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Substance of Sermon preached by our Pastor Mr. J.W. Spaulding-  
on Thursday Evening, August 31. 1978.

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at The Dickes

Lesson. Psalm 106.

Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions. Psalm 132, 1.

There are three points to this blessed Scripture: first the title David applies to his blessed Lord. David stands for a man after God's own heart, for all those blessed with the Spirit and nature of Christ; every child of grace, every God-fearing person, every penitent sinner; all those souls who hunger and thirst after righteousness; every precious character of divine grace, loved with an everlasting love; redeemed by precious blood; completing the journey through a waste-howling wilderness with a glorious object in view. They are not wandering stars. Their affections are firmly fixed on the precious Person of the Son of God incarnate and this wonderful object, - the Happy Land where saints immortal reign, and to be satisfied, when they awake, with His likeness. There is no vagueness concerning their object: it is divinely exact. They know who they seek; they know their path, their God: they have proved that He is faithful and His goodness is unfailing, His grace is all-sufficient and His mercy endureth for ever. They <sup>know</sup> His fidelity exercised toward them: they have outstanding blessings in the midst of afflictions of great variety and number. They have a glorious King who reigns on the Throne of Grace. His ear is ever open to the cries of the people of God, and they have access to the King where He reigns with holy sympathy, willing and ready to dispense help, comfort, favour, blessing to all who seek Him. These are the people. I will add, in relation to these great blessings, and they are unparalleled, there is nothing on earth to be compared with the Throne of Grace, - when you think of all the sorrows, afflictions, difficulties, sore temptations; hunted and pursued by the adversary, tormented and bruised by Satan in soul and body and mind, it is wondrous that you have a Throne of Grace and a blessed One who reigns there and has all power in Heaven and earth, who is full of

compassion. He loved you eternally.

I will turn aside. You are coming to your Friend. You have proved Him. He has known you from all eternity, before He gave you a new birth, a new creation. He knows all about you, and you know what a blessed God He is. He never leaves you. You have proved Him all your life long. This is sweet to me, and it has often been: in all the troubles on earth, with all the confusion of tongues and the opinions of men, under the influence of the Spirit the good man says, "I would seek unto God. He has given me a secret. I will go to the Throne of Grace, And unto God would I commit my cause, because He is involved in it Himself." See the beauty of the construction. When you go to the Throne of Grace by the Spirit you have a view of the blessed Person who was put to shame on wonder tree for you as your Surety, and it is a wonderful ~~exercise~~ <sup>vista</sup> for faith in exercise, ~~for faith in~~ your soul to feed on, and to nourish faith. "which doeth great things," and you will need Him to. He will show to you His glory, and He will do great things for you. "and unsearchable." It is unfathomed to natural sagacity. God does move in a mysterious way to perform His wonders. "marvellous things,"- things you will wonder at through your life and throughout eternity: they will always be a wonder to you. "without number," That is what it is like in going to the Throne of Grace in sweet liberty and access, by the blood of Christ and the unction of the Holy One.

I feel before I notice the heads of the verse I may mention together with the Throne of Grace, the holy ordinance of the ministry of the Spirit, the ascension gift of Christ to His Church. There is a uniqueness about it. All else on earth and all around us, relates to the earth. With a ministry of the Spirit it comes from Heaven. We have to do with much of the earth that is earthy, but the ministry comes from Heaven. As I have said, you come to the House of God to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, to give Him your praise, honour, repentance and sorrow, and to receive blessings and benefits for your soul. Abundant blessings the Lord gives to precious souls, and the Lord does not disappoint His people.

Our Text is an impassioned cry to the dear Lord, to One he knows and worships; to the One who has called, blessed him and never forsaken him. There are times when cries are squeezed out of your

hearts to the Lord. Your case is so urgent and pressing and He never fails to respond, He never closes His ear. His ear is open to our cries. I am bound to say to the glory of God, gratitude flows from us to the Lord that we have the indwelling Spirit of God, who "maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." David is making an appeal: how? with a feeling of despair? No. Of hopelessness? No: he made it with a sweet hope in his soul that the Lord would do it for him, and send help and deliverance. "He shall, not may; He shall deliver thee in six troubles," It covers all the troubles, afflictions and sorrows of the people of God in every phase of life, and things do not get easier. You may be in old age, and things do not get easier: they may be deeper and heavier. The Lord can make your heart rejoice. "He shall deliver thee in six," It is impossible for it to be otherwise, because Christ is risen. No grave of a child of God is ever left sealed. He opens their graves and causes them to come up out of their graves, and brings them into the land of Israel. "In seven there shall no evil,- no curse, wrath befall thee."

David makes his appeal to his blessed Lord. "Lord" It is the title for a King. He has all power in Heaven and in earth. You might say it and it not mean much to you. If you are in heavy trial and realise how helpless you are, and the Lord causes the eye of faith to focus on this, He has all power, you will believe that He will appear for you. If the Spirit brings this glorious perfection into your spirit you will say, "If He loves me He will exercise His power. He did when He called me from death in sin to life in grace. He has supported, sustained, maintained, sheltered, protected me, and done all for me. Lord, King, blessed One, reigning on His Throne and in my heart." He is the only Sovereign of your heart. He reigns in Heaven for you, and in His Church. Lord, King. You will never move this soul from the Throne of Grace. They know the Throne of Grace, and they follow their Saviour. You know seasons at night,- He was on the mountain in prayer at night,- mothers and fathers, solitary souls, widows, troubled, anxious, hardened souls, you know the Throne of Grace. You bring your praises and crown Him Lord of all. There is sweet peace in this to me. It is no multitude of words. "Lord, remember David, Thy unworthy servant, a poor sinful worm, who

through grace Thou hast made Thy son, or daughter."

"and all his afflictions." It shows it is in the plural: it stands for a number, a sum, all afflictions; and it stands for a compound of afflictions. It is certain the Lord's dear people seldom have one affliction; they have a number. Take your case to night: is it one single thing? No, there are so many: it is all his afflictions. There is a word in the Hymnal,

"And when united trials meet,  
Will show a path of safe retreat." (332)

It also stands for a tremendous variety; they are not all the same. All his afflictions, the sum total of them, and by the sweet Spirit of truth in his soul he pleads one word, "Remember," It is a wonderful term. "Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions."

I will try to speak to the word, Remember. We have had the word, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." What does the word, remember, mean? Think on me in love. Remember. I hasten to say, on the earth level it is one of the sweetest things to be remembered by dear parents, brothers, sisters, children, friends; to be remembered. Take a burdened soul, young friends mean much to those who fear God, who are remembered. It means a lot to you in steps you are about to take to be remembered; and to the Lord's dear servants to be remembered in love, so they are prayed for. And to the afflicted and those in a condition of deprivation to be remembered in love. I will add this: there are those who never put in an appearance in the House of God. I do not know, - the Lord knows, if there is life they may be kicking against the pricks. You do not know how much it means to them if they know they are remembered. You little know, passing through deep sorrows and the trial of faith, and there is no response, but deep in their hearts is a realisation that they are not discarded. With the people of God in their families and friendships it means much to be remembered. If no one seems to care at all, it is a dreadful thing. The language here is that the dear Lord would remember David in all his afflictions.

I will try to work this out with you. There is something so quiet and peaceful about it. "Lord, remember," no noise, no great multitude of words, but such peace. With this soul you will have peace, and I

hope you have to night: not telling the Lord what to do; He will never accept that, but committing it all to Him and saying, "Lord, remember." To me there is a great calm. "Lord, remember, I have such a heavenly Friend, who knows all about me and my dear ones; all my pain, trials and afflictions, and my exercises concerning following Him. His knowledge is perfect. He knows more about me and my path than I know, and I can leave it with my Father and Friend." Where is the remembrance in the Text? Where there is love, and because He loves you with an everlasting love He remembers you. Who do you remember? Those you love. they are never out of your thoughts. You remember them because you love them. There is the love of a mother and father, and there is the conjugal love of two joined together by God, and are, or will be joined in matrimony. It is the sweetest thing to be remembered, it is the fruit of love, and it applies in the Church of God; there is remembrance.

I will show you the foundation for this. Why does the Lord remember you, His dear people? Because you are the fruit of His everlasting love. He remembered you before you were born. That is why He came down from Heaven to earth, to accomplish the work of your redemption. He saw us ruined in the fall, yet He remembered us because He loved us. He remembers His dear people because they are the gift of the Father to His Son, and they are the purchase of His agony. And the Holy Ghost, does He remember you? He indwells you. His work is in you, You see the foundation for it. You are one with Jesus, in union and communion with Him, so He remembers you. It is impossible for Him to forget you. There is all you need in this. O the wonder of it! "Lord, remember David," Bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, members of His mystical body. He is the true and living Vine and you are the branches. In <sup>Zion</sup> Isaiah makes a complaint. She says, "The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. - My Lord." He brings before us an amazing illustration. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, - it is unusual, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." What does it mean? As you remember those you love in affliction and difficulties, you do something for them: you help, minister to them, comfort them.

"Lord, remember David." What does it comprehend? The Lord had

supported, sustained, comforted, consoled, blessed, appeared for and delivered him. "Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob." We need a sweet realisation of it all through. He supplies your need O the wonder of being remembered! A poor, base, vile, guilty wretch, and the glorious Trinity remembers you in love, pity, compassion and mercy. "Lord, remember David," And how we shall need Him to remember us in the hour of death when we yield our breath to Him! The word will take you up in spiritual buoyancy of love and joy. "The gospel bears my spirit up." You will get help, comfort, strength and blessing and deliverance. Amen.