

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day January 22nd 1911

Morning Sermon

But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. (Psalm 31:14,15)

May the Lord fulfil all your petitions, my dear friends; you have asked great things at His hand in your hymn of praise. (*Gadsby 641*) He can keep you from falling, and present you faultless before the throne of His grace with exceeding joy. We do not know what is in reserve for us, but we do know this, that God has prepared a place for His people, and He will prepare them for that place. Therefore they are brought to cry:

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

It is a great thing to be saved in the Son of God with an everlasting salvation. The Lord is His people's strength in the time of trouble. He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.

*Did ever trouble yet befall,
And He refuse to hear thy call?
And has He not His promised passed,
That thou shalt overcome at last? (John Newton)*

I was thinking this morning what a mercy to be an overcomer. I sometimes feel that I shall never be an overcomer. Yet, if I am not awfully deceived, I have been an overcomer, and know what it is –

*– to read my title clear,
To mansions in the skies. (Isaac Watts)*

O what a mercy to possess God's holy fear, and to be brought to cry: *For Thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. (Psalm 31:3)* Guard and direct me on every side, and bring me safely through all Thou hast appointed me in this vale of tears. God's people are a poor and an afflicted people, and a persecuted people. The child of grace has ever been called to tread this path. You will not find that any of the Old and New Testament saints escaped persecution –

*– the long cloud of witnesses
Shows the same path to heaven. (Isaac Watts)*

I want to go God's way to heaven – in fact, there is no other. I know it will be a path of trial. *Fear not, little flock*, says Jesus Christ: *for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)* It is through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom. I sometimes say to my friends in trouble, God has not promised us two heavens, but He has promised us in this world trouble, and He has promised us peace. The peace of God flows into the soul, and in the midst of sorrow and temptation and persecution he has that peace which the world can never give nor take away.

The psalmist knew something of this. You cannot read the psalms without noticing this. The Lord was David's strong tower and refuge, and His name is indeed as such to the child of God. *For Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee. (Psalm 9:10)* Sometimes it may appear as though the Lord has forsaken you. Is it possible? No! *Can a woman's tender care Cease toward the child she bare? Yes*, it may, but the Lord says: *I will not forsake thee. (Joshua 1:5)* Your enemies may say,

“Where is thy God? You boasted of your God. Where is He?” The Psalmist David’s life was sought, and he was hated. If it were possible they would take his life. But you know, friends, it was impossible. No one can touch a child of God without His permission. Absalom rose up against him, and David cried unto the Lord: *O Lord, I pray Thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness. (2 Samuel 15:13)* Just picture the dear man for a moment. His own flesh and blood turned against him.

And here David speaks in the words of my text. This word arrested my attention last evening: *But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God.* O blessed man of God to be enabled to use such language as this in the hour of persecution: *But I trusted in Thee.* O what a mercy to be brought to trust in the Lord! The apostle speaks of it in the *Epistle to the Ephesians: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. (ch.1:12)* The Lord brings His redeemed to trust, and to hope in Him. There may be some in this house of prayer, you have been brought to trust and to hope in Him. You have nowhere else to trust. To whom else can I go? You are ready to say: *Thou hast the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)* And you trust that the Lord will come and save you. You hope He will. Sometimes you can say that you are not destitute of this hope. And you hope that God will seal you an heir of heaven. Some of you can look back and remember when the Lord gave you to hope and trust. God confirmed the work in your soul, and you went on to know the Lord. And you could say, “My trust is in the Lord.” O blessed man indeed whose trust is in the Lord! *Trust in Him at all times. (Psalm 62:8)* *Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. (Isaiah 26:4)* O what a mercy to have grace to trust Him continually! The psalmist says: *What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. (Psalm 56:3)* The psalmist says: *I will make mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only. (Psalm 71:16)*

O have you not sometimes been so enabled to trust in the Lord as to leave everything in His blessed hands? You have had enemies rise up against you, and have been tossed to and fro, and been at your wits’ end, and yet the Lord has come, it may be, with some blessed promise into your poor soul, and enabled you to put your trust in Him, and to say: *Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise. (Micah 7:8)* And promise after promise has rolled into your soul. If you are a poor sinner, your trust is in the Lord, and you are very precious to Him. *The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold. (Lamentations 4:2)* *He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. (Zechariah 2:8)* His eyes are continually upon His little ones. *The Lord knoweth them that are His. Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. (2 Timothy 2:19)*

Now looking back upon the Lord’s dealings with you since you have been a partaker of grace, it has come to this: *But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.* O trace it out as the Lord has dealt with you in grace and in providence – it has come to this blessed *But...* Cowper wrote that very solemn and blessed hymn: *God moves in a mysterious way...Judge not the Lord by feeble sense.* His path is in the mighty waters. We are apt to judge the Lord by feeble sense, and we sink so low, and seem as though we should sink into the pit. Then we need a dead lift. O friends, *Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him.* O, say you, I wish I could! You ought to trust, some persons will say, see what God has done for you. Well, the Lord knows you would trust Him if you could. It is His own work. He will bring you to say: *Though Thou slay me, yet will I trust in Thee. (Job 13:15)* It is God’s work, not man’s work. O you shall then be enabled to say with good old Jacob –

– Pardon my digression here, but I have been reading this account of late, because I read the Bible through every year. I hope I shall never live through a year without reading the Bible through. I affectionately beseech you to read it through every year. It will not take much time, just three portions a day in the Old Testament, and one portion in the New Testament. I do not say take the Bible and say, Well, I have read the four portions and that is all my task, but in love and affection *search the scriptures, ponder them over, for in them ye think ye have eternal life. (John 5:39)* And you will find that, in reading the Word of God, a blessing attends it. I do not mean to say that every

time you read it you will get a blessing. I dare not say it, but in searching the Word of God, God will honour you in reading it, and make it life and spirit to you. *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. (Jeremiah 15:16)* O what a mercy to have God's Word to go to, and find it come with some sweet promise, and cheer our hearts when we are ready to sink! The believer often believes when he does not believe. This may appear a contradiction. The Christian often cannot see his faith, and yet believes. *The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17)* Faith is the hand that handles, the eye that sees.

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face. (William Cowper)*

O He does, and like good old Jacob, you will have to acknowledge *The Angel which redeemed me from all evil. (Genesis 48:17)* *From all your idols will I cleanse you. (Ezekiel 36:25)* God so worked that Jacob had to acknowledge that it was the good hand of God. You may rest assured of it

*The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

He is a good God, and He will give you sooner or later to realise that *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)*

But I trusted in Thee. It is a path that is painful, but *Thou art my God.*

*Lord, I am Thine, but Thou wilt prove
My faith, my patience, and my love;
When men of spite against me join,
They are the sword, the hand is Thine. (A M Toplady)*

Blessed indeed is the man whose trust is in the Lord. David could appeal to the Lord concerning his trust in Him: *But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God.* What language for a dying worm of earth to give utterance to! God was David's God, and David knew it. And God is the God of His people, and His people know it. It will cost you something to be brought into the experience of it, if you never have. If you have, you know what it has cost you. Ah, says some poor sinner, I would give all the world if I had it, to be enabled to use such language. Would to God that He would put me among His people.

*Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear Thy witness with my heart,
That I am born of God. (Isaac Watts)*

If so be that we suffer with Him, we may also be glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared – they may be exceeding painful, but they – are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:17,18) I sometimes say, Hold our faith and patience. We need patience to do all the will of God.

Amen.

Afternoon Sermon

But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. (Psalm 31:14,15)

Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. His blessing is upon His people.

The Father has in Jesus stored, All blessings for the poor. (William Gadsby)

The poor have the gospel preached to them. The gospel is glad tidings; it is good news from a far country.

*The gospel bears my spirit up;
A faithful and unchanging God
Lays the foundation of my hope,
In oaths, and promises, and blood. (Philip Doddridge)*

O poor saint, do you know anything of these things? Do you know anything of the Person of the Son of God? What think ye of Christ? Can you say He is the one thing needful? The Lord has engraven it upon my heart that He is the one thing needful. Have you by grace chosen that good part which shall never be taken away? I once heard a Wesleyan minister say, "It will never be taken away, but you may lose it." It is impossible to lose that which God deposits in the soul. That soul will be formed for God's praise.

Now I believe that every vessel of mercy shows forth God's praise. *Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me. (Psalm 50:15)* God showed His salvation to David, and He shows His salvation to every vessel of mercy, and he is brought to trust in this salvation. They that know Jesus Christ put their trust in Him. Jesus Christ was given *a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of His people Israel. (Luke 2:32)* In Him they trust. Blessed man whose trust is in the Lord.

The way to heaven is a way of tribulation, temptation and persecution. You do not think, do you, that anyone will get to heaven without tasting this cup? *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matthew 5:11,12)*

We noticed this morning that David was persecuted. But here the dear man was enabled to say in the words of my text: *But I trusted in Thee, O Lord.* He could fall flat at the Lord's feet, and tell Him that he trusted in Him.

*O! I have seen the day,
When, with a single word,
God helping me to say,
"My trust is in the Lord."
My soul has quelled a thousand foes,
Fearless of all that could oppose. (William Cowper)*

O to be enabled feelingly to say, My trust is in the Lord! Poor sinner, can you say it? Is the Lord thy trust, and thy confidence? Is He your all and in all? Can you say, as I once said as I wet the gravel path with my tears:

*Jesus, my All, to heaven is gone,
He whom I fix my hopes upon;
His track I see, and I'll pursue
The narrow way, till Him I view. (John Cennick)*

O to have a sight of Jesus! It will cause the tears to flow to have a sense of pardoning mercy. And you will fall before Him, and say:

*Why me, why me, O blessed God?
Why such a wretch like me? (Daniel Herbert)*

*He came to earth to bleed and die!
Was ever love like this? (Anne Steele)*

Let rocks and hills their everlasting silence break. It will cost us something to know God is the God of our salvation. Men may say God is God, and boast of salvation, but how do they come to know Him as the God of their salvation? God does something for a man before he can say, "Thou art my God." Those of you who really know Him can give a reason of the hope that is in you. Why, if called upon to do so, God will help you. Perhaps it is *here a little, and there a little*.

*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)*

Those of you who know Christ know His power, His grace, His salvation. You are God's witnesses, and you can testify of what He has done for your soul. There ever have been God's witnesses, and there are still a few in the day in which we live – only a few compared to the great numbers of the wicked. Christ has ever had His seed. *He shall see His seed, He shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hands. (Isaiah 53:10)* You are a royal priesthood, a chosen generation to serve the Lord. O what a mercy to belong to this people! *Jesus sought me when a stranger. Where had I been, had He not sought me? He came to seek and to save that which was lost. Where did He find you? He found me in the waste howling wilderness. O what a mercy to be enabled to say: O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth. (Psalm 71:17)*

One of our friends, in the Prayer Meeting last Lord's Day, expressed in prayer that, had the Lord put His fear in his heart in early life, it would have saved him from many snares. I have thought of it many times during this last week. Young man, young woman, if God put His fear in your heart in early life, it will save you from many snares. God's people testify of His glory, His salvation. He teaches them to trust in Him. O sinner, how is it with you? *How stands the case, my soul, with thee? Has God been formed in your heart the hope of glory? Poor Simeon waited long to see God's glory. He took the Child in his arms, and said: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation. (Luke 2:29,30)* The time comes when every gracious soul is enabled to take Christ in his arms, and to long to be with Him. All that concerns the child of grace is committed into His hands, and he says: *Thou art my God.* Is this the path you are called upon to tread? All that concerns me for time and for eternity I commit into Thy hands. O to be enabled to say: *Thou art my God!*

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

When the Lord claims me, then I can claim Him. I must say, to the praise of His great name, there have been times when there have been enemies without and within, and we have been sorely put to it, and the Lord has drawn near to us, and we have been enabled to say: *O Lord, I trusted in Thee; Thou art my God.* O what a change is brought about in one's feelings in a moment! We have no enemies then, and the soul blessedly realises that all is in God's hands. *Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. (Psalm 37:5)* O to feel that I have a God who cares for me, a God nigh at hand in all that I call upon Him for.

I can take you to the very spot this afternoon where I fell before the Lord, and said: “*Thou art my God. I will praise Thee.*” *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. (Psalm 14:1)* The child of grace knows that there is a God. David’s house was not always as he would have had it to be. But David knew that all his times were in God’s hand. O what a mercy if you and I have any experience in these things! I would have all my times in God’s hand. I am glad my times are not in the hands of any creature. O what a mercy to know my times are in His hand! You have been singing concerning this. I wonder how many of you believed it. It is recorded in the *Book of Chronicles* all the time that went over David. His times were in God’s hand from the beginning to the end. All the times of His people are in His hands. We do not know what times will pass over us. We may ponder over the times that are past, and we are amazed when we look back upon the way the Lord has led us. He has brought us to the present moment of time, and with holy Job we may say: *He hath appointed all my times. (see Job 14:14)* We do not know what lies before us any minute. We are here at eighteen minutes to four, but we do not know what may happen by four o’clock. One says:

*My God, I would not long to see
My fate with curious eyes;
What gloomy lines are writ for me,
Or what bright scenes may rise. (Isaac Watts)*

All our times are in His hand: *Times of penury and wealth*, times of temptations, griefs, and sorrows – all are in God’s hand.

I said this morning that things present are painful. As far as I am concerned, they are exceedingly painful. Perhaps yours are more painful than mine. I believe they are not more painful than what there is a needs-be for. *The trial of your faith is more precious than gold. (1 Peter 1:7)* O what a difference there is when the Lord gives you submission to His will!

*Pore not on thyself too long,
Lest it sink thee lower. (Joseph Hart)*

Do not peevishly cry out, “How hard is my lot!” But seek grace to leave it in the hands of God. He is too good to be unkind. He has appointed that which is best for you, and the child of grace sometimes falls at His blessed feet, and justifies Him in it all.

*He is too wise to err, and O,
Too good to be unkind. (Samuel Medley)*

The Lord will never cause a child of grace a needless groan or tear. There is a needs-be for all the times which pass over you. *Deliver me from the hand of mine enemies.* How David pleads with the Lord. We have only just time to read it: *Deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.* It is a mercy to bring all to God in prayer. Spread the whole case before Him. *He knoweth the way that I take, says holy Job, and when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. (ch.23:10)*

May the Lord add His blessing.