

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day February 12th 1911

Morning Sermon

For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. (Zechariah 9:17)

Nahum says: *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him. (ch.1:7) The Lord is good. He is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works. (Psalm 145:9) All His creatures partake of His goodness. His paths drop fatness. (Psalm 65:11)* There is not a sinner in this house of prayer but who is a debtor to His goodness. And this is what the dear man of God felt when he exclaimed more than once or twice in the 107th Psalm: *Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 136:1)* We have, some of us, known the goodness of the Lord since we were last in this house of prayer. Has He not preserved us every moment? Lengthened out the brittle thread of our existence, and brought us into this house of prayer this morning? O may the goodness of the Lord bring us to repentance.

*Not more than others we deserve,
Yet God has given us more.*

We think of the mercies of God in providence – for a bed to lie down upon – many are thus deprived. Should we – *let His mercies lie forgotten in unthankfulness, and without praises die?* God forbid we should! When we think of the Lord loading us with benefits, how it humbles us in the very dust before Him! He is goodness to His people. Those of you who have tasted of His special goodness in the Person of His dear Son will quite agree with what the man of God wrote: *How great is His goodness!* You will never be able to speak of God's goodness as you would speak of it. You will sometimes fall flat at His blessed feet and, as best you can, praise Him for His goodness to you, and for all His mercies you have received at His hands.

How great is His goodness, more particularly, to His redeemed whom He came into the world to purchase with His own heart's blood. O when you look back to eternity that is past, and think of the dear Son of God engaging in an everlasting covenant on behalf of such worthless worms of earth as we are, who came into the world to endure all that which we must have endured in a damning hell, unless He fulfilled all righteousness and redeemed us, a peculiar people. O how great is His goodness, not to the exclusion of the Father and the Holy Ghost! But we are now speaking more particularly of the goodness of the dear Redeemer, who engaged to be our surety in our room, place, and stead.

*On Him almighty vengeance fell,
That must have sunk a world to hell. (Jehoida Brewer)*

O the goodness of the Lord in suffering the just for the unjust, in bringing us to the Lord! *I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. (John 12:32)* O the goodness of the Lord in drawing sinners unto Himself, in alluring us! Now there may be some in this house of prayer – the Lord is alluring you, and bringing you into the wilderness. What for? To comfort you! O, you say, I do want Him to comfort me, to *assure my conscience of her part in the Redeemer's blood.*

He is good to them that seek. There are seekers in this house of prayer. He is good to you in bringing you to seek. He is good to those that seek. But what to those that find? You will know. He has never said to the seed of Jacob: *Seek ye My face in vain.* But He has said: *Seek, and ye shall find.* You have come to this house of prayer this morning to seek the face of the Lord. My heart's prayer and desire to God for you is that you may rejoice in His goodness in this house of prayer. *Let all*

those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee. (Psalm 70:4) God does hear prayer, and He does appear to His people in the house of prayer. And it is good to be there.

Perhaps some of you noticed that I referred to a deacon being taken ill in the prayer meeting. He gave out the 911th hymn and read the 37th Psalm, and engaged in prayer. And as soon as he had said *Amen*, he was taken ill. No doubt, they all felt it to be a solemn time. I thought, when I received a letter from his daughter: *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. (Psalm 37:37)* They managed to get the dear man home, but he was only conscious a few moments, and his last words were:

*The joy prepared for suffering saints,
Will make amends for all. (John Newton)*

It will be yours, seeking soul, to know His goodness. He will satisfy the desire of every living thing. Longing souls will be filled with His goodness. The time to favour Zion is set apart – it is determined. The time must come, and if this is not the set time, may it be the time when He shall raise you up to a hope that that time will come. And we would say:

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

Then you will exclaim in the language of our text: *How great is His goodness!*

*Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart. (John Stocker)*

He gives His people to taste of His goodness. When they taste forgiving mercy, they taste His goodness. John speaks of the things he has tasted and handled, and felt of the good word of life. What is religion without this? You have been expressing it in your opening petition at the throne of grace – *Hymn 105*. It is the goodness of the Lord which satisfies the living soul. Nothing but this can satisfy the living soul. *My people shall be satisfied* – what with? – gold, silver, houses, kingdom? – *with My goodness, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:14)* God's great goodness!

Now, you may test yourself – and so may I. What satisfies you? I put the question in love and affection. I know what satisfies me. I think I know my heart aright in this matter. There is one thing, and only one thing. And what is that? God's goodness. *It pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell. (Colossians 1:19)* O you think of it for one moment. If you have Christ you have all God's goodness. *Show me Thy glory*, said Moses. And God said: *I will make all My goodness to pass before thee. (Exodus 33:19)* The poor taste His goodness. When they taste this goodness, they want others to taste it too. You talk of the man of God being selfish. I know this. I would that others might taste of what I have tasted of God's goodness. There should not be one in this house of prayer but who should taste it if it were in my power. It is not in the power of the creature, though God sometimes makes use of the creature.

I was thinking of the apostle Paul – when God struck him down. He needed a word from God. And God sends Ananias to tell him that God has appeared unto him. O the goodness of the Lord in bringing him down and sending help! Has God ever sent you help by a servant of His in the pulpit, with a special message for you? A friend may have a special message from God for you, and it may

do you good. I have sometimes said, when I have heard a minister, “It is all for me.” I told a minister this morning of one special time when I heard dear Mr Kemp. I said it was all for me. And you have said, “*How great is His goodness*” – not only as it concerns the things of God’s grace, but as a God of providence as well. You say how good the Lord is. As a God of grace and a God of providence, He has prepared for the poor. You think of it – not only has He prepared for me in this time state, but He has laid up for me. You think of what He has laid up for you. Well might dying saints say:

*The joy prepared for suffering saints
Will make amends for all. (John Newton)*

His goodness is great at all times, whatever you and I may have to pass through. One says:

*He’s good when He gives,
And He’s good when He takes,
And He makes no mistakes.*

Eli said: *It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth Him good. (1 Samuel 3:17)* We may be ready to say: *Not so, my Father*, but it is God’s goodness, and He knows what is best for us. And when we are brought blessedly to realise it, we say: *For how great is His goodness.*

You look at these words in connection with the context. You have God’s salvation spoken of. When He sets them up in His church as living stones in the spiritual building, they are the light of the world. He is as a wall of fire round about them, and the glory is in the midst of them. *How great is His goodness!* One is lost in wonder, adoration and praise to think of God’s great goodness to His people. *All things are yours*, says the apostle...*Ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s. (1 Corinthians 3:22,23)* O my friends, what a mercy if you and I know these things for ourselves!

Then we shall not only testify of His great goodness, but of His beauty. There is one portion of God’s Word that is sure to all seed; it will be fulfilled in every vessel of mercy. *Their eyes shall see the King in His beauty. (Isaiah 33:17)* I came across a few lines of *Rutherford’s* the other day, and I thought I should like my people to hear them. Having a bad memory, I wrote them down. Mark you, if you have never seen the beauty of Christ, you will not be able to understand such language. I paused when I read some part of it:

*Oh fair sun, fair moon, fair stars, fair roses, and fair lilies;
But Oh ten thousand thousand times fairer Lord Jesus.*

Alas, I have wronged Him in making the comparison this way:

*Oh black sun, black moon, but Oh, fair Lord Jesus.
Oh black flowers, black lilies, black roses, but Oh, fair, fair, ever fair Lord Jesus.
Oh black heaven, but Oh, fair Christ; Oh, black angels,
But Oh, fair, surpassingly fair, Lord Jesus.*

The dear man of God could indeed give utterance to the language of our text. If our eyes have seen the King in His beauty, we have exclaimed:

*All gracious is my Lord!
His worth if all the nations knew,
Sure the whole world would love Him too! (Isaac Watts)*

*How great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful,
and new wine the maids. May the Lord add His blessing.*

Afternoon Sermon

For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. (Zechariah 9:17)

We tried to speak a few things this morning of the goodness of God. We noticed that He is good to all, and that His tender mercies are over all His works. There is not one in this house of prayer but who are debtors to the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. When God takes a sinner in hand, that sinner wants to see the good of God's chosen, and to be numbered with God's family. *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him. (Colossians 2:6,7)* There is a stretching after in this in the experience of every living soul, to possess God's goodness, God's Christ. *It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell. (Colossians 1:19)*

*The Father hath in Jesus stored
All blessing for the poor. (William Gadsby)*

You are lost as you contemplate the goodness of the Lord. When the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to the hearts of sinners, they see such a beauty in Him, and exclaim in the language of our text: *How great is His beauty.* O what an unspeakable mercy to see any beauty in Christ! In *Isaiah 53:2* you read: *He shall grow up...as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.* What is Christ to the natural man? If there are such in this house of prayer, bear with me when I put this question to you. Your conscience will testify if you have never seen any beauty in Him so as to desire Him. Those who are born of God, whose eyes are enlightened, will see a beauty in Him so as to desire Him. *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. (Psalm 50:2)* When this perfection of beauty shines in the sinner's soul, they see a beauty in Jesus Christ. Nothing but this will satisfy that soul.

Can you honestly say this is your desire? Do you want the beauty of Christ to be upon you? I trust this is what the poor man in the pulpit is after. Then you say: *Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in Thee. (Solomon's Song 4:7)* Do you come to this house of prayer to see a beauty in Christ? Blessed soul, if this is what you are after! The day will come when you will see King Jesus in His beauty, and –

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

I do trust that I do at times see Him by precious faith, and this is the language of my soul: *How great is His beauty!* I trust I am not deceived in this matter.

The psalmist says: *My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the King. (Psalm 45:1)* Do not be ashamed to speak of things touching the King. I remember my dear pastor once reproving me. I had to leave business early to go and preach. I said, "If I go, there will be one and another saying, 'He is one of the elect. He can go.'" My dear pastor said, "Never you mind what the young men say. Let the dead bury their dead, but go and preach the gospel." One may sometimes be ashamed to confess Him.

His beauty is great. There is none like unto Him among the sons of men. *What is thy Beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women?* And then she gives a description of her Beloved in *5th chapter of Song of Solomon.* It beggars all language to set forth the Person of the Son of God.

Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. Here you have certain characters brought before you. Here you have young men. There are babes in Christ, fathers in Israel. John says: *I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong. (1 John 2:14)* *Corn shall make the young men cheerful* – the strong cheerful. These young men are strong in the grace which is in Christ

Jesus our Lord – strong in grace, in faith, in love, and in hope. O what an unspeakable mercy if we know anything of these things by gracious experience! O what a mercy to feel the power of God upon us! Would not you long to be strong in the grace which is by Christ Jesus? You groan sometimes because of strong corruption, and strong enemies. God is the God of all grace. Do you believe that God is faithful to fulfil His promises? I do. What ever may be the exercise of your soul, if you are such a one as I have tried to set before you, it will be fulfilled in your experience. You will be made cheerful.

What does the corn set forth? The Gospel. The Gospel of the grace of God – this makes the young men cheerful. Sometimes the prophecy is painful; sometimes it is blessed. In our text it is glad tidings. “The gospel,” says the young man, “bears my spirit up.” A faithful and unchanging God.

*Christ is first, and Christ is last,
And Christ is all in all.
He died to make salvation sure,
And save us from the fall.*

Christ in the days of His flesh speaks of Himself as a corn of wheat: *Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)* Christ Himself is the corn; He is the bread of life. This corn makes the young men cheerful. In the Newberry Bible it is *fruitful*. God will purge these young men so that they bring forth more fruit. *Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (John 15:2)* Young man in Christ, you know something of this purging process. I would not like to be without it.

There are persons that God does not deal with. God is infinite in wisdom; He knows just which branch to take away. Painful as it is He does it for our good. It is so, friends, and then they are fruitful in every good word and work. I have sometimes said, “Lord, what ever it may cost me, make me fruitful.” O it does need grace to say it! “Deal with me in such a manner as to make me fruitful. Help me to walk well in the family, in the business, and in the church.” The Word of God comes very close. If you have got an enemy, kill him. I never more effectively killed a person than I did a fortnight ago. I was determined to have my own way, but the Lord stopped me in this pulpit. I read the *37th Psalm*, and in the *21st verse* it says: *The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.* And deliverance came. That man had caused me restless nights. I wrote and said, “I freely forgive you what you owe my son.” Now, you know that man was killed. He said, “I shall pay it all.” It is good when you and I have grace to walk in God’s precepts.

They shall be cheerful, and new wine shall make the maids cheerful – and make you cheerful, just souls, virgin souls, and make you grow, and make you fruitful. This new wine is the love of God, and it will make the maids cheerful. Some of you maids, you have known what it has been to have a taste of this new wine. You have been obliged to speak, and you could not help it. And this has been the language of your soul: *Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul.* It will make a person talk, make them cheerful, and fruitful. I remember many years since the Word of God came with divine power into my soul in the country house: *Let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. (Isaiah 42:11)* I thought, here is a text for Sunday. When I got home I found there was a maid, and new wine had made her cheerful. She had been to the top of the house that she might give vent to her feelings. *Let the inhabitants of the rock sing.* New wine will make them sing. O may you maids have a taste of this new wine, that you may sing the song of redeeming grace and dying love. And if you do, you will –

*– live to reach the place,
Where He unveils His lovely face. (Isaac Watts)*

– and fulfil what you have been singing in your hymn of praise, in measure. That is my favourite hymn (938), to my favourite tune (Praise): *Then loudest of the crowd I'll sing*. No, you will not! It is one harmonious song in heaven, but that is your feeling from time to time

*Then loudest of the crowd I'll sing,
While heaven's resounding mansions ring
With shouts of sovereign grace. (Rippon)*

For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.