteousness. You have just been singing one of my favourite hymns: *The righteous shall hold on his way* – in spite of the warfare.

*Surrounded with sorrows, temptations and cares,
This truth with delight we survey,
And sing, as we pass through this valley of tears,
The righteous shall hold on his way. (Joseph Hart)*

And it will come to these words when you come face to face with death, as it was with the apostle, the Lord being your strength, you will be enabled to say: *I have fought a good fight*, I have fought against the flesh. Sometimes you are overcome, it is true, and you fear that it will be your ruin. And the grace of God working mightily in you enables you to fight against evil and you overcome through the blood of Christ. There is such a thing as overcoming, then, in this life, and receiving the white stone, and eating the hidden manna. And friends, there have sometimes been moments in our souls' experience when we have triumphed over the flesh.

*Through the Redeemer's precious blood,
I feel the mighty power of God;
Through the rich aid divinely given,
I rise from earth, and soar to heaven. (Richard Burnham)*

We must pass on. We have to fight, then, against the world. We are in the world, but if partakers of grace, we are not of the world. The Lord protects His people from the world, and from the love of the world. I do love the 17th chapter of John, where the Lord Jesus Christ prays the Father that He will keep them from evil.

*And he is safe, and must succeed,
For whom the Lord vouchsafes to plead. (William Cowper)*

I am no more in the world, but these are in the world...I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, (that is, not until the appointed time) but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil... Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am. (John 17:11,15,24) And so He does pray that they may be taken out of the world at the appointed hour. He prays that they may be with Him, the Lord having come as a Mediator, for the Father loved them before the foundation of the world. He prays that they may be kept from the evil of the world until the hour of their departure. Now, the world loves its own, but as soon as the Father separates us from the world, the world hates us. *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (1 John 3:13)* The Lord Jesus Christ says: *It hated me before it hated you. (John 15:18)*

It is then a lawful fight. Every child of God is engaged in the fight. It is a great fight, the fight against the world. O my friends, if there is nothing in us that hates the world, and the things of the

world, we are destitute of the grace of God. But if we are possessors of the grace of God, there is that in us that hates the world. We are in it, but not of it. – that is, we are not of the spirit of the world, though we find in us that which goes after the world. Ah, there is something that goes after Christ who sitteth at the right hand of God. And there are moments when the world is nothing to us. O what is this world to us – my affections, my heart, is not set on the things of this world. But Christ has my heart. Henceforth this lawful fight against the world, the love of the world, is in us – nothing but the world, and we are sentient, devilish. But when there is the fruit of the Spirit, there is that which hates the world, and longs at times to be out of the world. Paul says: *Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. (Philippians 1:23)* Nero was more like a lion than a man. And the Lord's people have had to fight with men in the world. *If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? (1 Corinthians 15:32)*

Then, my friends, this is a lawful fight. We need to be well equipped for the fight against the flesh, and have the whole armour of God to stand in the evil day. O that will be a mercy, friends, if this is your experience through Christ: *Having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked.. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. (Ephesians 6:13-18)* O what a life is the life of a Christian soldier! What a warfare! But he will come off victorious, though he fears lest he will rise no more.

*Our Captain stood the fiery test,
And we shall stand through Him. (Joseph Hart)*

And there is the fight against the evil one, the devil. O what a mighty adversary is Satan! Peter exhorts saints to be vigilant, for *your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (1 Peter 5:8-10)* O what an enemy is the devil! Do you know what it is to fight against Satan, and come to hand-to-hand combat with the great adversary of souls? But wrestle against the enemy. He seeks to devour the people of God. Look at what we have recorded in the book of Job – how he would have touched him. But Satan can only go so far, and no further. An old man once said: “I know Satan is a chained enemy, but take in a link or two.” Ah, sometimes you know what it is for Satan to get hold of you, and to give you such a terrible shaking – he seeks to devour you.

*Buts, ifs, and hows are hurled
To sink us with the gloom
Of all that's dismal in this world,
Or in the worlds to come. (Joseph Hart)*

And you find it is a good fight. *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 5:7)* Fight him with the sword of the Spirit, with the word of God, and he will flee from you. It is too much for the devil. Sometimes he so attacks the people of God, that he oversteps the mark, if I may so speak. He said to Luther (I think it was): “You are a sinner.” Luther says: “I know I am, but Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” And the devil flew from him.

*Sinners are high in His esteem,
And sinners highly value Him. (Joseph Hart)*

May the Lord add His blessing.

Afternoon Sermon

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Timothy 4: 6-8)

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. (Psalm 116:15) Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. (Psalm 37:37) He shall enter into peace. Everlasting peace and glory awaits every blood-bought soul. They shall all come to the grave in peace. Their warfare shall in triumph end. With them it shall be well. It will be a mercy, when we come to the end, to be enabled to say:

*My soul into Thy arms I cast;
I trust I shall be saved at last. (William Hammond)*

Saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation. O to know God's salvation! O to know something of the grace of God which brings salvation to the soul, to be in the school of Christ's, to be taught of Him. He teaches His people to fight. He is with them, friends, when they fight against those enemies we mentioned this morning. He helps them in the fight. *By thee*, says the psalmist, *I have run through a troop; and by my God I have leaped over a wall. (Psalm 18:29)* Has He not taught you sometimes to fight so that you have indeed had the victory?

*By whom was David taught
To aim the dreadful blow,
When he Goliath fought,
And laid the Gittite low?
No sword nor spear the stripling took,
But chose a pebble from the brook.*

*'Twas Israel's God and King,
Who sent him to the fight.*

*O! I have seen the day,
When, with a single word,
God helping me to say,
"My trust is in the Lord." (William Cowper)*

O what an unspeakable mercy to be helped by God to war a good warfare, to fight a good fight. Sometimes a multitude comes up against us, and we know not what to do, but our eyes are up unto the Lord. The eye of God is upon that sinner.

*He'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by His righteous, omnipotent hand. (Kirkham)*

I can do all things, says the great apostle, *through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)* I can fight the flesh, the world, and the devil in His strength. And in His strength I overcome. And so, friends, you will find that the Lord Jesus Christ helps His people in all that they have to contend with – enemies external, and enemies internal. *My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)*

And so we noticed this morning, as the Lord was pleased to help us, that the Christian is called to fight – to fight the flesh, the world, and the devil. And when we sat down, we were speaking of Satan hurling his fierce darts, and of the Lord helping the sinner. It is more than Satan can bear.

*(The weakest) saint shall win the day,
Though death and hell obstruct the way. (Isaac Watts)*

But the weakest saint will be sorely exercised as to how he will get through.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. He has come to the end of his day. The days of the godly are numbered, and all their times are in the Lord's hands. The days of their life – and I was about to say: the days of their unregeneracy. The day when they enter upon the Christian race. For the life of a Christian is not only compared to that of a soldier, but the Christian is engaged in a race. The apostle refers to those Grecian games, of running the race and finishing the course. He would refer more to the practice of these persons – they would sometimes beat the air. The apostle says: "I do not fight like them." He knew, friends that he fought as the Lord enabled him. He fought hard against real enemies.

I have finished my course – the days of his life, his pilgrimage. When the Lord struck down the apostle, he began to run the race. He came to the end of that race. We shall come to the end of our days. We enter the Christian race, and we shall come to the end of the course. It is a mercy to be entered upon the race. You know, God's people run the race that is set before them, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of their salvation. He entered upon the course of his ministry, and he came to the end of his course. O what an unspeakable mercy it was for the apostle to be favoured to speak in the words of our text: *I have finished my course.*

I do not know how it is with you, but I do like to hear aged persons speak of how the Lord has brought them along. It has been a source of help to me many times to hear of how they have run the race and been brought to the end of the journey. I do not know whether it has been so with you. When my dear pastor used to speak of the Lord helping him along, sometimes hope would spring up. He is now between 90 and 100 years old. It is good when aged persons are helped to testify of the Almighty.

I have finished my course. Now the apostle has an earnest desire that he might finish his course with joy, and prosper the ministry which he had received of the Lord to testify the gospel of the grace of God. The Lord fulfilled his desire – he finished his course with joy. He came to the end of his journey, and he joyfully anticipated his departure to be for ever with the Lord. *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. (Philippians 1:23)* He was brought to the end in peace. O to be brought to the end in peace, and in the hour and article of death to joy in God! *Faithful is he that hath promised.* His promises stand equal to the day. He crowns His people in life, and He doesn't forsake them in death. By His grace they are helped to say: *I have finished my course; the race is run.*

You know, friends, at the end of the race there was a prize. The runners had the course marked, and if they went over the mark they received not a prize. They must run the race. They did it to obtain a corruptible crown; we run to obtain an incorruptible crown. O friends, there is the race, and the course is marked. It is a mercy to so run. It is not everyone that runs in earthly races that gets a prize – only one receives the prize. It is not all that run in this race – that is, who profess to run in the race – who shall get the prize. It is true that all who are entered in the race – they shall get the prize. But there are some that seem for a time to run well, something hinders – they –

– *seem to run the race,
And meet no crowds to check their pace,
Are only rambling still. (John Berridge)*

Some perhaps you have thought well of, and they seem to get yards in front of you – you might say miles in front. Well, what have you to say about them today? Why this: they have gone away. And

here you are today, hobbling along, waiting upon the Lord to help you in the race. *They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)* That is, as long as the Lord helps them. But sometimes they are faint, but they cannot give it up. Perhaps you are so weary.

*He'll lead them on fair Zion's road,
Though weary, weak, and faint;
For O! they ne'er shall lose their God,
Or God e'er lose a saint. (Richard Burnham)*

He leads you safely along. He will bring you along to your end.

*Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given;
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven. (A M Toplady)*

The Lord give us grace, friends, to fight, and give us grace to run, and bring us to our end in peace, that we may finish our course with joy. Paul finished the course of his ministry with joy. Paul was an able minister of the New Testament. How he was opposed in the work! Yet he endured all things for the elect's sake. He was willing to suffer for their sake; he was willing to endure hardness for their sake. He came to the end of his ministry. He finished the work the Lord gave him to do. The Lord stood by him when all left him and forsook him. God stood by him, as he says: *The Lord stood by me, and strengthened me. (2 Timothy 4:17)* And sometimes God spoke to him by an angel. And he still goes on in the course of his ministry. The end of my days, the end of my Christian life – *I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.* God kept the apostle faithful in the discharge of his ministry – the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear. It is a mercy to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. *Jude says: It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (v.3)*

The apostle says: *I have kept the faith.* He held fast the doctrine of faith. He kept the faith. And the apostle was a partaker of precious faith. And by faith he kept the faith, the doctrine of faith. He preached the word of God. *I have kept the faith.* O what an able, faithful, and fervent servant of God the apostle was! It was his desire that grace might be magnified in his body. And it cost him his life to keep the faith, to be faithful. Hold fast, my dear hearers, the profession of your faith without wavering. *Faithful is he that hath promised.* May the Lord keep us faithful. The Lord keep us by His grace, and help us to endure all things for Christ's sake, for the gospel's sake. *I have kept the faith.*

Now, looking forward, he says: *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* He looks back, and he says: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness* – sometimes spoken of as the crown of glory, a crown of life. Here is a crown of righteousness. There was a crown that would be given to him. He had a right to it. That may appear strange on the face of it. The Lord Jesus Christ gave His life, a ransom for him, and by virtue of Christ's finished work, he has a right to this crown. I hope you follow me in this. He did not buy the crown; he did not merit the crown. It was a reward of grace as far as the apostle was concerned. There is the reward of the righteous. You may rest assured of this, that by precious faith, the apostle was given this crown of righteousness.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. He would receive this crown that was laid up for him at the hands of the righteous Judge. He would receive it at that day. *I know whom I*

have believed. There is a particular day the apostle refers to here. The Lord, when the apostle was brought to death, would receive him at His right hand. At that day the Lord will give him a crown, the crown of righteousness which he would receive at the Lord's hand – receive the crown when He says: *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful.* (Matthew 25:34 & 21) O Timothy, *henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.*

The apostle speaks of what he himself has laid up for him. But he does not stop there. He will encourage Timothy. He says: *Not for me only.* The Lord Jesus will not only give a crown to him (referring here again, it may be, to the crown which the one who runs the race would receive) not only for me, but for everyone that comes to the end of the race. I am not the only one that will receive the crown at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ – *but unto all them also that love his appearing.* There is a crown for all that love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is this not an unspeakable mercy to come in here? Do we love the appearing of Christ? In this time state we speak of it as it concerns this life. Do we look for His appearings, long for them? You know if you do. You wait for Him at the throne of grace. There is the trial of your faith. It is much more precious than gold which perisheth. He comes to you. He appears to His people, and they love His appearing.

Can you come in, poor soul? I pause – for the encouragement of any poor sinner. Your cry is sometimes: “Lord Jesus, appear again.” You long for His coming; you wait for His appearing.

*Lord Jesus, shine, and then I can
Feel sweetness in salvation's plan;
And as a sinner, plead for grace,
Through Christ, the sinner's Hiding-place. (Daniel Herbert)*

Well now, those who love His appearing look forward to His appearing. *He will appear the second time without sin unto salvation.* (Hebrews 9:28) Ah, there is an appearing, friends, which will be a very blessed appearing as far as the believer is concerned. What a blessed appearing for those who shall appear before Him! It is the hope of the church, of the believer. It is so: “He will be my help, Christ appearing, for I shall be like Him.” *Lo, He comes, with clouds ascending.* What a blessed appearing as far as the believer is concerned! But O, what a solemn appearing as far as the wicked are concerned! But the Lord's people, they will see Him, they will see Him as He is, they will be like Him. And so the apostle says there is a crown to each one of those that love His appearing. Can you come in? Do you long for His appearing?

When Thou, my righteous Judge shalt come. O what a coming that will be! Is it what you are looking forward to? There is no uncertainty about it. As the apostle went to heaven knowing that the crown of righteousness was laid up for him, so you will come to heaven to receive this crown of righteousness at the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ, the righteous Judge. He is the righteous Judge – He will never make a mistake – righteous is God.

O may the Lord fasten these things upon our hearts and consciences, and exercise our souls, and bring us to the grave in peace, that the language of our souls may be: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing.*

May the Lord add His blessing.