

Sermon by Mr. Green.

12-

Text. Philippians 2 Chapter  
Verses 8 & 9.

EVENING

The condescension of Him Who was the eternal Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, is very wonderful, when we consider where He dwelt, in heaven with the Father, and yet He leaves that bright abode and comes down to this poor, sin-infested earth, from one extreme to the other. We sometimes sing,

"He took the dying traitor's place,  
And suffered in his stead;  
For man, O miracle of grace!  
For man the Saviour bled."

We shall, I believe, stand amazed at His wondrous love in His condescension on our behalf; and the text says, "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself."

Some of you here tonight may be writing very bitter things against yourselves; some of you may feel very, very tried about your standing for eternity; you begin to consider that if God's word is true and what His servants give utterance to, then your state and condition is very, very solemn as a poor, lost, undone sinner. It may be that one of you feels inwardly that it is an impossibility for you to reach heaven; you feel it is impossible because you stand justly condemned by God's holy law, and your sins justly condemn you, and Satan tempts you and may say it is no use your praying, no good your seeking, because God's word is unchangeable and it condemns you altogether. Now, my friend, if the Holy Ghost should open your eyes in a spiritual way and give you grace to receive what my text sets forth, it

would be very wonderful to you; and the text points out this blessed truth, that although His people owed such a sum, which they could never pay, yet Jesus paid the great debt, paid it all, and gave complete satisfaction to God's law and to divine justice on the behalf of His people. Now if the Holy Ghost were to give you a sweet view of this it would be your salvation, it would take from you all your fears, it would relieve you of all your bondage, and you would rejoice in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That which baffles the Lord's people, and may baffle some of you young people, is this: the freeness of the gospel, to think that that great God should give such blessings to poor, helpless sinners "without money and without price." Some of you, no doubt, often feel like this: "I wish I were different from what I am; I wish I were a different man, a different woman, a different child, and then perhaps God would have mercy upon me and save me." Ah, you think that something in you might then commend you to God! Poor sinner, that is legality, that is really hoping, at the bottom of your heart, to be accepted with God on some other ground than the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ. What you and I must do, - and I hope each one of us will be compelled to do it, - is to fall down helpless, hopeless, undone in ourselves, and say, "Lord, have mercy upon me! Lord, save me! Lord, take me to heaven when I die, for Jesus' sake." And that is sufficient; and until we are so reduced and brought so low, we shall never prize the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death." Now that is what a poor sinner often fears, not only the death of the body, but to be lost for ever, for God to say, "Depart from Me, ye cursed." Now the Lord Jesus was made a curse for His people, for it is written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree;" and so, my friends, the Lord Jesus Christ became obedient unto death, and He died. I said this morning that there is life for sinners in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Wonderful truth! Blessed truth! When the Lord Jesus Christ died He brought life and immortality to light. Wonderful death! For He "became obedient unto death." You, poor sinner, may feel, "The wages of sin is death;" and that is true; God's word declares that to be true. "The wages of sin is death." But the sins of all God's people were laid upon the Lord Jesus, and He died for them; so God's word is honoured in every particular in the salvation of the church, and she will be taken honourably to heaven. She could not be taken there in any other way but through the death of the Lord Jesus.

Now, if you could cast your little anchor tonight in the death of Christ that would hold you safe and firm; and on this ground you could meet the devil, and you could tell him, "Christ has died;" you would lose your fear relative to God's holy law, and you would be able to say, "Thy demands have all been met, even to death itself, in my Surety, the Lord Jesus Christ Who has died for me." A wonderful truth,

He died for sinners! Yes, "the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom," said Paul, "I am chief."

Everything hangs, then, upon this clause in the text, the obedience of the Lord Jesus; and the text says, "Even the death of the cross;" the most ignominious death of all. Only those who were looked upon as the very worst and the vilest, - traitors - were crucified; and yet the Lord of life and glory was so humbled, <sup>and</sup> so lovingly and graciously submitted unto death, even the death of the cross; and there He hung between those two malefactors, - the Son of God, that God-Man Who never committed one sin, but Who came on earth on an errand of love and mercy! Yet ungodly man could take Him and nail Him there, and they saw no beauty in Him, there was nothing in Him that they should desire Him; and they nailed Him to that cross as if He were as worthless as "a root out of a dry ground." Sinner, what is He to thee tonight? What has He been to thee in thy life? Has He ever been anything to you? Have you ever really felt your need of Him? Have you ever felt as you were singing,

"What a precious, needful thing  
Is the Lord and Saviour!?"

If you have really felt that, you are a favoured sinner. Christ does make Himself to be the one thing needful to His people, and eventually, through the teaching of the Holy Spirit, a poor sinner says, "I must have that Christ." I

used to listen to God's servant preach, and he used to preach the truth to us in a very discriminating way; and I used to think sometimes in those youthful days, "I shall never stand this ministry;" but I could not keep away from chapel; and that dear man would often tell us that that sinner who has a precious Christ revealed to him is in possession of everything. You know, I believe God blessed that testimony to my heart, and I used to feel, "Now I must have that Christ, I must know Him as I hear Him preached, as He is set forth in the word;" and nothing would satisfy me; that became the burden of my prayers for many months. If that is the burden of your prayer, sinner, that is a good prayer; and you go on praying! Sin and Satan resist you, I know; the devil will do all he can to keep you from Jesus; but you press on! You are in the narrow way, and one day the Lord Jesus will stand revealed to you. Maybe my poor body will lie in the grave then, but you will say, "That man preached the truth to us at Swindon the last Sunday but one in December of that year, and now I have got the witness in my own heart, and I feel I possess that precious Saviour."

None can describe the joy, the peace, the happiness that sinner has. He will be like Mary when she said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord." Has your soul ever magnified the Lord? I was telling one of our friends at tea-time, there is a gravestone in Lakenheath cemetery of a young woman, and there is only one line at the end of that stone, and that

is, "Thank God for Jesus." They were among her last words. What a blessed testimony, to die thanking God for Jesus! Have you ever thanked Him? Paul did; when writing to the Corinthians he said, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." A blessed thing, to be enabled to praise and bless and thank God for this gift of gifts, the Lord Jesus!

Now I have spoken a little of His sufferings, His obedience, His death; but in the next verse the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him." His sufferings are ended, all His shame has come to an end; and now He Who was once that Man of sorrows, Who was acquainted with grief, we believe is exalted at God's right hand. John saw Him in the Revelation, and saw His Name, "King of kings, and Lord of Lords;" and this blessed, exalted Person said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." What a wonderful Person He is! How exalted is His condition! And now, we believe,

"Eternal life, at His request,  
To every saint is given;  
Safety on earth, and after death,  
The plenitude of heaven."

I like to think of the authority of the Lord Jesus. Do you? I love to think of His power. Although He is gone into heaven He has taken, we read, His Own blood into heaven, and in that exalted condition He pleads for His people; He pleads His Own merits. He is that blessed Priest, poor sinner. One of our hymnwriters has written very homely, and has put it like this,

"Give Him, my soul, thy cause to plead,  
Nor doubt the Father's grace."

The Father is well pleased with His dear Son. What a great favour to be enabled to commit all into His all-wise, all-powerful, all-gracious hand! He is exalted to hear prayer. You dear young friends, listen to that. Christ is exalted in heaven to hear the prayers of sinners on earth; and that same blessed Jesus Who had to do with poor and needy sinners when He was here on earth has to do with poor and needy sinners now He is exalted. I sometimes wish I could sweetly and more fully believe what I have given utterance to. We can believe it, credit it, only as the Holy Spirit is pleased to give us faith; but He is "exalted, a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel, and remission of sins." Do we not need those two things, those two blessings? One precedes the other, and where one is given the other will certainly follow. The Holy Ghost never gives repentance where He is not going to give forgiveness; and He never gives forgiveness where He does not give repentance. Repentance is a prerequisite for forgiveness. A sinner could never appreciate forgiveness unless his heart was broken by the Holy Spirit for sin. Do you sometimes mourn over your sins? Are you sometimes really made sad before God? Do you sometimes feel your heart a little broken in prayer, and a silent tear flows, and a word of confession really escapes your lips before God? If God blesses you with such an exercise, this blessed Person, the Lord Jesus, is

exalted to give repentance and forgiveness. Is not that what we need? I need it. I feel to need it more than ever as I journey on. I cannot rest content in 1959 to believe my sins were forgiven in 1933. I want to be assured of it. Some professors say, "But you must not doubt, you know; you must not give way to unbelief; you must always believe." Ah, friends, we learn that real believing is by God's grace, and some of you tonight may be looking up to this exalted Person, the Lord Jesus, and your prayer is, "For Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake, forgive my sins, blot out mine iniquities."

Now He is exalted to give that good hope to His people. He is the God of hope, so we must keep looking up, we must keep praying as the Holy Spirit helps us; because all good things come from heaven; they do not come from beneath. So we are exhorted to lift up our eyes, to lift up our heads, and to keep looking. Blessed things are spoken for the encouragement of those who are looking and waiting for the Lord Jesus. It was said before His incarnation, "Behold, He shall come;" and that may be said tonight to every humble, waiting sinner: "Behold, He shall come." So wait, poor sinner, still put up fresh cries to Him Whom God the Father hath thus highly exalted.

Then, lastly, "And given Him a Name which is above every name." When a name is mentioned to us, sometimes it is that of a friend, perhaps one we love, and we think of that person as being one we love, or our friend; and there is

something in the name that produces joy and pleasure in our hearts. So, when we come to think and to meditate upon this Name, it is really upon the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who He is, what He is. What a blessed Name is given to Him! We read in Matthew that it was given to Him before His birth, - or given to Joseph, - "His Name shall be called JESUS;" Perhaps the sweetest, the most sacred of all names is the Name of Jesus, that Name which is suited to the cases of God's dear people. We have to learn this Name, not as a school boy learns his task, but we have to learn it as taught it by the Holy Ghost. I try to preach it; I have heard many of the Lord's servants sweetly preach this Name; and you may depend upon it, many in hell heard this Name preached wonderfully when they were on earth, but they were never attracted by it, never attracted by this blessed Person; they did not know the sweetness of His Name. No, they may have told the minister, "You preached a good sermon, I have enjoyed it;" and the minister may have thought, "Ah, I have been made a little use of to day;" but you see, that was mere external worship. It is in our hearts, dear friends, we need to know the Name of Jesus. We need that Name to shed abroad a sweet fragrance there, and then it does us good, eternal good.

This Name will take us safely to heaven, the Name of Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins." This Name, Jesus, means, Saviour; and that is exactly what God's dear people feel to need, a Saviour, and a great one. What love on the part of the Father to give His dear Son to be the

Saviour of His elect! And we believe He has completely saved them; His salvation is an everlasting salvation; nothing can be added to it, nothing taken from it. "His Name shall be called Wonderful;" and He is a wonderful Person, God and Man, Immanuel, God with us; Man to suffer, bleed and die, God to save. "His Name shall be called Wonderful;" and it is wonderful love, wonderful mercy, wonderful grace that He manifests to His dear people. The church said, "His Name is as ointment poured forth;" so that, if you and I feel the festering sores of sin in our hearts and consciences, there is that in the Name of Jesus, and that alone, that can heal those sores. Do you want Him to heal you, poor sinner? Do you sometimes approach the throne and say,

"Heal us, Immanuel; here we are,  
Waiting to feel Thy touch.  
Deep wounded souls to Thee repair,  
And, Saviour, we are such?"

So He has a Name which is above every name. You cannot mention a name that is to be compared with the Name of the Counsellor. Lord Jesus. His Name is ~~Immanuel~~. I have often felt thankful that His Name is Counsellor; and He gives invaluable counsel. If He is pleased to guide you and me with His counsel, though we are such poor fools we shall not err, we shall not go astray. If any of you are tried in the path of providence, and do not know which way to take, what to do, O that you might be helped to lay your case before the Lord and seek counsel of Him; and then, if you seek that counsel humbly and rightly, "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee,

saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, or when ye turn to the left." And although it will be a tried way you have to take, yet it cannot be a wrong way if Jesus be with you, if you have His presence and receive His help.

His Name is "The everlasting Father, The Prince of peace." I like that last Name; that truly is a Name which is above every name, The Prince of peace. You and I cannot find true peace in any other but the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle says, "For He is our peace." Christ Himself said, "Peace I leave with you: My peace I give unto you;" and at His birth, why, the angels testified that He came expressly that there might be peace on earth. So, friends, He is The Prince of peace; and what a mercy to know Him as your peace! Sometimes to feel that peace of God which passeth all understanding, to feel, "My times are in Jesus' hands," to feel that "All must come, and last, and end, as shall please my heavenly Friend;" and to have a little hope in your heart that He is gone to prepare a place for you; - that is knowing Him as The Prince of peace; and you will agree with the apostle in the text that this blessed Lord Jesus Christ has a Name which is above every name. John Newton knew it, and he said,

"How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear."

Amen.