A Saint Indeed or the Great Work of a Christian in Keeping the Heart in the Several Conditions of Life

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Title: A Saint Indeed or the Great Work of a Christian in Keeping the Heart in the Several Conditions of Life

Creator(s): Flavel, John (1630-1691)

Print Basis: Joseph Martin, 1826

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CCEL Subjects: All; Christian Life

LC Call no: BV4500.F55

LC Subjects:

Practical theology

Practical religion. The Christian life

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A

SAINT INDEED

OR THE

GREAT WORK OF A CHRISTIAN

IN

KEEPING THE HEART

IN THE

SEVERAL CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

With a Sketch of the Life of the Author.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A DOUBLE TABLE,

Containing, in the first, the Sins most incident to the Members of particular

Churches, plainly forbidden in the Word. In the second, the duties enjoined on

them in the Scripture. Also, six benefits in walking by these rules.

By the Rev. JOHN FLAVEL.

With Translations, Corrections and Additions.

RICHMOND:

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH MARTIN.

T. W. White, Printer.

1826.

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PREFACE

In presenting to the public, Mr. FLAVEL'S Saint Indeed, or, the Great

work of a Christian in keeping the Heart, it may be necessary for the

Publisher to remark, that this edition comes into existence with the

original title given to it by the Author, and that his own arrangement

of the work is strictly adhered to, without any mutilation, except that

various quotations and references given in the work have been fairly

translated, with all other necessary corrections.

He has also annexed, for the improvement of the volume, a Double Table,

selected from the works of the reverend author; and he has subjoined to

his Preface, a sketch of Mr. Flavel's life, taken from Calamy's Ejected

Ministers. The whole work will be found to contain that vigour of

thought and ingenuity of language, which so predominates through all

his works, with every other excellence of this good and pious

Christian--and which generally marks the production of an earlier day,

and for which it is allowed that the superior refinement of modern

writers, is, of itself, but a poor commutation.

The voluminous works of Mr. Flavel, shew that he was equally as

laborious for the good of souls in the closet as in the pulpit--they

have passed through many editions, and have made his name precious to

the pious in both England and America, for near a century and a half

past; and, as one of his contemporaries have said, they will be so, as

long as the earth shall endure. This great and good man, like the Great

Apostle to the gentiles, whether in bonds or in imprisonment, must be

breathing out the praises of his Divine Master, and bringing forth

consolatory epistles, and pointing out land marks for the people of God

to steer by, through this dangerous and solitary wilderness, and bring

them safe into their desired haven. Thus it appears at the time he

penned this ingenious work, his own doors were shut against

himself,--Still his breast lay open to the flock over whom his lord had

made him overseer, having lived in those perilous times, when it was

not safe for a true disciple of Christ to shew his face; and, being

proscribed from preaching in the narrow sphere of his own flock, went

forth without fear into the fields, and highways, beseeching sinners to

be reconciled to God, counting not his life dear, so that he might win

souls and finish his course with joy.

'John Flavel, a celebrated English divine, was born in Worcestershire

about the year 1627. He was educated at the University College, Oxford,

where he took his degree of B. A. In 1650, he settled as assistant

minister to Mr. Walplate, rector of Diptford in Devonshire, and shortly

after succeeded to the rectory, which, however, in 1656, he resigned,

in order that he might enlarge the sphere of his usefulness, by

becoming minister of a very populous parish at Dartmouth; though the

stipend in this situation was much less advantageous than that which he

had left. In 1662, he was among the number of ejected ministers, for

refusing the terms proposed by the act of uniformity. He did not

however, entirely separate himself from his people, but preached and

administered the sacrament privately, till the passing of the Oxford

act in 1665, which prohibited non-conforming ministers from residing

within five miles of any city, corporate town, &c. or any place where

they had preached.

'Mr. Flavel was now obliged to retire to Slapton, a village five miles

from Dartmouth, where he wrote his Saint Indeed, and where he preached

to those who durst venture to become his auditors, and sometimes he

visited his former people, but this required the greatest care on his

part to avoid that persecution which would unquestionably follow the

violation of the law. His zeal in some instances led him to the

exercise of his talents at a hazard of his safety; once in a wood about

three miles from Exeter, a congregation assembled to hear him, but he

had scarcely begun, when a party sent for the purpose, surrounded the

place of meeting, and it was with the utmost difficulty he escaped;

others, who were supposed the leaders were apprehended and heavily

fined. Those who were more fortunately circumstanced, remembering the

admonition, "that if persecuted in one place they should flee to

another," accompanied their preacher to an adjoining wood, where he

preached without molestation. In 1685, the mob was excited against him,

and would probably have destroyed him, had he fallen into their hands;

to avoid therefore the threatened evil he came to London. Here,

however, he was not long safe; in one instance while a number of

persons were assembled, a party of soldiers broke in upon them, and

though Mr. Flavel again escaped, yet an aged minister, Mr. Jenkins,

fell into their hands, and was thrown into Newgate, where he suffered

so much hardship, as speedily to terminate his life. After some stay in

the metropolis, he returned to Dartmouth, where, a prisoner in his own

house, he was useful in affording private instructions to those who

resorted to him for the purpose.

'In 1687, when king James assumed the right of dispensing with the

laws, and granting more liberty to non-conformists, Mr. Flavel's

congregation immediately obtained for him a large place, in which he

was enabled to exercise his ministerial functions; and by the

revolution in 1688, he was permitted to do that by law, which he had

performed before by connivance. He died at Exeter in 1691, in his 61st

year, having long possessed, in an eminent degree, the respect and

esteem of all good men.

'He was a man of exemplary piety, and his various works were once much

read, and are still greatly esteemed. They were collected after his

death in two volumes folio.--Calamy's Ejected Ministers.'

EPITAPH

ON THE REVEREND JOHN FLAVEL.

Happy in his studies; an acute disputant;

A seraphic preacher; an elegant writer;

In all full of learning, and very famous;

Exact in his sentiments, and excellent in his morals;

An unwearied patron of Christian truth, piety and charity;

An utter enemy to all kinds of vice and error.

The glory of the church and the city he belonged to,

Where he had worn himself quite out in praying,

And watching for the good of God's people,

Peacefully fell asleep in Jesus

on June 26, 1691; Aged 61.

His works are at this time again passing through the press in England,

which in a great degree goes to establish these lines penned by Mr.

Richard Baxter, when he says of Flavel,

His virtues would a monument supply,

But underneath this stone his ashes lie.

Could grace or learning from the grave set free,

Flavel thou hadst not seen mortality.

Tho' here thy dusty part death's victim lies,

Thou by thy works thyself doth eternize,

Which death nor rust of time shall overthrow;

Whilst thou dost reign above these live below.

ANECDOTE

Extracted from the Life of the Reverend John Flavel.

"Mr. Flavel being in London in 1673, his old bookseller, Mr. Boulter,

gave him the following relation, viz. that some time before there came

into his shop a fashionable gentleman to inquire for some play books;

Mr. Boulter told him he had none, but shewed Mr. Flavel's Treatise on

Keeping the Heart, entreated him to read it, and assured him it would

do him more good than play books. The gentleman read the title, and

glancing upon several pages here and there, broke out into these and

such other expressions, 'What damnable fanatic was he who made this

book?' Mr. Boulter begged him to buy and read it, and told him he had

no cause to censure it so bitterly; at last he bought it, but told him

he would not read it. 'What will you do with it then?' said Mr.

Boulter. 'I will tear and burn it,' said he, 'and send it to the

devil.' Mr. B. replied, 'Then you shall not have it.' Upon this the

gentleman promised to read it; and Mr. Boulter told him, if he disliked

it upon reading, he would return him his money. About a month after,

the gentleman came to the shop again in a very modest habit, and, with

a serious countenance, addressed Mr. Boulter thus: 'Sir, I most

heartily thank you for putting this book into my hands; I bless God

that moved you to do it; it hath saved my soul; blessed be God that

ever I came into your shop.' And then he bought a hundred more of those

books of him, told him he would give them to the poor, who could not

buy them; and so left him, praising and admiring the goodness of God."

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CAPTION: CONTENTS

Page

The text explained, 31

What the keeping of the heart imports, 37

Six things included in the keeping of it, 40

Why Christians should make it the great business of their lives to keep

their hearts, 49

Twelve particular Seasons, which especially call for this diligence in

keeping the heart.

1. How it may be kept humble in prosperity, 73

2. How it may be kept from desponding in adversity, 84

3. How it may be supported in time of Zion's troubles, 98

4. How it may be preserved from fears in public dangers, 112

5. How it may be kept from repining when outward wants are either felt

or feared, 134

6. How it may be kept from vain thoughts in religious duties, 153

7. How it may be kept from revengeful motions under injuries, 170

8. How it may be kept meek and patient under great provocations, 186

9. How it may be kept when tempted, from yielding to the temptations,

199

10. How it may be kept from sad conclusions in dark and doubting

seasons, 206

11. How it may be kept from relapsing under sufferings for religion,

228

12. How it may be reconciled to death in time of sickness, 238

APPLICATION.

To hypocrites and formal professors, 253

Why Christians walk so unprofitable for the awakening of all, 260

Ten motives to engage our diligence in keeping it, 268

A sixfold means for keeping it rightly, 284

For support and comfort in keeping it, 292

DOUBLE TABLE.

1st Table--Sins most incident to the members of particular churches,

299

2nd Table--The duties enjoined on them in the scriptures, 303

Six benefits in walking by these rules, 308

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EPISTLE DEDICATORY.

To my dearly beloved and longed for, the flock of Jesus Christ in

Dartmouth, over whom the Holy Ghost hath made me an overseer; sound

judgment, true zeal, and unstained purity, are heartily wished.

My Dear Friends,

There are three sad sights with which our eyes should continually

affect our hearts: the 1st, is to behold in every place, so many

profane and dissolute ones, who bear the very image of Satan; the face

of whose conversation plainly discovers what they are and whither they

are going, Phil. iii. 18, 19. These look like themselves, the children

of wrath. The 2d, is to see so many cursed hypocrites artificially

disguising themselves, and with marvellous dexterity acting the parts

of saints; so that even a judicious eye may sometimes mistake the

similar workings of the spirit on them, for his saving workings on

others: to hear such a person conferring, praying, bewailing his

corruptions, and talking of his experiences; would easily persuade a

man to believe that he hath the heart, as well as the face, of a

sincere Christian: for, sic oculus, sic ille manus, sic ora ferebat.

So the people of God do speak, so they pray, and even so they open

their conditions: these look like saints, but are none. The 3d, is to

see so many real saints, in whom the spirit of truth is, who yet,

through the impetuous workings of their corruptions, and neglecting of

the watch over their hearts, do often fall into such scandalous

practices, that they look like hypocrites, though they are not so.

These are three sad sights indeed; and, Oh that my head were waters,

and mine eyes fountains of tears, that I might weep abundantly over

them all!

For the first, I would mourn heartily, considering that they (so

continuing) must be damned eternally, 2 Thess. i. 8, 9. 1 Cor. vi. 9.

For the second, I would both weep and tremble, considering that they

(so abiding) must be damned doubly, Matth. xxiv. 51.

And for the third, no less than any of the rest, because, though they

themselves may, and shall be saved, yet their examples make fast the

bonds of death upon both the former, Matth. xviii. 7. 2 Sam. xii. 13,

14.

Alas! that ever they should shed the blood of other souls, for whom

Christ shed his own blood! that ever they should be cruel to others,

who have found Christ so kind to them! I know they dare not do it

directly and intentionally, but so it proves occasionally and

eventually. Suffer me here to digress a little, and expostulate with

these prejudiced and hardened souls; I will presently return to you

again. O why do you mischief your own souls by other men's examples?

because they stumble and break their shins, will you fall, and break

your necks? I desire all such as harden themselves by these things, and

take up a good opinion of their own deplorable condition, would soberly

consider, and answer these three queries.

Query 1. Doth religion any way countenance or patronize the sinful

practices of its professors? Or doth it not rather impartially and

severely condemn them? It is the glory of the Christian religion, that

it is pure and undefiled, Jam. i. 27. No doctrine so holy, Psal. xix.

8. Nor doth any make more provision for an holy life, Tit. ii. 11, 12.

Indeed there is a case wherein we may change the evil practices of men

upon their principles; but that is, when their practices naturally flow

from, and necessarily follow their principles: as for example, if I see

a Papist sin boldly, I may charge it upon his principles, for they set

pardons to sale, and so make way for looseness; if I see an Arminian

slight the grace of God, and proudly advance himself, I may cry, shame

upon his principles, which directly lead to it: but can I do so, where

such practices are condemned and provided against, by their own avowed

principles who commit them?

Query 2. Is it not a most irrational thing to let fly at religion

because of the scandalous ways of some, whilst in the mean time you

wholly slight and overlook the holy and heavenly conversation of many

others? Are all that possess godliness loose and careless in their

lives? no, some are an ornament to their profession, and the glory of

Christ; and why must the innocent be condemned with the guilty? why the

eleven, for one Judas?

Query 3. If you condemn religion because of the scandalous lives of

some that profess it, must you not then cast off all religion in the

world, and turn downright Atheists? Surely this is the consequence of

it: for what religion is there, but some that profess it walk contrary

to their professions? and then, as Constantine told the Novatian, you

must set set up your ladder, and go to heaven by yourself. But, alas!

it is not our printed apologies for religion, but the visible

reformation of its professors, that must both salve its honour, and

remove those fatal stumbling-blocks at which the blind world strikes,

and falls into eternal perdition.

Now there are two ways by which this may be effected: First", by

convincing the consciences of professors of their miscarriages; and the

evil and aggravations of them. Secondly, by medicating the heart, and

cleansing the fountain whence they proceed. In the first of these, a

worthy and eminent servant of Christ has lately laboured, holding a

clear gospel-glass before the faces of professors, which truly

represents their spots and blemishes: if he that reads it will

consider, apply, and practice, it shall doubtless turn to his

salvation; but if it turn to no good account to him that reads it, I

know it shall turn to a testimony for him that wrote it. The second is

a principal design of this small treatise, the subject whereof is

exceeding weighty, and of daily use to the people of God, though the

manner of handling it be attended with many defects and weaknesses:

every one cannot be excellent, who yet may be useful.

I will exercise your patience no longer than whilst I tell you,

1. Why I publish it to the view of the world.

2. Why I direct it particularly to you.

First, for the publication of it, take this sincere and brief account,

that, as I was led to this subject by a special providence, so to the

publication of it by a kind of necessity: the providence at first

leading me to it, was this, a dear and choice friend of my intimate

acquaintance, being under much inward trouble, upon the account of some

special heart-disorder, opened the case to me; and earnestly requested

some rules and helps in that particular: whilst I was bending my

thoughts to that special case, divers other cases of like importance

(some of which were dependent upon that consideration) occurred to my

thoughts; and this scripture, which I have insisted upon, presented

itself, as a fit foundation for the whole discourse; which being

lengthened out to what you see, diverse friends requested me to

transcribe for their use, divers of the cases here handled, and some

others begged me to publish the whole; to which I was in a manner

necessitated, to save the pains of transcribing, which to me is a very

tedious and tiresome work: and just as I had almost finished the copy,

and opportunity presented (and that somewhat strangely) to make it

public. So that from first to last I have been carried beyond my first

intentions in this thing.

Object. If any say, the world is even cloyed with books; and therefore,

though the discourse be necessary, yet the publication is needless.

Sol. I answer, There are multitudes of books indeed, and of them, many

concern not themselves about root-truths, and practical godliness, but

spend their strength upon impracticable notions and frivolous

controversies; many also strike at root-truths, and endeavor to

undermine the power of godliness; and some there are that nourish the

root, and tend to clear and confirm, to prepare and apply the great

truths of the gospel, that they may be bread for souls to live and feed

on: now, though I could wish, that those who have handled the pen of

the scribe, had better employed their time and pains than to obtrude

such useless discourses upon the world; yet, for books of the latter

rank, I say, that, when husbandmen complain of too much corn, let

Christians complain of too many such books.

2. And if you be so highly conceited of your own furniture and ability,

that such books are needless to you; if you let them alone, they will

do you no hurt, and other poor hungry souls will be glad of them, and

bless God for what you despise and leave.

Object. If it be said, that several of the cases here handled touch not

your condition, I answer,

Sol. 1. That which is not your condition may be another's condition. If

you be placed in an easy, full, and prosperous state, and so have no

need of the helps here offered to support your heart under pinching

wants, others are forced to live by faith for every day's provision: If

you be dandled upon the knee of providence, some of your brethren are

under its feet: if you have inward peace and tranquility of spirit, and

so need not the counsels here given, to ward off those desperate

conclusions that poor afflicted souls are ready to draw upon themselves

at such a time; yet it may be a word in season to them, and they may

say, as David to Abigail, blessed be thou of the Lord, and blessed by

thy advice.

2. That may be your condition shortly, which is not your condition at

present: say not, thy mountain stands strong, thou shalt never be

moved: there are changes in the right-hand of the most High; and then

those truths, which are little more esteemed than hedge-fruits, will be

as apples of gold in pictures of silver. In Jer. 10, 11, the prophet

there teaches the Jews (who then dwelt in their own houses) how to

defend their religion in Babylon, and what they should say to the

Chaldeans there, and therefore that verse is written in Chaldee. So

much for the reasons of its publication. Next, for the dedication of it

to you, I was induced thereto by the considerations,

1. Of the relation I have to you above all the people in the world: I

look upon my gifts as yours, my time as yours, and all the talents I am

intrusted with, as yours: it is not with you as with a woman whose

husband is dead, and so is freed from the law of her husband; the

relation still continues, and so do all the mutual duties of it.

2. By the consideration of my necessitated absence from you. I would

not that personal absence should by insensible degrees untwist (as

usually it doth) the cord of friendship; and therefore have endeavoured

(as absent friends use to do) to preserve and strengthen it by this

small remembrance. It was Vespasian's answer to Apollonius, when he

desired access for two philosophers: my doors (said Vespasian) are

always open to philosophers, but my very breast is open to thee. I

cannot say with him, my doors are open for the free access of friends,

being by a sad providence shut against myself; but this I can say, my

very breast is still open to you; you are as dear to me as ever.

3. Another inducement (and indeed the main) was the perpetual

usefulness and necessity of these truths for you, which you will have

continual need of: and I know few of you have such happy memories to

retain, and I cannot be always with you to inculcate these things, but

litera scripta manet. I was willing to leave this with you as a legacy,

as a testimony of sincere love for, and care over you: this may counsel

and direct you when I cannot: I may be rendered useless to you by a

civil or natural death; but this will out live me, and oh that it may

serve your souls when I am silent in the dust!

To hasten now to a conclusion: I have only three requests to make to

you, which I earnestly beseech you not to deny me; yea, I charge you,

as ever you hope to appear with comfort before the great shepherd, do

not dare to slight these requests;

1. Above all other studies in the world study your own hearts: waste

not a minute more of your precious time about frivolous and sapless

controversies. It is reported even of Bellarmine (how truly I examine

not) quod a studiis scholasticae theologiae averteretur fere nause

abundas, quonian succo carebant liquid pietatis, i.e. he turned with

loathing from the study of school divinity, because it wanted the sweet

juice of piety. I had rather it should be said of you, as one said of

Swinkfeldius, he wanted a regular head, but not an honest heart, than

that you should have regular heads, and irregular hearts. My dear

flock, I have, according to the grace given me, laboured in the course

of my ministry among you, to feed you with the heart-strengthening

bread of practical doctrine; and I do assure you, it is far better you

should have the sweet and saving impressions of gospel-truths,

feelingly and powerfully conveyed to your hearts, than only to

understand them by a bare ratiocination, or a dry syllogistical

inference. Leave trifling studies to such as have time lying on their

hands, and know not how to employ it: remember you are at the door of

eternity, and have other work to do; those hours you spend upon

heart-work in your closets, are the golden spots of all your time, and

will have the sweetest influence to your last hour. Never forget those

sermons I preached to you, upon that subject, from 2 Kings xx. 2, 3.

Heart-work is weighty and difficult work; and error there, may cost you

your souls: I may say of it, as Augustine speaks of the doctrine of the

trinity, nihilo facilius aut periculosius erratur; a man can err in

nothing more easily or more dangerously. O then, study your hearts.

3. My next request is, that you will carefully look to your

conversations, and be accurate in all your ways; hold forth the word of

life: be sure by the strictness and holiness of your lives, to settle

yourselves in the very consciences of your enemies. Remember that your

lives must be produced in the great day to judge the world, 1 Cor. vi.

2. Oh then, what manner of persons ought you to be! you have many eyes

over you, the omniscient eye of God, that searches the heart and reins,

Rev. ii. 23. the vigilant eye of Satan, Job. i. 7, 8. the envious eyes

of enemies, that curiously observe you, Psal. v. 8. the quick and

observant eye of conscience, which none of your actions escape, Rom.

ix. 1.

O then be precise and accurate in all manner of conversation: keep up

the power of godliness in your closets and families, and then you will

not let it fall in your more public employments and conversations in

the world. I have often told you, that it is the honour of the gospel,

that it makes the best parents and children, the best masters and

servants, the best husbands and wives in the world.

My third and last request is, that you pray for me: I hope I can say,

and I am sure some of you have acknowledged, that I came at first

amongst you, as the return and answer of your prayers; and indeed so it

should be, Luke x. 2. I am persuaded also, I have been carried on in my

work by your prayers; it is sweet when it is so, Eph. vi. 18, 19. And I

hope by your prayers to receive yet a further benefit, even that which

is mentioned, Heb. xiii. 18, 19. Philem. ver. 22. And truly it is but

equal you should pray for me: I have often prayed for you: let the

pulpit, family, and closet, witness for me: and God forbid I should sin

against the Lord, in ceasing to pray for you.

Yea, friends, your interest ought to persuade you to it: what mercies

you obtain for me, redound to your own advantage; if God preserve me,

it is for your use and service; the more gifts and graces a minister

hath, the better for them that shall wait on his ministry: the more God

gives in to me, the more I shall be able to give out to you. I will

detain you no longer, but to intreat you to accept this small

testification of my great love, and have recourse to it, according as

the exigencies of your condition shall require: read it consideringly

and obediently; judge it not by the dress and style, but by the weight

and favour of what you read. It is a good rule of Bernard, in legendis

libris, non quaeramus scientiam sed saporem, i.e. in reading books,

regard not so much the science, as the favour. That it may prove the

savour of life unto life to you, and all those into whose hands it

shall come, is the hearty desire of,

Your loving and faithful pastor,

JOHN FLAVEL.

From my study at Ley in Slapton,

Oct. 7th, 1667.

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A

SAINT INDEED

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of

life--Prov. iv. 23.

The heart of man is his worst part before it be regenerate, and the

best afterwards: it is the seat of principles, and fountain of actions.

The eye of God is, and the eye of a Christian ought to be, principally

fixed upon it.

The greatest difficulty in conversion, is, to win the heart to God; and

the greatest difficulty after conversion, is, to keep the heart with

God. Here lies the very pinch and stress of religion; here is that

which makes the way to life a narrow way, and the gate to heaven a

strait gate. Direction and help in this great work, are the scope and

sum of this text; wherein we have,

1. An exhortation, keep thy heart with all diligence.

2. The reason, or motive enforcing it; for out of it are the issues of

life.

In the exhortation I shall consider,

1. The matter of the duty.

2. The manner of performing it.

1. The matter of the duty, keep thy heart. Heart is not here taken

properly for that noble part of the body which philosophers call, the

primum vivens, et ultimum moriens; the first that lives, and the last

that dies; but by heart, in a metaphor, the scripture sometimes

understands some particular noble faculty of the soul: in Rom. i. 21,

it is put for the understanding part, their foolish heart, (i. e.)

their foolish understanding was darkened. And Psalm cxix. 11, it is put

for the memory, thy word have I hid in my heart; and 1 John iii. 20, it

is put for the conscience, which hath it in both the light of the

understanding, and the recognitions of the memory: if our heart condemn

us, (i.e.) if our conscience, whose proper office it is to condemn. But

here we are to take it more generally for the whole soul, or inner man;

for look what the heart is to the body, that the soul is to the man;

and what health is to the heart, that holiness is to the soul: Quod

sanitas in corpore id sanctitas in corde. The state of the whole body

depends upon the soundness and vigour of the heart, and the everlasting

state of the whole man upon the good or ill condition of the soul.

And by keeping the heart, understand the diligent and constant [1] use

and improvement of all holy means and duties, to preserve the soul from

sin, and maintain its sweet and free communion with God. Lavater in

loc. will have the word taken from a besieged garrison, begirt by many

enemies without, and in danger of being betrayed by treacherous

citizens within: in which danger, the soldiers, upon pain of death, are

commanded to watch; and whereas the expression (keep thy heart) seems

to put it upon us as our work, yet it does not imply a sufficiency or

ability in us to do it. We are as able to stop the sun in its course,

or make the rivers run backward, as by our own skill and power to rule

and order our hearts: we may as well be our own saviours, as our own

keepers; and yet Solomon speaks properly enough when he says, keep thy

heart; because the duty is ours; though the power be God's. A natural

man hath no power: a gracious man hath some, though not sufficient; and

that power he hath, depends upon the exciting and assisting strength of

Christ: gratia gratiam postulat, grace within us is beholding to grace

without us. Without me ye can do nothing, John xv. 5. So much of the

matter of the duty.

2. The manner of performing it, is with all diligence; the Hebrew is

very emphatical, cum omnicustodia, keep with all keeping, quid. keep,

keep; set double guards, your hearts will be gone else. And this

vehemency of expression with which the duty is urged, plainly implies

how difficult it is to keep our hearts, and how dangerous to let them

go.

3. The reason, or motive quickening to this duty, is very forcible and

weighty: for out of it are the issues of life. That is, it is the

source and fountain of all vital actions and operations; hinc fons buni

et pecandi orige,saith Jerom; it is the spring and original both of

good and evil, as the spring in a watch that sets all the wheels in

motion. The heart is the treasury, the hand and tongue but the shops:

what is in these, comes from thence; the hand and tongue always begin

where the heart ends. The heart contrives, and the members execute,

Luke vi. 45. A good man out of the good treasury of his heart bringeth

forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasury of his

heart bringeth forth evil things: for out of the abundance of his heart

his mouth speaketh. So then, if the heart err in its work, these must

needs miscarry in theirs; for heart-errors are like the errors of the

first concoction, which cannot be rectified afterwards: or like the

misplacing, and inverting of the stamps and letters in the press, which

must needs cause so many errata in all the copies that are printed off.

O then how important a duty is that which is contained in the following

proposition!

Doct. That the keeping, and right managing of the heart in every

condition, is the great business of a Christian's life.

What the philosopher saith of waters, is as properly applicable to

hearts; suis terminis: dafficile continentur: it is hard to keep them

within any bounds: God hath set bounds and limits to them, yet how

frequently do they transgress, not only the bounds of grace and

religion, but even of reason and common honesty? Hic labour hoc opus

est: this is that which affords the Christian matter of labour, fear

and trembling to his dying day. It is not the cleansing of the hand

that makes a Christian, for many a hypocrite can shew as fair a hand as

he; but the purifying, watching, and right ordering of the heart; this

is the thing that provokes so many sad complaints, and costs so many

deep groans and brinish tears. It was the pride of Hezekiah's heart

that made him lie in the dust mourning before the Lord, 2 Chron. xxxii.

26. It was the fear of hypocrisy invading the heart, that made David

cry, let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed,

Psal. cxix. 80. It was the sad experience he had of the divisions and

distractions of his own heart in the service of God, that made him pour

out that prayer, unite my heart to fear thy name, Psal. lxxxvi. 11.

The method in which I shall improve the point shall be this;

First, I shall enquire what the keeping of the heart supposes and

imports.

Secondly, Assign divers reasons, why Christians must make this the

great work and business of their lives.

Thirdly, Point at those special seasons which especially call for this

diligence in keeping the heart.

Fourthly, and lastly, apply the whole in several uses.

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First, What the keeping of the heart supposes and imports.

To keep the heart, necessarily supposes a previous work of

sanctification, which hath set the heart right, by giving it a new

spiritual bent and inclination; for, as long as the heart is not set

right by grace, as to its habitual frame, no duties or means can keep

it right with God. Self is the poise of the unsanctified heart, which

biases and moves it in all its designs and actions; and, as long as it

is so, it is impossible that any external means should keep it with

God.

Man, by creation, was of one constant, uniform frame and tenor of

spirit, held one straight and even course; not one thought or faculty

ravelled or disordered: his mind had a perfect illumination to

understand and know the will of God; his will a perfect compliance

therewith; his sensitive appetite, and other inferior powers, stood in

a most obedient subordination.

Man, by degeneration, is become a most disordered and rebellious

creature, contesting with and opposing his Maker, as the first cause,

by self-dependence; as the chiefest good, by self-love; as the highest

Lord, by self-will; and as the last end, by self-seeking; and so is

quite disordered, and all his acts irregular: his illuminated

understanding is clouded with ignorance; his complying will, full of

rebellion and stubbornness; his subordinate powers casting off the

dominion and government of the superior faculties:

But by regeneration this disordered soul is set right again;

sanctification being the rectifying and due framing, or, as the

scripture phrases it, the renovation of the soul after the image of

God, Eph. iv. 24. in which, self-dependence is removed by faith;

self-love, by the love of God; self-will, by subjection and obedience

to the will of God; and self-seeking by self denial. The darkened

understanding is again illuminated, Eph. i. 18. the refractory will

sweetly subdued, Psal. cx. 3. the rebellious appetite or concupiscence

gradually conquered, Rom. vi. 6, 7. And thus the soul, which sin had

universally depraved, is again by grace restored and rectified.

This being presupposed, it will not be difficult to apprehend what it

is to keep the heart, which is nothing else but the constant care and

diligence of such a renewed man, to preserve his soul in that holy

frame to which grace hath reduced it, and daily strives to hold it.

For, though grace hath, in great measure, rectified the soul, and given

it an habitual heavenly temper; yet sin often actually discomposes it

again; so that even a gracious heart is like a musical instrument,

which, though it be ever so exactly tuned, a small matter places out of

tune again; yea, hang it aside but a little, and it will need setting

again, before you can play another lesson on it: even so stands the

case with gracious hearts; if they are in frame in one duty, yet how

dull, dead and disordered when they come to another! And therefore

every duty needs a particular preparation of the heart. If thou prepare

thine heart, and stretch out thy hands towards him, Job xi. 13. Well

then, to keep the heart, is carefully to preserve it from sin, which

disorders it; and maintain that spiritual and gracious frame, which

fits it for a life of communion with God. And this includes these six

acts in it;

1. Frequent observation of the frame of the heart, turning in and

examining how the case stands with it; this is one part of the work:

carnal and formal persons take no heed to this, they cannot be brought

to confer with their own hearts; there are some men and women that have

lived forty or fifty years in the world, and have scarce had one hour's

discourse with their own hearts all that while: it is a hard thing to

bring a man and himself together upon such an account; but saints know

those soliloquies and self-conferences to be of excellent use and

advantage. The heathen could say, anima sedendo & quiescendo fit

sapiens, the soul is made wise by sitting still in quietness. Though

bankrupts care not to look into their books of account, yet upright

hearts will know whether they go backward or forward, Psal. lxxvii. 6.

I commune with mine own heart. The heart can never be kept, until its

case be examined and understood.

2. It includes deep humiliation for heart-evils and disorders; thus

Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, 2 Chron. xxxii.

26. Thus the people were ordered to spread forth their hands to God in

prayer, in a sense of the plague of their own hearts, 1 Kings viii. 38.

Upon this account many an upright heart had been laid low before God: O

what an heart have I! They have in their confessions pointed at the

heart; the pained place; Lord, here is the wound, here is the

plague-sore. It is with the heart well kept, as it is with the eye,

which is a fit emblem of it, if a small dust get into the eye, it will

never leave twinkling and watering till it have wept it out: so the

upright heart cannot be at rest till it have wept out its troubles, and

poured out its complaints before the Lord.

3. It includes earnest supplications and instant prayer for

heart-purifying and rectifying grace, when sin hath defiled and

disordered it; so, Psal. xix. 12, cleanse thou me from secret faults;

and Psal. lxxxvi. 11, Unite my heart to fear thy name.--Saints have

always many such petitions depending before the throne of God's grace;

this is the thing which is most pleaded by them with God: when they are

praying for outward mercies, haply their spirits may be more remiss,

but when it comes to the heart case, then they extend their spirits to

the utmost, fill their mouths with arguments, weep and make

supplication: oh, for a better heart! of for a heart to love God more!

to hate sin more, to walk more evenly with God: Lord, deny not to me

such a heart, whatever thou deny me; give me a heart to fear thee, love

and delight in thee, if I beg my bread in desolate places. It is

observed of holy Mr. Bradford, that when he was confessing sin, he

would never give over confessing until he had felt some brokenness of

heart for that sin; and, when praying for any spiritual mercy, would

never give over that suit, till he had got some relish of that mercy;

that is the third thing included in keeping the heart.

4. It includes the imposing of strong engagements and bonds upon

ourselves to walk more accurately with God, and avoid the occasions

whereby the heart may be induced to sin: well composed, advised, and

deliberate vows, are, in some cases, of excellent use to guard the

heart against some special sin; so Job xxxi. 1, I made a covenant with

mine eyes; by this means, holy ones have overawed their souls, and

preserved themselves from defilement by some special heart-corruptions.

5. It includes a constant holy jealousy over our own hearts;

quick-sighted self-jealousy is an excellent preservative from sin; he

that will keep his heart, must have the eyes of his soul awake and open

upon all the disorderly and tumultuous stirrings of his affections; if

the affections break loose, and the passions be stirred, the soul must

discover and suppress them before they get to an height: O, my soul,

dost thou well in this? My tumultuous thoughts and passions, where is

your commission?

State viri, quae causa viae? quive estis in armis?Virg.

Ye men pause, what is the cause of journey? why are ye in arms?

Happy is the man that thus feareth always, Prov. xxviii. 14. By this

fear of the Lord it is that men depart from evil, shake off security,

and preserve themselves from iniquity; he that will keep his heart must

feed with fear, rejoice with fear, and pass the whole time of his

sojourning here in fear, and all little enough to keep the heart from

sin.

6. And Lastly, to add no more, it includes the realising of God's

presence with us, and setting the Lord always before us: thus the

people of God have found a singular means to keep their hearts upright,

and awe them from sin. When the eye of our faith is fixed upon the eye

of God's omniscience, we dare not let out our thoughts and affections

to vanity: holy Job durst not suffer his heart to yield to an impure,

vain thought; and what was it that moved him to so great

circumspection? Why, he tells you, doth he not see my ways, and count

all my steps? Job xxxi. 4. Walk before me (saith God to Abraham) and be

thou perfect, Gen. xvii. 1. Even as parents use to set their children

in the congregation before them, knowing that else they will be toying

and playing; so would the heart of the best man too, were it not for

the eye of God.

In these and such like particulars, do gracious souls express the care

they have of their hearts; they are as careful to prevent the breaking

loose of their corruptions in times of temptation, as seamen are to

bind fast the guns, that they break not loose in a storm; as careful to

preserve the sweetness and comfort they have got from God in any duty,

as one that comes out of a hot bath, or great sweat, is of taking cold,

by going forth into the chill air. This is the work, and of all works

in religion it is the most difficult, constant, and important work.

1. It is the hardest work; heart-work is hard work indeed: to shuffle

over religious duties with a loose and heedless spirit, will cost no

great pains; but to set thyself before the Lord, and tie up thy loose

and vain thoughts to a constant and serious attendance upon him; this

will cost thee something: to attain a facility and dexterity of

language in prayer, and put thy meaning into apt and decent

expressions, is easy; but to get thy heart broken for sin, whilst thou

art confessing it; melted with free grace, whilst thou art blessing God

for it; to be really ashamed and humbled through the apprehensions of

God's infinite holiness, and to keep thy heart in this frame, not only

in, but after duty, will surely cost thee some groans and travailing

pains of soul: to repress the outward acts of sin, and compose the

external part of thy life in a laudable and comely manner, is no great

matter; even carnal persons by the force of common principles can do

this; but to kill the root of corruption within, to set and keep up an

holy government over thy thoughts, to have all things lie straight and

orderly in the heart, this is not easy.

2. It is a constant work. The keeping of the heart is such a work, as

is never done till life be done; this labour and our life end together:

It is with a Christian in this business, as it is with seamen that have

sprung a leak at sea; if they tag not constantly at the pump, the water

increases upon them, and will quickly sink them. It is in vain for them

to say, the work is hard, and we are weary; there is no time or

condition in the life of a Christian, which will suffer an intermission

of this work. It is in the keeping watch over our hearts, as it was in

the keeping up of Moses's hands, whilst Israel and Amalek were fighting

below, Exod. xvii. 12. No sooner do Moses's hands grow heavy and sink

down, but Amalek prevails. You know it cost David and Peter many a sad

day and night for intermitting the watch over their own hearts but a

few minutes.

3. It is the most important business of a Christian's life. Without

this we are but formalists in religion; all our professions, gifts and

duties signify nothing: My son, give me thine heart, Prov. xxiii. 26.

God is pleased to call that a gift, which is indeed a debt; he will put

this honour upon the creature to receive it from him in the way of a

gift: but, if this be not given him, he regards not whatever else you

bring to him; there is so much only of worth and value in what we do,

as there is of heart in it. Concerning the heart, God seems to say, as

Joseph of Benjamin, if you bring not Benjamin with you, you shall not

see my face. Among the Heathens, when the beast was cut up for

sacrifice, the first thing the priest looked upon was the heart; and,

if that were unsound and naught, the sacrifice was rejected. God

rejects all duties (how glorious soever in other respects) offered him

without a heart. He that performs duty without a heart, viz.

heedlessly, is no more accepted with God, than he that performs it with

a double heart, viz. hypocritically, Isa. lxvi. 3. And thus I have

briefly opened the nature of the duty, what is imported in this phrase,

Keep thy heart.

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Secondly. Next, I shall give you some rational account why Christians

should make this the great business of their lives, to keep their

hearts.

The importance and necessity of making this our great and main

business, will manifestly appear in that, 1. The honour of God; 2. The

sincerity of our profession; 3. The beauty of our conversation; 4. The

comfort of our souls; 5. The improvement of our graces; and, 6. Our

stability in the hour of temptation; are all wrapt up in, and dependent

on our sincerity and care in the management in this work.

1. The glory of God is much concerned therein; heart-evils are very

provoking evils to the Lord. The schools do well observe, that outward

sins are majoris infamae, sins of greater infamy; but heart-sins are

majoris reatus, sins of deeper guilt. How severely hath the great God

declared his wrath from heaven against heart wickedness; the great

crime for which the old world stands indicted, is heart wickedness,

Gen. vi. 5, 6, 7. God saw that every imagination (or fiction) of their

heart was only evil, and that continually; for which he sent the most

dreadful judgment that was ever executed since the world began: And the

Lord said I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the

earth, both man and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of

heaven, for it repenteth me that I have made man, v. 7. We find not

their murders, adulteries, blasphemies, (though they were defiled with

these) particularly alleged against them; but the evils of their

hearts: yea, that which God was so provoked by, as to give up his

peculiar inheritance into the enemy's hand, was the evil of their

hearts, Jer. iv. 14. O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness,

that thou mayest be saved; how long shall vain thoughts lodge within

thee? The wickedness and vanity of their thoughts God took special

notice of; and, because of this, the Chaldean must come upon them as a

lion from his thicket, and tear them to pieces, v. 7. For the very sin

of thoughts it was that God threw down the fallen angels from heaven,

and keeps them still in everlasting chains to the judgment of the great

day; by which expression is not obscurely intimated some extraordinary

judgment to which they are reserved, as prisoners that have most irons

laid upon them, may be supposed to be the greatest malefactors: and

what was their sin? Why only spiritual wickedness. For they having no

bodily organs, could act nothing externally against God. Yea, mere

heart-evils are so provoking, that for them he rejects with indignation

all the duties that some men perform unto him, Isa. lxvi. 3. He that

killeth an ox, is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as

if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he

offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an

idol. In what words could the abhorrence of a creature's actions be

more fully expressed by the holy God? Murder and idolatry are not more

vile in his account, than their sacrifices, though materially such as

himself appointed: and what made them so? The following words inform

us, their soul delighteth in their abomination.

To conclude, such is the vileness of mere heart-sins, that the

scriptures sometimes intimate the difficulty of pardon for them. So in

the case of Simon Magus, Acts viii. 21, his heart was not right, he had

vile thoughts of God and the things of God: the Apostle bids him repent

and pray, if perhaps the thoughts of his heart might be forgiven him. O

then never slight heart-evils! for by these God is highly wronged and

provoked; and for this reason let every Christian make it his work to

keep his heart with all diligence.

2. The sincerity of our profession much depends upon the care and

conscience we have in keeping our hearts; for it is most certain, that

a man is but an hypocrite in his profession, how curious soever he be

in the externals of religion, that is heedless and careless of the

frame of his heart: you have a pregnant instance of this in the case of

Jehu, but Jehu took no heed to walk in the ways of the Lord God of

Israel with his heart, 2 Kings x. 31. That context gives an account of

the great service performed by Jehu against the house of Ahab and Baal,

as also of a great temporal reward given him by God for that service,

even that his children to the fourth generation, should sit upon the

throne of Israel. And yet in these words Jehu is censured for an

hypocrite: though God approved, and rewarded the work, yet he abhorred

and rejected the person that did it as hypocritical: and wherein lay

his hypocrisy? but in this, that he took no heed to walk in the ways of

the Lord with his heart, i. e. he did all insincerely and for

self-ends: and though the work he did was materially good, yet he, not

purging his heart from those unworthy self-designs in doing it, was an

hypocrite: and Simon, of whom we spake before, tho' he appeared such a

person that the Apostle could not regularly refuse him; yet his

hypocrisy was quickly discovered: and what discovered it but this, that

though he professed and associated himself with the saints, yet he was

a stranger to the mortification of heart-sins! Thy heart is not right

with God, Acts viii. 21. It is true, there is a great difference among

Christians themselves, in their diligence and dexterity about

heart-work; some are more conversant and successful in it than others

are; but he that takes no heed to his heart, he that is not careful to

order it aright before God, is but a hypocrite. And they came unto me

as the people cometh, and sit before thee (as my people) and hear thy

words, but they will not do them; for with their mouths they shew much

love, but their heart goes after their covetousness, Ezek. xxxiii. 31,

32. Here were a company of formal hypocrites, as is evident by that

expression (as my people) like them, but not of them. And what made

them so? Their outside was fair; here were reverend postures, high

professions, much seeming joy and delight in ordinances; thou art to

them as a lovely song; yea, but for all that they kept not their hearts

with God in those duties, their hearts were commanded by their lusts,

they went after their covetousness; had they kept their hearts with

God, all had been well; but not regarding which way their hearts went

in duty, there lay the core of their hypocrisy.

Objection. If any upright soul should hence infer that I am an

hypocrite too, for many times my heart departs from God in duty, do

what I can; yet I cannot hold it close with God.

Solution.. To this I answer, the very objection carries in it its own

solution. Thou sayest, do what I can, yet I cannot keep my heart with

God. Soul, if thou doest what thou canst, thou hast the blessing of an

upright, though God sees good to exercise thee under the affliction of

a discomposed heart. There remains still some wildness in the thoughts

and fancies of the best to humble them; but, if you find a care before

to prevent them, and opposition against them when they come, grief and

sorrow afterwards; you will find enough to clear you from reigning

hypocrisy.

1. This fore-care is seen partly in laying up the word in thine heart

to prevent them, Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not

sin against thee, Psal. cxix. 11: partly in our endeavors to engage our

hearts to God, Jer. xxx. 21, and partly in begging preventing grace

from God in our onsets upon duty, Psal. cxix. 36-37, it is a good sign

where this care goes before a duty.

And, 2d, It is a sweet sign of uprightness to oppose them in their

first rise. I hate vain thoughts, Psal. cxix. 113. The spirit lusteth

against the flesh, Gal. v. 17.

And, 3d, Thy after-grief discovers thy upright heart. If, with

Hezekiah, thou art humbled for the evils of thy heart, thou hast no

reason, from those disorders, to question the integrity of it; but to

suffer sin to lodge quietly in the heart, to let thy heart habitually

and uncontrolledly wander from God, is a sad, and dangerous symptom

indeed.

3. The beauty of our conversation arises from the heavenly frames and

holy order of our spirits; there is a spiritual lustre and beauty in

the conversation of saints; The righteous is more excellent than his

neighbour: they shine as the lights of the world; but whatever lustre

and beauty is in their lives, comes from the excellency of their

spirits, as the candle within puts a lustre upon the lanthorn in which

it shines. It is impossible that a disordered and neglected heart

should ever produce well ordered conversation: and since (as the text

observes) the issues or streams of life flow out of the heart as their

fountain, it must needs follow, that such as the heart is, the life

will be: hence 1 Pet. ii. 11-12, Abstain from fleshly lusts--having

your conversation honest, or beautiful, as the Greek word imports. So,

Isa. lv. 7, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his

thoughts. His way notes the course of his life, his thoughts the frame

of his heart; and therefore since the course of his life flows from his

thoughts, or the frame of his heart, both or neither will be forsaken:

the heart is the womb of all actions: these actions are virtually and

seminally contained in our thoughts, and these thoughts being once made

up into affections, are quickly made out into suitable actions and

practices. If the heart be wicked, then, as Christ saith, Out of the

heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, &c. Mat. xv. 19. Mark

the order; first wanton, or revengeful thoughts; then unclean, or

murderous practices.

And if the heart be holy and spiritual, then, as David speaks from

sweet experience, My heart is (inditing) a good matter, I speak of the

things which (I have made) my tongue is as the pen of a ready writer,

Psal. xlv. 1. Here is a life richly beautified with good works, some

ready made; I will speak of the things which I have made: others upon

the wheel making, my heart is inditing, but both proceeding from the

heavenly frame of his heart.

Put but the heart in frame, and the life will quickly discover that it

is so. I think it is not very difficult to discern, by the duties and

conversations of Christians, what frames their spirits are under; take

a Christian in a good frame, and how serious, heavenly, and profitable

will his conversations and duties be! what a lovely companion is he

during the continuance of it! It would do any one's heart good to be

with him at such a time, The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom,

and his tongue talketh of judgment, the law of his God is in his heart,

Psal. xxxvii. 30 31.

When the heart is right with God, and full of God, how dexterously and

ingeniously will it wind in spiritual discourse, improving every

occasion and advantage to some heavenly purpose! Few words run then at

the waste spout.

And what else can be the reason why the discourses and duties of many

Christians are become so frothy and unprofitable, their communion both

with God, and one another, become as a dry stalk, but because their

hearts are neglected? Surely this must be the reason of it, and verily

it is an evil greatly to be bewailed; for want of this

Christian-fellowship, it is become a sapless thing; so the attracting

beauty that was wont to shine from the conversation of the saints upon

the faces and consciences of the world, (which if it did not allure,

and bring them in love with the ways of God, yet at least left a

testimony in their consciences of the excellency of those men and their

ways) this is in a great measure lost, to the unspeakable detriment of

religion.

Time was, when Christians did carry it at such a rate, that the world

stood at a gaze at them. Their life and language were of a different

strain from others, their tongues discovered them to be Galileans,

wherever they came; but now, since vain speculations, and fruitless

controversies have so much obtained, and heart-work, practical

godliness, so much neglected among professors, the case is sadly

altered, their discourse is become like other men's; if they come among

you now, they may (to allude to that Acts 2, 6,) hear every man speak

in his own language. And truly I have little hope to see this evil

redressed, and the credit of religion again repaired, till Christians

fall to their old work, till they ply heart work closer. When the salt

of heavenly mindedness is again cast into the spring, the streams will

run clearer and sweeter.

4. The comfort of our souls doth much depend upon the keeping of our

hearts; for he that is negligent in attending his own heart, is

(ordinarily) a great stranger to assurance, and the sweet comforts

flowing from it.

Indeed, if the Antinomian doctrine were true, which teaches you to

reject all marks and signs for the trial of your conditions, telling

you, it is only the Spirit that immediately assures you, by witnessing

your adoption directly without them; then you might be careless of your

hearts, yea, strangers to them, and yet no strangers to comfort: but,

since both scripture and experience do confute this dotage, I hope you

will never look for comfort in that unscriptural way. I deny not but it

is the work and office of the Spirit to assure you, and yet do

confidently affirm, that if ever you attain assurance, in the ordinary

way wherein God dispenses it, you must take pains with your own hearts;

you may expect your comforts upon easier terms, but I am mistaken if

ever you enjoy them upon any other: Give all diligence, prove

yourselves: this is the scripture way. I remember Mr. Roberts, in his

treatise of the covenant, tells us, that he knew a Christian who, in

the infancy of his Christianity, so vehemently panted after the

infallible assurance of God's love, that for a long time together he

earnestly desired some voice from heaven, yea, sometimes walking in the

solitary fields, earnestly desired some miraculous voice from the trees

and stones there: this, after many desires and longings, was denied

him; but in time a better was afforded in the ordinary way of searching

the word, and his own heart. An instance of the like nature the learned

Gerson gives us of one that was driven by temptation upon the very

borders of desperation; at last being sweetly settled, and assured, one

asked him, how he attained it? He answered, non ex nova aliqua

revelatione, &c. Not by any extraordinary revelation, but by subjecting

his understanding to the scriptures, and comparing his own heart with

them. The spirit, indeed, assures by witnessing our adoption; and he

witnesseth in two ways,

1st, Objectively, i. e. by working those graces in our souls which are

the conditions of the promise; and so the Spirit, and his graces in us,

are all one: the Spirit of God dwelling in us, is a mark of our

adoption. Now the Spirit cannot be discerned in his essence, but in his

operations; and to discern these, is to discern the Spirit; and how

these should be discerned, without serious searching and diligent

watching of the heart, I cannot imagine.

2d, The other way of the Spirit's witnessing is effectively, i. e. by

irradiating the soul with a grace-discovering light, shining upon his

own work; and this in order of nature follows the former work: he first

infuses the grace, and then opens the eye of the soul to see it. Now

since the heart is the subject of that infused grace, even this way of

the Spirit's witnessing also includes the necessity of keeping

carefully our own hearts: for,

1st, A neglected heart is so confused and dark, that the little grace

which is in it, is not ordinarily discernible: the most accurate and

laborious Christians, that take most pains, and spend most time about

their hearts, do yet find it very difficult to discover the pure and

genuine workings of the Spirit there: how then shall the Christian

which is (comparatively) negligent about heart-work, be ever able to

discover it? Sincerity, which is the quaesitum, the thing sought for,

lies in the heart like a small piece of gold in the bottom of a river,

he that will find it must stay till the water is clear and settled, and

then he shall see it sparkling at the bottom. And that the heart may be

clear, and settled, how much pains and watching, care and diligence

will it cost!

2d, God doth not usually indulge lazy and negligent souls with the

comforts of assurance; he will not so much as seem to patronize sloth

and carelessness; he will give it, but it shall be in his own way: his

command hath united our care and comfort together; they are mistaken

that think the beautiful child of assurance may be born without pangs:

ah how many solitary hours have the people of God spent in

heart-examination! how many times have they looked into the word, and

then into their hearts; sometimes they thought they discovered

sincerity, and were even ready to draw forth the triumphant conclusion

of assurance; then comes a doubt they cannot resolve, and dashes all

again: many hopes and fears, doubtings and reasonings they have had in

their own breasts, before they arrived at a comfortable settlement.

To conclude, suppose it possible for a careless Christian to attain

assurance, yet it is impossible he should long retain it; as for those

whose hearts are filled with the joys of assurance, if extraordinary

care be not used, it is a thousand to one if ever they long enjoy it:

for a little pride, vanity and carelessness, will dash to pieces all

that for which they have been labouring a long time, in many a weary

duty. Since, then, the joy of our life, the comfort of our souls, rises

and falls with our diligence in this work, keep your hearts with all

diligence.

5. The improvement of our graces depends on the keeping of our hearts;

I never knew grace thrive in a negligent and careless soul; the habits

and roots of grace are planted in the heart; and the deeper they are

radicated there, the more thriving and flourishing grace is. In Eph.

iii. 17, we read of being rooted in grace; grace in the heart is the

root of every gracious word in the mouth, and of every holy work in the

hand, Psal. cxvi. 10, 2 Cor. iv. 13. It is true, Christ is the root of

a Christian; but Christ is origo originans, the originating root; and

grace origo originata, a root originated, planted, and influenced by

Christ; according as this thrives under divine influences, so the acts

of grace are more or less fruitful, or vigorous. Now in a heart not

kept with care and diligence, these fructifying influences are stopped

and cut off: multitudes of vanities break in upon it, and devour its

strength; the heart is, as it were the pasture, in which multitudes of

thoughts are fed every day; a gracious heart diligently kept, feeds

many precious thoughts of God in a day. How precious are thy thoughts

to me, O God! how great is the sum of them! if I should count them,

they are more in number than the sand; and when I awake, I am still

with thee, Psal. cxxxix. 17, 18. And as the gracious heart feeds and

nourishes them, so they refresh and feast the heart. My soul is filled

as with marrow and fatness whilst I think upon thee, &c. Psal. lxiii.

5, 6. But in the disregarded heart, swarms of vain and foolish thoughts

are perpetually working, and jostle out those spiritual ideas, and

thoughts of God, by which the soul should be refreshed.

Besides, the careless heart makes nothing out of any duty or ordinance

it performs or attends on, and yet these are the conduits of heaven,

from whence grace is watered and made fruitful: a man may go with an

heedless spirit from ordinance to ordinance, abide all his days under

the choicest teaching, and yet never be improved by them; for

heart-neglect is a leak in the bottom, no heavenly influences, how rich

soever, abide in that soul, Matth. xiii. 3, 4. The heart that lies open

and common, like the highway, free for all passengers; when the seed

fell on it, the fowls came and devoured it. Alas! it is not enough to

hear, unless we take heed how we hear; a man may pray, and never be the

better, unless he watch unto prayer. In a word, all ordinances, means,

and duties, are blessed unto the improvement of grace, according to the

care and strictness we use in keeping our hearts in them.

6. Lastly, The stability of our souls in the hour of temptation will be

much according to the care and conscience we have of keeping our

hearts; the careless heart is an easy prey to Satan in the hour of

temptation, his main batteries are raised against that fort-royal, the

heart; if he wins that, he wins all; for it commands the whole man:

and, alas! how easy a conquest is a neglected heart! It is no more

difficult to surprise it, than for an enemy to enter that city, whose

gates are open and unguarded: it is the watchful heart that discovers

and suppresses the temptation before it comes to its strength. Divines

observe this to be the method in which temptations are ripened and

brought to their full strength.

There is, 1st, The irritation of the object, or that power it hath to

work upon and provoke our corrupt nature; which is either done by the

real presence of the object, or else by speculation, when the object

(though absent) is held out by the phantasy before the soul.

2d, Then follows the motion of the sensitive appetite, which is stirred

and provoked by the phantasy, representing it as a sensual good, as

having profit or pleasure in it.

3d, Then there is a consultation in the mind about it, deliberating

about the likeliest means of accomplishing it.

4th, Next follows the election, or choice of the will.

5th, And lastly, the desire, or full engagement of the will to it; all

this may be done in a few moments, for the debates of the soul are

quick, and soon ended: when it comes thus far, then the heart is won:

Satan hath entered victoriously, and displayed his colours upon the

walls of that royal fort; but had the heart been well guarded at first,

it had never come to this height; the temptation had been stopped in

the first or second act. And indeed there it is stopped easily; for it

is in the motions of a tempted soul to sin, as in the motion of a stone

falling from the brow of a hill, it is easily stopped at first, but

when once it is set a going, vires acquirit eundo: it acquires strength

by the going; and therefore it is the greatest wisdom in the world to

observe the first motions of the heart, to check and stop sin there.

The motions of sin are weakest at first: a little care and watchfulness

may prevent much mischief now, which the careless heart not heeding, is

brought within the power of temptation; as the Syrians were brought

blindfold into the midst of Samaria, before they knew where they were.

By this time, reader, I hope thou art fully satisfied how absolutely

and necessary a work the keeping of the heart is, it being a duty that

wraps up so many dear interests of the soul in it.

Next, according to the method propounded, I proceed to point out those

special seasons in the life of a Christian, which require and call for

our utmost diligence in keeping the heart; for though (as was observed

before) the duty binds ad semper, and there is no time or condition of

life in which we may be excused from this work; yet there are some

signal seasons, critical hours, requiring more than a common vigilance

over the heart.

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FIRST SEASON

HOW TO KEEP THE HEART HUMBLE

IN PROSPERITY

First Season, "Is the time of prosperity, when providence smiles upon

us, and dandles us upon its knee. Now Christian, keep thy heart with

all diligence; for now it will be exceeding apt to grow secure, proud,

and earthly, rara virtus est humilitas honorata, (saith Bernard) to see

a man humble in prosperity, is one of the greatest rarities in the

world. Even a good Hezekiah could not hide a vain-glorious temper under

this temptation, and hence that caution to Israel: And it shall be when

the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware

to thy fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give thee great and

goodly cities which thou buildest not, and houses full of all good

things which thou filledst not, &c. Then beware lest thou forget the

Lord, Deut. vi. 10, 11, 12: And indeed so it fell out, for Jeshurun

waxed fat and kicked, Deut. xxxii. 15."

Now then, the first case will be this, viz.

Case 1. How a Christian may keep his heart from pride and carnal

security, under the smiles of providence, and confluence of

creature-comforts.

There are seven choice helps to secure the heart from the dangerous

snares of prosperity; the first is this,

1. To consider the dangerous ensnaring temptations attending a pleasant

and prosperous condition; few, yea, very few of those that live in the

pleasures and prosperity of this world, escape everlasting perdition.

It is easier (saith Christ) for a camel to pass through the eye of a

needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven, Mat.

xix. 24; and, not many mighty, not many noble are called, 1 Cor. i. 26.

It might justly make us tremble when the scripture tells us in general,

that few shall be saved; much more when it tells us, of that rank and

sort of which we are, but few shall be saved.--When Joshua called all

the tribes of Israel to lot upon them for the discovery of Achan,

doubtless Achan feared; when the tribe of Judah was taken, his fear

increased; but when the family of the Zarhites was taken, it was time

then to tremble. So when the scripture comes so near as to tell us that

of such a sort of men very few shall escape, it is time to look about;

Miror si potest servari aliquis rectorum, saith Chrysostom; I should

wonder if any of the rulers be saved. O how many have been coached to

hell in the chariots of earthly pleasures, while others have been

whipped to heaven by the rod of affliction! how few, like the daughter

of Tyre, come to Christ with a gift! how few among the rich entreat his

favour!

2. It may yet keep us more humble and watchful in prosperity, if we

consider that among Christians many have been much the worse for it.

How good had it been for some of them, if they had never known

prosperity! When they were in a low condition, how humble, spiritual,

and heavenly, were they! but when advanced, what an apparent alteration

hath been upon their spirits! It was so with Israel, when they were in

a low condition in the wilderness; then Israel was holiness to the

Lord, Jer. ii. 3, but when they came into Canaan, and were fed in a fat

pasture, then we are lords, we will come no more unto thee, ver. 31.

Outward gains are ordinarily attended with inward losses; as in a low

condition their civil employments were wont to have a tang and savour

of their duties; so in an exalted condition their duties commonly have

a tang of the world. He, indeed, is rich in grace, whose graces are not

hindered by his riches; there are but few Jehosaphats in the world, of

whom it is said, He had silver and gold in abundance, and his heart was

lifted up in the way of God's commands, 2 Chron. xvii. 5, 6. Will not

this keep thy heart humble in prosperity, to think how dear many godly

men have paid for their riches, that through them they have lost that

which all the world cannot purchase? Then, in the next place,

3. Keep down thy vain heart by this consideration, that God values no

man a jot the more for these things. God values no man by outward

excellencies, but by inward graces; they are the internal ornaments of

the spirit, which are of great price in God's eyes, 1 Pet. iii. 4. He

despises all worldly glory, and accepts no man's person; but in every

nation, he that feareth God, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of

him, Acts x. 35. Indeed, if the judgment of God went by the same rule

that man's doth, we might value ourselves by these things, and stand

upon them: but, as one said (when dying) I shall not appear before God

as a doctor, but as a man; tantus quisquis est, quantus est apud Deum.

So much every man is, and no more, as he is in the judgment of God.

Doth thy heart yet swell? And will neither of the former considerations

keep it humble?

4. Then, Fourthly, Consider how bitterly many persons have bewailed

their folly when they came to die, that ever they set their hearts upon

these things, and heartily wish that they had never known them--What a

sad story was that of Pius Quintus, who dying, cried out despairingly,

When I was in a low condition, I had some hopes of salvation; but when

I was advanced to be a cardinal, I greatly doubted it; but since I came

to the Popedom, I have no hope at all. Mr. Spencer also tells us a

real, but sad story, of a rich oppressor, who had scraped up a great

estate for his only son; when he came to die, he called his son to him

and said, Son, do you indeed love me? The son answered, that nature,

besides his paternal indulgence, obliged him to that. Then, said the

father, express it by this; hold thy finger in the candle as long as I

am saying a pater noster: The son attempted, but could not endure it.

Upon that, the father broke out into these expressions, thou canst not

suffer the burning of thy finger for me, but to get this wealth, I have

hazarded my soul for thee, and must burn body and soul in hell for thy

sake: thy pains would have been but for a moment, but mine will be

unquenchable fire.

5. The heart may be kept humble, by considering of what a clogging

nature earthly things are to a soul heartily engaged in the way to

heaven; they shut out much of heaven from us at present, though they

may not shut us out of heaven at last. If thou consider thyself under

the notion of a stranger in this world, travelling for heaven, and

seeking a better country, thou hast then as much reason to be taken and

delighted with these things, as a weary horse hath with a heavy load:

there was a serious truth in that atheistical scoff of Julian, when he

took away the Christians' estates, and told them, it was to make them

fitter for the kingdom of heaven.

6. Is thy spirit, for all this, flatulent and lofty? Then urge upon it

the consideration of that awful day of reckoning, wherein, according to

our receipts of mercies, shall be our accounts for them: and methinks

this should awe and humble the vainest heart that ever was in the

breast of a saint. Know for certain, that the Lord records all the

mercies that ever he gave thee, from the beginning to the end of thy

life. Remember, O my people, from Shittim unto Gilgal, &c. Micah vi. 4,

5. Yea, they are exactly numbered and recorded, in order to an account;

and thy account will be suitable. To whomsoever much is given, of him

shall much be required, Luke xii. 48. You are but stewards, and your

Lord will come to take an account of you; and what a great account have

you to make, who have much of this world in your hands? What swift

witnesses will your mercies be against you, if this be the best fruits

of them?

7. It is a very humbling consideration, That the mercies of God should

work otherwise upon my spirit, than they used to do upon the spirits of

others, to whom they come as sanctified mercies from the love of God.

Ah Lord! what a sad condition is this! Enough to lay me in the dust,

when I consider,

1st, That their mercies have greatly humbled them; the higher God has

raised them, the lower they have laid themselves before God. Thus did

Jacob, when God had given him much substance. And Jacob said, I am not

worthy of the least of all thy mercies, and all the truth which thou

hast shewed thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan,

and now am become two bands, Gen. xxxii. 10. And thus it was with holy

David, 2 Sam vii. 18. When God had confirmed the promise to him, to

build him a house, and not reject him as he did Saul, he goes in before

the Lord, and saith, who am I? and what is my father's house that thou

hast brought me hitherto? And so indeed God required, Deut. xxvi. 5,

when Israel was to bring to God the first fruits of Canaan, they were

to say, a Syrian ready to perish was my father, &c. Do others raise God

the higher for his raising them? And the more God raises me, the more

shall I abase him and exalt myself? O what a sad thing is this!

2d, Others have freely ascribed the glory of all their enjoyments to

God, and magnified not themselves, but him, for their mercies: so

David, 2 Sam. vii. 26. Let thy name be magnified, and the house of thy

servant be established. He doth not fly upon the mercy, and suck out

the sweetness of it, looking no farther than his own comfort; no, he

cares for no mercy except God be magnified in it. So, Psal. xviii. 2,

when God had delivered him from all his enemies, The Lord (saith he) is

my strength and my rock, he is become my salvation. They did not put

the crown upon their own heads, as I do.

3. The mercies of God have been melting mercies unto others, melting

their souls in love to the God of their mercies. So Hannah, 1 Sam. ii.

1, when she received the mercy of a son, my soul (saith she) rejoiceth

in the Lord; not in the mercy, but in the God of the mercy. And so

Mary, My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit rejoiceth in God my

Saviour, Luke i. 46. The word signifies to make more room for God;

their hearts were not contracted, but the more enlarged to God.

4th, The mercies of God have been mighty restraints to keep others from

sin. So Ezra ix. 13, Seeing thou, our God, hast given us such a

deliverance as this, should we again break thy commandments? Ingenuous

souls have felt the force of the obligations of love and mercy upon

them.

5. To conclude, the mercies of God to others have been as oil to the

wheels of their obedience, and made them fitter for services, 2 Chron.

xvii. 5. Now if mercies work contrarily upon my heart, what cause have

I to be afraid that they come not to me in love? I tell you, this is

enough to damp the spirit of any saint, to see what sweet effects

mercies they have had on others, and what sad effects on him.

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SECOND SEASON

HOW TO KEEP THE HEART IN TIME

OF ADVERSITY

"The second special season in the life of a Christian requiring more

than a common diligence to keep his heart is the time of adversity.

When providence frowns upon you, and blasts your outward comforts, then

look to your hearts, keep them with all diligence from repining against

God, or fainting under his hand; for troubles, though sanctified, are

troubles still; even sweet-briar, and holy thistle, have their

prickles. Jonah was a good man, and yet how pettish was his heart under

affliction? Job was the mirror of patience, yet how was his heart

discomposed by trouble? You will find it as hard to get a composed

spirit under great afflictions, as it is to fix quick silver. O the

hurries and tumults which they occasion even in the best hearts! Well

then, the second case will be this:"

Case 2. How a Christian under great afflictions may keep his heart from

repining or desponding under the hand of God. Now, there are nine

special helps I shall here offer, to keep thy heart in this condition;

and the first shall be this, to work upon your hearts this great truth,

1. That, by these cross providences, God is faithfully pursuing the

great design of electing love, upon the souls of his people; and orders

all these afflictions as means sanctified to that end.

Afflictions fall not out not by casualty, but by counsel, Job v. 6,

Eph. i. 11; by this counsel of God they are ordained as means of much

spiritual good to saints, Isa. xxvii. 9. By this shall the iniquity of

Jacob be purged, Hebrews xii. 10. But he for our profit, &c. Rom. viii.

28, All things work together for our good.--They are God's workmen upon

our hearts, to pull down the pride and carnal security of them; and

being so, their nature is changed; they are turned into blessings and

benefits. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, Psal. cxix. 71.

And sure then, thou hast no reason to quarrel with, but rather to

admire that God should concern himself so much in thy good, to use any

means for the accomplishing of it, Phil. iii. 11. Paul could bless God,

if by any means he might attain the resurrection of the dead. My

brethren, (saith James) count it all joy when you fall into divers

temptations, Jam. i. 2, 3. My Father is about a design of love upon my

soul, and do I well to be angry with him? All that he doth is in

pursuance of, and in reference to, some eternal glorious ends upon my

soul. O, it is my ignorance of God's design, that makes me quarrel with

him! He saith to thee in this case, as to Peter, What I do thou knowest

not now, but hereafter thou shalt know it.

Help 2. Though God hath reserved to himself a liberty of afflicting his

people, yet he hath tied up his own hands by promise, never to take

away his loving-kindness from them. Can I look that scripture in the

face, with a repining, discontented spirit? I will be his father, and

he shall be my son; if he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the

rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: nevertheless,

my mercy shall not depart away from him, 2 Sam. vii. 14. O my heart! my

haughty heart! dost thou well to be discontented, when God hath given

thee the whole tree, with all the clusters of comfort growing on it,

because he suffers the wind to blow down a few leaves? Christians have

two sorts of goods, the goods of the throne, and the goods of the

foot-stool; moveables and immovables: if God have secured these, never

let my heart be troubled at the loss of those; indeed, if he had cut

off his love, or discovenanted my soul, I had reason to be cast down;

but this he hath not, nor can he do it.

Help 3. It is of marvellous efficacy to keep the heart from sinking

under affliction, to call to mind, that thine own father hath the

ordering of them: not a creature moves hand or tongue against thee, but

by his permission. Suppose the cup be a bitter cup, yet it is the cup

which thy father hath given thee to drink; and canst thou suspect

poison to be in that cup which he delivers thee? Foolish man, put home

the case to thine own heart, consult with thine own bowels; canst thou

find in thy heart to give thy child that which would hurt and undo him?

no, thou wouldst as soon hurt thyself as him; If thou then being evil

knowest how to give good gifts to thy children, how much more doth God?

Mat. vii. 11. The very consideration of his nature, a God of love, pity

and tender mercies, or of his relation to thee as a father, husband,

friend, might be security enough, if he had not spoken a word, to quiet

thee in this case; and yet you have his word too, (Jer. xxv. 6.) I will

do you no hurt. You lie too near his heart to hurt you; nothing grieves

him more than your groundless and unworthy suspicions of his designs

do. Would it not grieve a faithful tender-hearted physician, when he

hath studied the case of his patient, prepared the most excellent

receipts to save his life, to hear him cry out, O he hath undone me! he

hath poisoned me; because it gripes and pains him in the operation? O

when will you be ingenuous!

Help 4. God respects you as much in a low, as in a high condition; and

therefore it need not so much trouble you to be made low; nay, to speak

home, he manifests more of his love, grace, and tenderness, in the time

of affliction, than prosperity. As God did not at first choose you

because you were high, so he will not forsake you because you are low;

men may look shy upon you, and alter their respects, as your condition

is altered: when providence hath blasted your estates, your summer

friends may grow strange, as fearing you may be troublesome to them;

but will God do so? No, no; I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,

Heb. xiii. 5. Indeed if adversity and poverty could bar you from access

to God, it were a sad condition; but you may go to God as freely as

ever. My God (saith the Church) will hear me, Micah vii. 7. Poor David,

when stripped of all earthly comforts, could yet encourage himself in

the Lord his God, and why cannot you? Suppose your husband or child had

lost all at sea, and should come to you in rags; could you deny the

relation, or refuse to entertain him? If you would not, much less will

God: why then are you so troubled? though your condition be changed,

your Father's love and respects are not changed.

Help 5. And what if by the loss of outward comforts, God will preserve

your souls from the ruining power of temptation? Sure then, you have

little cause to sink your hearts by such sad thoughts about them. Are

not these earthly enjoyments the things that make men shrink and warp

in times of trial? For the love of these many have forsaken Christ in

such an hour. He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions,

Mat. xix. 22. And if this be God's design, what have I done in

quarrelling with him about it? We see mariners in a storm can throw

overboard rich bales of silk, and precious things, to preserve the

vessel and their lives with it; and everyone saith, they act prudently;

we know it is usual for soldiers in a city besieged, to batter down or

burn the fairest buildings without the walls, in which the enemy may

shelter in the siege; and no man doubts but it is wisely done: such as

have gangrened legs or arms, can willingly stretch them out to be cut

off, and not only thank, but pay the surgeon for his pains: and must

God only be repined at, for casting over what will sink you in a storm?

For pulling down that which would advantage your enemy in the siege of

temptation? for cutting off what would endanger your everlasting life?

O inconsiderate, ungrateful man! are not these things, for which thou

grievest, the very things that have ruined thousands of souls? well,

what Christ doth in this, thou knowest not now, but hereafter thou

mayest.

Help 6. It would much stay the heart under adversity, to consider, That

God by such humbling providences, may be accomplishing that for which

you have long prayed and waited: and should you be troubled at that?

say, Christian, hast thou not many prayers depending before God upon

such accounts as these; that he would keep thee from sin, discover to

thee the emptiness and insufficiency of the creature; that he would

kill and mortify thy lusts, that thy heart may never find rest in any

enjoyment but Christ? Why now, by such humbling and impoverishing

strokes, God may be fulfilling thy desire: wouldst thou be kept from

sin? Lo, he hath hedged up thy way with thorns: wouldst thou see the

creature's vanity? Thy affliction is a fair glass to discover it; for

the vanity of the creature is never so effectually and sensibly

discovered, as in our own experience of it: wouldst thou have thy

corruptions mortified? This is the way; now God takes away the food and

fewel that maintained them; for as prosperity begat and fed them; so

adversity, when sanctified, is a means to kill them. Wouldst thou have

thy heart rest nowhere but in the bosom of God? What better way canst

thou imagine providence should take to accomplish thy desire, than by

pulling from under thy head, that soft pillow of creature-delights, on

which thou rested before? And yet you fret at this, peevish child, how

dost thou exercise thy father's patience? If he delay to answer thy

prayers, thou art ready to say he regards thee not; if he do that which

really answers the scope and main end of them, but not in the way thou

expected, thou quarrelleth with him for that; as if instead of

answering, he were crossing all thy hopes and aims; is this ingenuous?

is it not enough that God is so gracious to do what thou desirest, but

thou must be so impudent to expect him to do it in the way which thou

prescribest?

Help 7. Again, it may stay thy heart, if thou consider, That in these

troubles, God is about that work, which, if thou didst see the design

of, thy soul would rejoice. We, poor creatures, are bemisted with much

ignorance, and are not able to discern how particular providences work

towards God's end; and therefore, like Israel in the wilderness, are

often murmuring, because providence leads us about in a howling desert,

where we are exposed to straits; though yet, then he led them, and is

now leading us, by the right way to a city of habitations. If you could

but see how God, in his secret counsel, has exactly laid the whole plot

and design of thy salvation, even to the smallest means and

circumstances; this way, and by these means, such a one shall be saved,

and by no other; such a number of afflictions I appoint for this man,

at this time, and in this order; they shall befal him thus, and thus

they shall work for him. Could you, I say, but discern the admirable

harmony of divine dispensations, their mutual relations to each other,

together with the general respect and influence they all have into the

last end; of all the conditions in the world, you would choose that you

are now in, had you liberty to make your own choice. Providence is like

a curious piece of arras, made of a thousand shreds, which single we

know not what to make of, but put together, and stitched up orderly,

they represent a beautiful history to the eye. As God works all things

according to the counsel of his own will, so that counsel of God hath

ordained this as the best way to bring about thy salvation: such a one

hath a proud heart, so many humbling providences I appoint for him;

such a one an earthly heart, so many impoverishing providences for him:

did you but see this, I need say no more to support the most dejected

heart.

Help 8. Further, it would much conduce to the settlement of your

hearts, to consider, That by fretting and discontent, you do yourselves

more injury than all the afflictions you lie under could do; your own

discontent is that which arms your troubles with a sting, it is you

that makes your burden heavy, by struggling under it. Could you but lie

quiet under the hand of God, your condition would be much more easier

and sweeter than it is; Impatiens aegrotus crudelem facit medicum. This

makes God lay on more strokes, as a father will upon a stubborn child

that receives not correction.

Besides, it unfits the soul to pray over its troubles, or take in the

sense of that good which God intends by them: affliction is a pill,

which being wrapped up in patience and quiet submission, may be easily

swallowed; but discontent chews the pill, and so imbitters the soul:

God throws away some comfort which he saw would hurt you, and you will

throw away your peace after it: he shoots an arrow which sticks in your

clothes, and was never intended to hurt, but only to fright you from

sin, and you will thrust it onward to the piercing of your very hearts,

by despondency and discontent.

Help 9. Lastly, if all this will not do, but thy heart (like Rachel)

still refuses to be comforted, or quieted, then consider one thing

more, which, if seriously pondered, will doubtless do the work; and

that is this, Compare the condition thou art now in, (and art so much

dissatisfied with) with that condition others are, and thyself

deservest to be in: others are roaring in flames, howling under the

scourge of vengeance, and amongst them I deserve to be. O my soul! is

this hell? Is my condition as bad as the damned? O what would thousands

now in hell give, to change conditions with me! It is a famous instance

which Dr. Taylor gives us of the duke of Conde; I have read (saith he)

that when the duke of Conde had entered voluntarily into the

incommodities of a religious poverty, he was one day espied and pitied

by a lord of Italy, who out of tenderness wished him to be more careful

and nutritive of his person. The good duke answered, Sir, be not

troubled, and think not that I am ill provided of conveniences, for I

send an harbinger before me, who makes ready my lodgings, and takes

care that I be royally entertained. The lord asked him who was his

Harbinger? He answered, The knowledge of myself, and the consideration

of what I deserve for my sins, which is eternal torments; and when with

this knowledge I arrive at my lodging, how unprovided soever I find it,

methinks it is ever better than I deserve. Why doth the living man

complain? And thus the heart may be kept from desponding or repining

under adversity.

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THIRD SEASON

HOW TO KEEP THE HEART IN TIME

OF ZION'S TROUBLES

"The third season calling for more than ordinary diligence to keep the

heart, is the time of Zion's troubles: when the Church, like the ship

in which Christ and his disciples were, is oppressed and ready to

perish in the waves of persecution; then good souls are ready to sink,

and be shipwrecked too, upon the billows of their own fears. I confess

most men rather need the spur, than the reins in this case, and yet

some sit down as overweighed with the sense of the church's troubles.

The loss of the Ark cost old Eli his life; the sad posture Jerusalem

lay in, made good Nehemiah's countenance change in the midst of all the

pleasures and accommodations of the court, Neh. ii. 2. Ah! this goes

close to honest hearts,

"But though God allow, yea, command the most awakened apprehensions of

these calamities, and in such a day calls to mourning, weeping, and

girding with sackcloth, Isa. xxii. 12, and severely threatens the

insensible, Amos vi. 1, yet it will not please him to see you sit like

pensive Elijah under the juniper tree. Ah Lord God! it is enough, take

away my life also, 1 Kings xix. 4. No, mourners in Zion, you may, and

ought to be; but self-tormentors you must not be: complain to God you

may, but to complain of God (though but by an unsuitable carriage and

the language of your actions) you must not."

Case 3. The third case that comes next to be spoken to, is this, How

public and tender hearts may be relieved and supported when they are

even overweighed with the burthensome sense of Zion's troubles. "I

grant, it is hard for him that preferreth Zion to his chief joy, to

keep his heart that it sink not below the due sense of its troubles;

and yet this ought and may be done by the use of such

heart-establishing directions as these."

Direction 1. Settle this great truth in your hearts, that no trouble

befals Zion, but by the permission of Zion's God; and he permits

nothing out of which he will not bring much good to his people.

There is as truly a principle of quietness in the permitting, as in the

commanding will of God. See it in David, 2 Sam. xvi. 10, Let him alone,

it may be God hath bidden him: And in Christ, John xix. 11, Thou

couldst have no power against me, except it were given thee from above;

it should much calm our spirits that it is the will of God to suffer

it; and had he not suffered it, it could never have been as it is.

This very consideration quieted Job, Eli, David, and Hezekiah; that the

Lord did it, was enough to them, and why should it not be so to us? If

the Lord will have Zion ploughed as a field, and her goodly stones lay

in the dust; if it be his pleasure that Antichrist shall rage yet

longer, and wear out the saints of the most High; if it be his will

that a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the

Lord God of hosts shall be upon the valley of vision, that the wicked

shall devour the man that is more righteous than he, what are we that

we should contest with God? Fit it is that we should be resigned up to

that will whence we proceeded, and that he that made us should dispose

of us as he pleaseth; he may do what seemeth him good without our

consent: doth poor man stand upon equal ground, that he should

capitulate with his creator, or that God should render him an account

of any of his matters? It is every way as reasonable we be content,

however God dispose of us, as that we be obedient to whatever he

commands us.

But then, if we pursue this argument further, by considering that God's

permission do all meet at last in the real good of his people, this

will much more quiet our spirits. Do the enemies carry away the good

figs, even the best among the people, into captivity? This looks like a

sad providence, but yet God sends them thither for their good, Jer.

xxiv. 5. Doth God take the Assyrian as a staff in his hand to beat his

people with? Those blows are smart, and make them cry; but the end of

his so doing is, That he may accomplish his whole work upon Mount Zion,

Isa. x. 12. If God can bring much good out of the worst and greatest

evil of sin, much more out of temporal afflictions; and it is as

evident that he will, as that he can do so. For it is inconsistent with

the wisdom of a common agent to permit any thing (which he might

prevent if he pleased) to cross his great design and end; and can it be

imagined that the most wise God should do so?

Well then, as Luther said to Melancthon, Desinat Philipus esse rector

mundi; so say I to you; let infinite wisdom, power and love alone; for

by these all creatures are swayed, and all actions guided, in reference

to the church: it is none of our work to rule the world, but to submit

to him that doth; Non caeco impetu volvuntur rotae; the motions of

providence are all judicious, the wheels are full of eyes: it is enough

that the affairs of Zion are in a good hand.

Direction 2. Ponder this heart-supporting truth, in reference to Zion's

troubles: That how many troubles soever are upon her, yet her King is

in her.

What? hath the Lord forsaken his churches? hath he sold them into the

enemy's hand? doth he not regard what evil befals them? that our hearts

sink at this rate? Is it not too shameful an undervaluing of the great

God, and too much magnifying of poor impotent men, to fear and tremble

at creatures, whilst God is in the midst of us? The church's enemies

are many and mighty; let that be granted, yet that argument with which

Caleb and Joshua strove to raise their own hearts, is of as much force

now as it was then: The Lord is with us, fear them not, Num. xiv. 9.

The historian tells us, that when Antigonus overheard his soldiers

reckoning how many their enemies were, and so discouraging one another,

he suddenly steps in among them with this question, And how many (said

he) do you reckon me for? Discouraged souls, how many do you reckon on

the Lord for? Is he not an overmatch for all his enemies? Is not one

Almighty more than many mighties? Doth his presence stand for nothing

with us? If God be for us, who can be against us? Rom. viii. 31. What

think you was the reason of that great exploration Gideon made in

Judges vi.? He questions, ver. 12, 13, he desires a sign, ver. 17, and

after that another, ver. 36; and what was the end of all this? but that

he might be sure the Lord was with him, and that he might but write

this motto upon his ensign? The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. So

then, if you can be well assured the Lord is with his people, you will

get thereby above all his discouragements: and that he is so, you need

not (with him) desire a sign from heaven; lo you have a sign before

you, even their marvellous preservation amidst all their enemies. If

God be not with his people, how is it that they are not swallowed up

quick? Do their enemies want malice, power, or opportunity? No, but

there is an invisible hand upon them. Well then, as it is, Exod.

xxxiii. 14, let his presence give us rest; and though the mountains be

hurled into the sea, though heaven and earth mingle together, fear not,

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved.

Direction 3. Ponder the great advantages attending the people of God in

an afflicted condition. If a low and an afflicted state in the world be

really best for the church, then your dejections are not only

irrational but ungrateful: indeed, if you estimate the happiness of the

church by its worldly ease, splendor and prosperity, then such times

will seem bad for it, but if you reckon its glory to consist in its

humility, faith, patience and heavenly-mindedness, no condition in the

world abounds so with advantages for these, as an afflicted condition

doth. It was not persecutions and prisons, but worldliness and

wantonness, that was the prison of the church; neither was it the

earthly glory of its professors, but the blood of its martyrs, that was

the seed of the church. The power of Godliness did never thrive better

than in affliction, and never ran lower than in times of greatest

prosperity: when we are left a poor and an afflicted people, then we

learn to trust in the name of the Lord, Zeph. iii. 12. What say ye,

sirs? Is it indeed for the saint's advantage to be weaned from the love

of, and delight in, ensnaring worldly vanities? To be quickened, and

pressed forward with more haste to heaven, to have clearer discoveries

of their own hearts, to be taught to pray more fervently, frequently,

spiritually; to look and long for the rest to come more ardently? If

these be for their advantage, experience teaches us that no condition

is ordinarily blessed with such fruits as these, like an afflicted

condition.

And is it well done, then, to repine and droop, because your Father

consults more the advantage of your souls, than the pleasing of your

humours? Because he will bring you a nearer way to heaven than you are

willing to go? Is this a due requital of his love, who is pleased so

much to concern himself in your welfare? Which is more than he will do

for thousands in the world, upon whom he will not lay a rod, or send an

affliction for their good, Hos. iv. 17, Mat. xv. 14. But alas! we judge

by sense, and reckon things good or evil, according to what we, for the

present, can taste and feel in them.

Direction 4. Take heed that you overlook not the many precious mercies

which the people of God enjoy amidst all their trouble.

It is a pity that our tears, upon the account of our troubles, should

so blear and blind our eyes, that we should not see our mercies and

grounds of comfort. I will not insist upon the mercy of having your

lives given you for a prey, nor yet upon the many outward comforts,

temporal conveniences and accommodations, which you enjoy even above

what Christ and his precious servants, of whom the world was not

worthy, ever had.

But what say you to pardon of sin? interest in Christ? the covenant

promise? and an eternity of happiness in the presence of God after a

few days are over? O that ever a people entitled to such mercies as

these, should droop under any temporal affliction, or be so much

concerned for the frowns of men, and the loss of trifles! You have not

the smiles of great men, but you have the favour of the great God; you

are, it may be, cast back in your estates, but thereby furthered in

spirituals. You cannot live so bravely, plentifully, and easily as

before; but still you may live as holy and heavenly as ever: will you

then grieve so much for these circumstantials, as to forget your

substantials? Shall light troubles make you forget weighty mercies?

remember, the church's true riches are laid out of the reach of all its

enemies: they may make you poor, but not miserable. What though God do

not distinguish in his outward dispensations between his own and

others? Yea, what though his judgments single out the best, and spare

the worst? What though an Abel be killed in love, and a Cain survive in

hatred; a bloody Dionysius die in his bed, and a good Josiah fall in

battle? What though the belly of the wicked be filled with hidden

treasures, and the teeth of the saints broken with gravel-stones; yet

still here is much matter of praise? For electing love hath

distinguished, though common providence did not; and whilst prosperity

and impunity slay the wicked, even slaying and adversity shall benefit

and save the righteous.

Direction 5. Believe that how low soever the church be plunged under

the waters of adversity, it shall assuredly rise again.--Fear not, for

as sure as Christ arose the third day, notwithstanding the seal and

watch that was upon him; so sure the church shall arise out of all her

troubles, and lift up its victorious head over all its enemies: there

is no fear of ruin in that people who thrive by their losses, and

multiply by being diminished. O be not too quick to bury the church

before she is dead! stay till Christ hath tried his skill, before you

give it up for lost. The bush may be all in a flame, but shall never be

consumed, and that because of the good will of Him that dwelleth in it.

Direction 6. Record the famous instances of God's care and tenderness

over his people in former straits. Christ hath not suffered it to be

devoured yet; for above these 1600 years the Christian church hath

lived in affliction, and yet it is not consumed: many a wave of

persecution hath gone over it, and yet it is not drowned: many designs

to ruin it, and hitherto none hath prospered; this is not the first

time that Hamans and Ahithophels have plotted its ruin; that an Herod

hath stretched out his hand to vex it; still it hath been preserved

from, supported under, or delivered out of all its troubles; and is it

not as dear to God as ever? Is he not as able to save it now as

formerly?--Though we know not whence deliverance should arise, Yet the

Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, 2 Pet. ii. 9.

Direction 7. If you can fetch no comfort from any of the former

arguments, then, in the last place, Try whether you cannot draw some

comfort out of your very trouble. Surely this trouble of yours is a

good argument of your integrity; union is the ground of sympathy; if

you had not some rich adventure in that ship, you would not tremble as

you do when it is in danger; besides, this frame of spirit may afford

you this argument, that if you are so sensible of the church's

troubles, Jesus Christ is much more sensible of, and solicitous about

it, than you can be; and he will have an eye of favour upon them that

mourn for it, Isa. lvii. 18.

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FOURTH SEASON

HOW TO KEEP THE HEART FROM

FEARS IN TIME OF DANGERS

"The fourth special season of expressing our utmost diligence in

keeping our hearts, is the time of danger and public distraction; in

such times the best hearts are but too apt to be surprised by slavish

fear; it is not easy to secure the heart against distractions in times

of common destruction. If Syria be confederate with Ephraim, how do the

hearts of the house of David shake, even as the trees of the wood which

are shaken with the wind? Isa. vii. 2. When there are ominous signs in

the heavens; on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea

and the waves roaring; then the hearts of men fail for fear, and for

looking after those things which are coming on the earth, Luke xxi. 25,

26, even a Paul himself may sometimes complain of fightings within,

when there are fears without, 2 Cor. vii. 5.

But, my brethren, these things ought not so to be; saints should be of

a more raised spirit: so was David, when his heart was kept in a good

frame. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The

Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Psal.

xxvii. 1. Let none but the servants of sin be the slaves of fear, let

them that have delighted in evil, fear evil; impius tantum metuit,

quantum nocuit. O let not that which God hath threatened as a judgment

upon the wicked, ever seize upon the breasts of the righteous. I will

send (saith God) faintness into their hearts in the land of their

enemies, and the sound of a shaking leaf shall chase them, Lev. xxvi.

36. O what poor spirited men are these, to fly at a shaking leaf! which

makes a pleasant not a terrible noise; and is in itself a kind of

natural music: but to a guilty conscience the whistling leaves are

drums and trumpets. But God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but

of love, and of a sound mind, 2 Tim. i. 7. A sound mind, as it stands

there in opposition to the spirit of fear, is an unwounded conscience,

not infirmed by guilt: and this should make a man as bold as a lion. I

know it cannot be said of a saint, what God said of Leviathan, that he

was made without fear: there is a natural fear in every man, and it is

as impossible to be wholly put off, as the body itself is: It is

perturbation of the mind, rising from the apprehension of approaching

danger; and as long as dangers can approach us, we shall find some

perturbations within us. It is not my purpose to commend to you a

stoical apathy, nor yet to take you off from such a degree of cautional

preventive fear as may fit you for trouble, and be serviceable to your

souls; there is a provident fear, that opens our eyes to foresee

danger, and quickens to a prudent and lawful use of means to prevent

it: such was Jacob's fear, Gen. xxxii. 7, 9, 10, &c. But it is the fear

of diffidence I persuade you to keep your heart from, that tyrannical

passion which invades the heart in times of danger, distracts, weakens

and unfits the heart for duty; drives men upon unlawful means, and

brings a snare with it. Well then, the fourth case will be this:

Case 4. How a Christian may keep his heart from distracting and

tormenting fears in times of great and threatening dangers.

Now there are fourteen excellent rules, or helps, for the keeping of

the heart from sinful fear when imminent dangers threaten us; and the

first is this;

Rule 1. Look upon all the creatures as in the hand of God, who manages

them in all their motions; limiting, restraining, and determining them

all at his pleasure.

Get this great truth well settled by faith in your hearts: it will

marvellously guard them against slavish fears. The first chapter of

Ezekiel contains an admirable scheme or draught of providence; there

you may see the living creatures who move the wheels, viz. the great

affairs and turnings of things here below, coming unto Christ, who sits

upon the throne, to receive new orders and instructions from him, v.

24, 25, 26. And in Rev. vi. you read of white, black, and red horses,

which are nothing else but the instruments which God employs in

executing his judgments in the world, as wars, pestilence and death;

but when these horses are prancing, and trampling up and down the

world, here is that may quiet our hearts, that God hath the reins in

his hand. Wicked men are sometimes like mad horses, they would stamp

the people of God under their feet, but that the bridle of providence

is in their lips, Job i. 11, 12. A lion at liberty is terrible to meet;

but who is afraid of a lion in the keeper's hand?

Rule 2. Remember that this God, in whose hand all the creatures are, is

your father, and is much more tender over you, than you are or can be

over yourselves: He that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of mine eye,

Zech. ii. 8. Let me ask the most timorous woman, whether there be not a

vast difference between the sight of a drawn sword in the hand of a

bloody ruffian, and the same sword in the hand of her own tender

husband? As great a difference there is in looking upon creatures by an

eye of sense, and looking on them as in the hand of your God by an eye

of faith; That is a sweet scripture to this purpose, Isa. liv. 5, Thy

Maker is thy husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; he is Lord of all

the hosts of creatures in the world: who would be afraid to pass

through an army, though all the soldiers should turn their swords and

guns towards him, if the general of that army were his friend or

father? I have met with an excellent story of a religious young man,

who being at sea with many other passengers in a great storm, and they

being half dead with fear, he only was observed to be very cheerful, as

if he had been but little concerned in that danger: one of them

demanding the reason of his cheerfulness, O, said he, it is because the

pilot of the ship is my father. Consider Christ, first as the King and

supreme Lord over the providential kingdom, and then as your Head,

Husband and Friend, and thou wilt quickly say, Return unto thy rest, O

my soul. This truth will make you cease trembling, and cause you to

sing in the midst of dangers, Psal. xlvii. 7. The Lord is King of all

the earth, sing ye praise with understanding, or, as the Hebrew word

is, every one that hath understanding, viz. of this heart-reviving and

establishing doctrine of the dominion of our father over all the

creatures.

Rule 3. Urge upon your hearts the express prohibitions of Christ in

this case; and let your hearts stand in awe of the violations of them.

He hath charged you not to fear, Luke xxi. 9. When ye shall hear of

wars and commotions, see that ye be not terrified, and Phil. i. 28, In

nothing be terrified by your adversaries: Yea, in Mat. x. 26, 28, 31.

and within the compass of six verses, our Saviour commands us thrice,

not to fear man. Doth every big word of proud dust and ashes make thee

afraid? Doth the voice of a man make thee tremble, and shall not the

voice of God? If thou art of such a fearful and timorous spirit, how is

it that thou feareth not to disobey the direct commands of Jesus

Christ? Methinks the command of Christ should have as much power to

calm, as the voice of a poor worm to terrify thy heart. I, even I, am

he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a

man that shall die, and of the son of man that shall be made as the

grass, and forgettest the Lord thy Maker? Isa. li. 12, 13. We cannot

fear creatures sinfully, till we have forgotten God; did we remember

what he is, and what he hath said, we should not be of such feeble

spirits. Bring thy heart then to this dilemma in times of danger; if I

let into my heart the slavish fear of man, I must let out the

reverential awe and fear of God; and dare I cast off the fear of the

Almighty, for the frowns of a man? Shall I lift up proud dust above the

great God? Shall I run upon a certain sin, to shun a probable danger?

Oh keep thy heart by this consideration.

Rule 4. Remember how much needless trouble your vain fears have brought

upon you formerly, and how you have disquieted yourselves to no

purpose.

And hast feared continually because of the oppressor, as if he were

ready to devour; and where is the fury of the oppressor? Isa. li. 13.

He seemed ready to devour, but yet you are not devoured: I have not

brought upon you the thing that ye feared; you have wasted your

spirits, disordered your souls, and weakened your hands, and all this

to no purpose: you might all this while enjoyed your peace, and

possessed your souls in patience. And here I cannot but observe a very

deep policy of Satan managing a design against the soul by these vain

fears: I call them vain, in regard of the frustration of them by

providence; but certainly they are not in vain, as the end Satan aims

at in raising them; for herein he acts as soldiers use to do in the

siege of a garrison, who on purpose to wear out the besieged by

constant watchings, and thereby unfit them to make resistance, when

they storm it in earnest, do every night give them false alarms, which

though they come to nothing, yet do notably serve this further design

of the enemy. O when will you beware of Satan's devices!

Rule 5. Consider solemnly, that though the things you fear should

really fall out, yet there is more evil in your own fear, than in the

things feared.

And that not only as the least evil of sin, is worse than the greatest

evil of suffering; but as this sinful fear has really more torment and

trouble in it, than is in that condition you are so much afraid of.

Fear is both a multiplying and a tormenting passion; it represents

troubles much greater than they are, and so tortures and wrecks the

soul much worse more than when the suffering itself comes. So it was

with Israel at the Red Sea; they cried out, and were sore afraid till

they put foot into the water, and then a passage was opened through

those waters, which they thought would have drowned them. Thus it is

with us; we, looking through the glass of carnal fear upon the waters

of troubles, the swellings of Jordan, cry out, O they are unfordable!

we must needs perish in them: but when we come into the midst of those

floods indeed, we find the promise made good; God will make a way to

escape, 1 Cor. x. 13. Thus it was with blessed Bilney, when he would

make a trial, by putting his finger to the candle, and not able to

endure that, he cried out, what, cannot I bear the burning of a finger?

How then shall I be able to bear the burning of my whole body

to-morrow? and yet when that morrow came, he could go cheerfully into

the flames, with that scripture in his mouth, Fear not, for I have

redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine; when thou

passest through the waters, I will be with thee; when thou walkest

through the fire, thou shalt not be burnt,Isa. xliii. 1, 2, 3.

Rule 6. Consult the many precious promises which are written for your

support and comfort in all dangers.

These are your refuges to which you may fly and be safe: When the

arrows of danger fly by night, and destruction wasteth at noon-day.

There are particular promises suited to particular cases and

exigencies; and there are general promises, reaching all cases and

conditions: such are these, Rom. viii. 28, All things work together for

good, &c. and Eccl. viii. 12, Though a sinner do evil an hundred times,

and his days be prolonged, yet it shall be well with them that fear the

Lord, &c. Could you but believe the promises, your hearts should be

established, 2 Chron. xx. 29. Could you but plead them with God, as

Jacob did, Thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, &c. Gen. xxxii. 12,

they would relieve you in every distress.

Objection. But that promise was made personally, and by name to him, so

are not these to me.

Answer. If Jacob's God be your God, you have as good an interest in

them as he had. The church, a thousand years after that transaction

between God and Jacob, applied that which God spake to him, as if it

had been spoken to themselves, He found him in Bethel, and there he

spake with us, Hos. xii. 4.

Rule 7. Quiet your trembling hearts by recording and consulting your

past experiences of the care and faithfulness of God in former

distresses.

These experiences are food for your faith in a wilderness condition,

Psal. lxxiv. 14. By this David kept his heart in time of danger, 1 Sam.

xvii. 37, and Paul his, 2 Cor. i. 10. It was sweetly answered by

Silentiarius, when one told him that his enemies waylayed him to take

away his life, Si Deus mei curam non habet, quid vio? If God take no

care of me, how have I escaped hitherto? You may plead with God old

experiences to procure new ones; for it is in pleading with God for new

deliverances, as it is in pleading for new pardons. Now mark how Moses

pleads on that account with God, Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity

of this people, as thou hast forgiven them from Egypt until now, Numb.

xiv. 19. He doth not say as men do, Lord, this is the first fault, thou

hast not been troubled before to sign this pardon: but, Lord, because

thou hast pardoned them so often, I beseech thee pardon them once

again. So in new straits, Lord, thou hast often heard, helped and

saved, in former fears; therefore now help again, for with thee there

is plenteous redemption, and thine arm is not shortened.

Rule 8. Be well satisfied that you are in the way of your duty, and

that will beget holy courage in times of danger.

Who will harm you, if you be followers of that which is good? 1 Pet.

iii. 13. Or if any dare attempt it, you may boldly commit yourselves to

God in well doing, 1 Pet. iv. 19. It was this consideration that raised

Luther's spirit above all fear: in the cause of God (said he) I ever

am, and ever shall be stout; herein I assume this title, Cedo nulli [2]

. A good cause will bear up a man's spirit bravely. Hear the saying of

a Heathen, to the shame of cowardly Christians: "When the emperor

Vespasian had commanded Fluidius Priscus not to come to the senate, or

if he did, to speak nothing but what he would have him; the senator

returned this noble answer, That as he was a senator, it was fit he

should be at the senate; and if being there he were required to give

his advice, he would speak freely that which his conscience commanded

him; the emperor threatening that then he should die; he answered, Did

I ever tell you that I was immortal? Do what you will, and I will do

what I ought; it is in your power to put me to death unjustly, and in

me to die consistently."

Righteousness is a breast-plate: the cause of God will pay all your

expenses; let them tremble whom danger finds out of the way of duty.

Rule 9. Get your consciences sprinkled with the blood of Christ from

all guilt, and that will set your hearts above all fear.

It is guilt upon the conscience that softens and cowardizes our

spirits; The righteous are bold as a lion, Prov. xxviii. 1. It was

guilt in Cain's conscience that made him cry, Every one that meets me

will slay me, Gen. iv. 14. A guilty conscience is more terrified with

conceited dangers, than a pure conscience is with real ones. A guilty

sinner carries a witness against himself in his own bosom. It was

guilty Herod cried out, John Baptist is risen from the dead. Such a

conscience is the devil's anvil, on which he fabricates all those

swords and spears, with which the guilty sinner pierces and wounds

himself; guilt is to danger, what fire is to gunpowder; a man need not

fear to walk among many barrels of powder if he have no fire about him.

Rule 10. Exercise holy trust, in times of great distress.

Make it your business to trust God with your lives and comforts, and

then your hearts will be at rest about them. So did David, Psal. lvi.

3, At what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee; q. d. Lord, if at

any time a storm rise, I will make bold to shelter from it under the

covert of thy wings. Go to God by acts of faith and trust, and never

doubt but he will secure you. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,

whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee, Isa. xxvi.

3. God takes it well when thou comest to him thus; Father, my life, my

liberty, or estate, are hunted after, and I cannot secure them; O let

me leave them in thy hand: The poor leaveth himself with thee; and doth

his God fail him? No, thou art the helper of the fatherless, Psal. x.

14, that is, thou art the helper of the destitute one, that hath none

to go to but God. And that is a sweet scripture, He shall not be afraid

of evil tidings, his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord, Psal. cxii.

7; he doth not say, his ear shall be privileged from the report of evil

tidings, he may hear as sad tidings as other men, but his heart shall

be privileged from the terror of those tidings, his heart is fixed.

Rule 11. Consult the honour of religion more, and your personal safety

less.

Is it for the honor of religion, (think you) that Christians should be

as timorous as hares, to start at every sound? Will not this tempt the

world to think, that whatever you talk, yet your principles are no

better than other men's? O what mischief may the discoveries of your

fears before them do! It was a noble saying of Nehemiah, chap. vi. 11,

Should such a man as I fly? And who, being as I am would fly? Were it

not better you should die, than that the world should be prejudiced

against Christ by your example? For, alas! how apt is the world (who

judge more by what they see in your practices, than by what they

understand of your principles) to conclude from your timorousness, that

how much soever you commend faith, and talk of assurance, yet you dare

trust to these things no more than they, when it comes to the trial. O

let not your fears lay such a stumbling-block before the blind world.

Rule 12. He that will secure his heart from fear, must first secure the

eternal interest of his soul in the hands of Jesus Christ.

When this is done, then you may say, Now world do thy worst. You will

not be very solicitous about a vile body, when you are once assured it

shall be well to all eternity with your precious souls. Fear not them

(saith Christ) that can kill the body, and after that have no more that

they can do. The assured Christian may smile with contempt upon all his

enemies, and say, Is this the worst that you can do? What say you,

Christians? Are you assured that your souls are safe: that within a few

moments of your dissolution they shall be received by Christ into an

everlasting habitation? Well, if you be sure of that, never trouble

yourselves about the instruments and means of your dissolution.

Objection. O, but a violent death is terrible to nature!

Answer. But what matter is it, when thy soul is in heaven, whether it

were let out at thy mouth, or at thy throat? whether thy familiar

friends or barbarous enemies stand about thy dead body, and close thine

eyes? Alas! it is not worth the making so much ado about; Nihil corpus

sentit in nervo cum anima fit in caelo, thy soul shall not be sensible

in heaven how thy body is used on earth; no, it shall be swallowed up

in life.

Rule 13. Learn to quench all slavish creature-fears in the reverential

fear of God.

This is a cure by diversion: It is a rare piece of Christian wisdom to

turn those passions of the soul which most predominate, to spiritual

channels; to turn natural anger into spiritual zeal, natural mirth into

holy cheerfulness, and natural fear into an holy dread and awe of God.

This method of cure Christ prescribes in that forementioned place, Mat.

x. like to which is that in Isa. viii. 12, 13, Fear not their fear; but

how shall we help it? Why, sanctify the Lord of hosts himself, and let

him be your fear and dread. Natural fear may be allayed for the present

by natural reason, or the removal of the occasion, but then it is but

like a candle blown out with a puff of breath, which is easily blown in

again; but if the fear of God extinguish it, then it is like a candle

quenched in water, which cannot easily be rekindled.

Rule 14. Lastly, Pour out those fears to God in prayer, which the devil

and your own unbelief pour in upon you in times of danger.

Prayer is the best outlet to fear; where is the Christian that cannot

set his probatum est to this direction? I will give you the greatest

example in the world to encourage you in the use of it, even the

example of Jesus Christ. When the hour of his danger and death drew

nigh, he gets into the garden, separates from the disciples, and there

wrestles mightily with God in prayer, even unto an agony, Mark xiv. 32:

in reference to which the Apostle saith, Who in the days of his flesh,

when he had offered up prayers and supplications, with strong cries and

tears, to him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in

that he feared, Heb. v. 7. He was heard as to strength and support to

carry him through it, though not as to deliverance, or exemption from

it.

Now, O that these things might abide with you, and be reduced to

practice in these evil days, that many trembling souls may be

established by them.

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[2] I yield to none

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FIFTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM REPINING

"The fifth season to excite this diligence in keeping the heart, is the

time of straits and outward pinching wants; although at such times we

should complain to God, and not of God (the throne of grace being

erected for a time of need, Heb. iv. 16) yet when the waters of relief

run low, and wants begin to pinch hard, how prone are the best hearts

to distrust the fountain! when the meal in the barrel and the oil in

the cruse are almost spent, our faith and patience are almost spent

too. Now it is difficult to keep down the proud and unbelieving heart

in an holy quietude and sweet submission at the foot of God. It is an

easy thing to talk of trusting God for daily bread, while we have a

full barn or purse; but to say, as the prophet, Though the fig tree

should not blossom, neither fruit be in the vine, &c. yet I will

rejoice in the Lord, Hab. iii. 17. Surely this is not easy." The fifth

case therefore shall be this.

Case 5. How a Christian may keep his heart from distrusting God, or

repining against him, when outward wants are either felt or feared.

This case deserves to be seriously pondered, and especially to be

studied now, since it seems to be the design of providence to empty the

people of God of their creature-fulness, and acquaint them with those

straits which hitherto they have been altogether strangers to.

Now, to secure the heart from the before-mentioned dangers attending

this condition, these following considerations, through the blessings

of the spirit, may prove effectual. And the first is this,

Consideration 1. That if God reduce you to straits and necessities, yet

he deals no otherwise therein with you, than he hath done with some of

the choicest and holiest men that ever lived.

Your condition is not singular; though you have hitherto been strangers

to wants, other saints have daily conversed and been familiarly

acquainted with them. Hear what blessed Paul speaks, not of himself

only, but in the names of other saints reduced to like exigencies. Even

to this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked and

buffeted, and have no certain dwelling-place, 1 Cor. iv. 11. To see

such a man as Paul going up and down the world with a naked back, and

empty belly, and not a house to put his head in, one that was so far

above thee in grace and holiness, one that did more service for God in

a day, than perhaps thou hast done in all thy days; and yet thou repine

as if hardly dealt with! have you forgot what necessities and straits

even a David hath suffered? How great were his straits and necessities?

Give I pray thee (saith he to Nabal) whatsoever cometh to thy hand, to

thy servants, and to thy son David, 1 Sam. xxv. 8. Renowned Musculus

was forced to dig in the town ditch for a maintenance. Famous Ainsworth

(as I have been credibly informed) was forced to sell the bed he lay on

to buy bread. But why speak I of these? Behold a greater than any of

them, even the Son of God, who is the heir of all things, and by whom

the worlds were made, yet sometimes would have been glad of any thing,

having nothing to eat, And on the morrow, when they were come from

Bethany, he was hungry; and seeing a fig-tree afar off, having leaves,

he came if happily he might find [any thing] thereon. Mark xi. 12.

Well then, hereby God hath set no mark of hatred upon you, neither can

you infer the want of love from want of bread.--When thy repining heart

puts the question, was there ever any sorrow like unto mine? Ask these

worthies, and they will tell thee, though they did not complain and

fret as thou dost, yet they were driven to as great straits as thou

art.

Consid. 2. If God leave you not in this necessitous condition without a

promise, you have no reason to repine or despond under it.

That is a sad condition indeed, to which no promise belongs. I remember

Mr. Calvin upon those words, Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such

as was in her vexation, &c. Isa. ix. 1, solves the doubt in what sense

the darkness of the captivity was not so great as the lesser incursions

made by Tiglath Pileser. In the captivity the city was destroyed, and

the temple burnt with fire, there was no comparison in the affliction;

but yet the darkness should not be such, and the reason (saith he) is

this, Hic certam permissionen esse additam, cum in prioribus nulla

esset; i. e. there was a certain promise made to this, but none to the

other.

It is better to be as low as hell with a promise, than in paradise

without one. Even the darkness of hell itself would be comparatively no

darkness at all, were there but a promise to enlighten it. Now God hath

left many sweet promises for the faith of his poor people to feed on in

this condition, such are these: O fear the Lord, ye his saints, for

there is no want to them that fear him: the lions do lack and suffer

hunger, but they that fear the Lord shall want nothing that is good,

Psal. xxxiv. 9, 10: The eye of the Lord is upon the righteous, to keep

them alive in famine,Psal. xxxiii. 18, 19. No good thing will he

withhold from them that walk uprightly, Psal. lxxxiv. 11. He that

spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he

not with him also freely give us all things? Rom. viii. 32. When the

poor and the needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue

faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will

not forsake them. Isa. xli. 17. Here you see, first, their extreme

wants, water being put even for the necessaries of life. 2d, Their

certain relief, I the Lord will hear them; in which it is supposed that

they cry unto him in their straits; and he hears their cry.

Having therefore these promises, why should not your distrustful hearts

conclude like David's, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want? Psal.

xxiii. 1.

Objection. But these promises imply conditions; if they were absolute,

they would afford more satisfaction.

Solution. What are those tacit conditions you speak of, but these? 1st,

That either he will supply or sanctify your wants: 2d, That you shall

have so much as God sees fit for you. And doth this trouble you? Would

you have the mercy, whether sanctified or no? Whether God sees it fit

for you or no? Methinks the appetites of saints after earthly things

should not be so ravenous, to seize greedily upon any enjoyment, not

caring how they have it.

But oh, when wants pinch, and we see not whence supplies should come,

then our faith in the promise shakes, and we, like murmuring Israel,

cry, He gave bread, can he give water also? O unbelieving hearts! When

did his promise fail? Whoever trusted them and was ashamed? May not God

upbraid thee with thine unreasonable infidelity, as Jer. ii. 31, Have I

been a wilderness unto you? &c. Or as Christ said to his disciples,

Since I was with you, lacked ye any thing? Yea, may you not upbraid

yourselves, may you not say with good old Polycarp, Thus many years I

have served Christ, and found him a good master? Indeed he may deny

what your wantonness, but not what your real wants call for. He will

not regard the cry of your lusts, nor yet despise the cry of your

faith; though he will not indulge and humour your wanton appetites, yet

he will not violate his own faithful promises. These promises are your

best security for eternal life; and it is strange if they should not

satisfy you for daily bread: remember ye the words of the Lord, and

solace your hearts with them amidst all your wants. It is said of

Epicurus, that in the dreadful fits of the cholic, he often refreshed

himself, ob memoriam inventorum; by calling to mind his inventions in

philosophy: and of Possidonius the philosopher, that in a great fit of

the stone he solaced himself with discourses of moral virtue: and when

the pain twinged him, he would say, Nihil agis dolor; quanvis sis

molestus, nunquam confitebor te esse malum: O pain, thou dost nothing;

though thou art a little troublesome, I will never confess thee to be

evil. If upon such grounds as these they could support themselves under

such grinding and racking pains, and even elude their diseases by them,

how much rather should the precious promises of God, and the sweet

experiences which have gone along step by step with them, make you to

forget all your wants, and comfort you over every strait?

Consid. 3. If it be bad now, it might have been worse; hath God denied

thee the comforts of this life? He might have denied thee Christ, peace

and pardon also, and then thy case had been woeful indeed. You know God

hath done so to millions in the world: how many such wretched objects

may your eyes behold every day, that have no comfort in hand, nor yet

in hope, are miserable here, and will be so to eternity: that have a

bitter cup, and nothing to sweeten it; no, not so much as any hope that

it will be better. But it is not so with you, though you be poor in

this world, Yet rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which God hath

promised, Jam. ii. 5. O learn to set spiritual riches over against

temporal poverty; balance all your present troubles with your spiritual

privileges. Indeed if God had denied your souls the robe of

righteousness to clothe them, the hidden manna to feed them, the

heavenly mansions to receive them: if your souls were left destitute,

as well as your bodies, you might well be pensive; but this

consideration hath enough to bring the considering soul to rest under

any outward strait. It was bravely said by Luther, when want began to

pinch him, Let us be contented with our hard fare (said he) for do not

we feast with angels upon Christ the bread of life? And blessed be God

(said Paul) who hath abounded to us in all spiritual blessings, Ephes.

i. 3.

Consid. 4. This affliction, though great, is not such an affliction,

but God hath far greater, with which he chastises the dearly beloved of

his soul in this world; and should he remove this and inflict those,

you would account your present state a very comfortable state, and

bless God to be as now you are.

What think ye, sirs? Should God remove your present troubles, supply

all your outward wants, give you the desire of your hearts in

creature-comforts, but hide his face from you, shoot his arrows into

your souls, and cause the venom of them to drink up your spirits?

Should he leave you but a few days to the buffeting of Satan, and his

blasphemous injections: should he hold your eyes but a few nights

waking with horrors of conscience, tossing to and fro till the dawning

of the day: should he lead you through the chambers of death, show you

visions of darkness? And make his terrors set themselves in array

against you? Then tell me if you would not count it a choice mercy to

be back again in your former necessitous condition, with peace of

conscience; and count bread and water, with God's favour, a happy

state? O then, take heed of repining. Say not God deals hardly with

you, lest you provoke him to convince you, by your own sense and

feeling, that he hath worse rods than these for unsubmissive and

froward children.

Consid. 5. If it be bad now it will be better shortly.

O keep thy heart by that consideration: the meal in the barrel is

almost spent; well, be it so, why should that trouble me, if I am

almost beyond the need and use of all these things? The traveller hath

spent almost all his money, but a shilling or two left: Well, saith he,

though my money be almost spent, yet my journey is almost finished too;

I am near home, and than shall be fully supplied. If there be no

candles in the house, yet it is a comfort to think that it is almost

day, and then there will be no need of candles. I am afraid, Christian,

thou misreckonest thyself, when thou thinkest, my provision is almost

spent, and you have a great way to travel; many years to live, and

nothing to live upon; it may be not half so many as thou supposest: in

this be confident, if thy provision be spent, either fresh supplies are

coming (though thou seest not from whence) or thou art nearer thy

journey's end than thou reckonest thyself to be. Desponding soul, doth

it become a man or woman travelling upon the road to that heavenly

city, and almost arrived there, within a few days journey of his

Father's house, where all his wants shall be supplied, to talk on thus

about a little meat, drink or clothes, which he fears he shall want by

the way? It was a noble saying of the forty martyrs, famous in the

ecclesiastical story, when turned out naked in a frosty night to be

starved to death, with these words they comforted one another: The

winter indeed is sharp and cold, but heaven is warm and comfortable;

here we shiver for cold, but Abraham's bosom will make amends for all.

Objection. 1. But I may die for want.

Solution 1st. Who ever did so? When were the righteous forsaken? 2d. If

so, your journey is ended, and you fully supplied.

Object. 2. But I am not sure of that, were I sure of heaven it were

another matter.

Sol. Are you not sure of that? Then you have other matters to trouble

yourselves about than these: methinks these should be the least of all

your cares: I do not find that souls perplexed and troubled about the

want of Christ, pardon of sin, &c. are usually very anxious or

solicitous about these things. He that seriously puts such questions as

these, What shall I do to be saved? How shall I know my sin is

pardoned? doth not usually trouble himself with, What shall I eat, what

shall I drink, or wherewith shall I be clothed?

Consid. 6. Doth it become the children of such a Father to distrust his

all-sufficiency, or repine at any of his dispensations?

Do you well to question his care and love upon every new exigence? Say,

have you not been ashamed of this formerly? Hath not your Father's

seasonable provisions for you in former straits, put you to the blush,

and made you resolve never to question his love and care any more? and

yet will you renew your unworthy suspicions of him again? Disingenuous

child! reason thus with thyself; if I perish for want of what is good

and needful for me, it must either be because my Father knows not my

wants, or hath not wherewith to supply them: or else regards not what

becomes of me. Which of these shall I charge upon him? Not the first;

for, My Father knows what I have need of, Matt. vi. 32; my condition is

not hid from him: nor the second, for the earth is the Lord's, and the

fulness of it, Psal. xxiv. 1. His name is God all-sufficient, Gen.

xvii. 1. Not the last, for, as a father pities his children, so the

Lord pities them that fear him, Psal. ciii. 13. The Lord is exceeding

pitiful, and of tender mercy, Jam. v. 11. He hears the young ravens

when they cry, Job xxxviii. 41. And will he not hear me? Consider

(saith Christ) the fowls of the air, Matth. vi. 26. Not the fowls at

the door, that are every day fed by hand, but the fowls of the air,

that have none to provide for them. Doth he feed and clothe his

enemies, and will he forget his children? He heard the very cry of

Ishmael in distress, Gen. xxi. 17. O my unbelieving heart! dost thou

yet doubt? Remember Hagar and her child.

7. Consid. 7. Your poverty is not your sin, but your affliction only!

if by sinful means you have not brought it upon yourselves; and if it

be but an affliction, it may be born the easier for that.

It is hard indeed to bear an affliction coming upon us as the fruit and

punishment of sin; when men are under trouble upon that account, they

use to say, O! if it were but a single affliction coming from the hand

of God by way of trial, I could bear it, but I have brought it upon

myself by sin; it comes as the punishment of sin; the marks of God's

displeasure are upon it; it is the guilt within that troubles and galls

more than the want without.

But it is not so here, and therefore you have no reason to be cast down

under it.

Objection. But though there be no sting of guilt, yet this condition

wants not other stings: as first, the discredit of religion; I cannot

comply with mine engagements in the world, and thereby religion is like

to suffer.

Solution. It is well you have an heart to discharge every duty, yet if

God disable you by providence, it is no discredit to your profession,

because you do not that which you cannot do, so long as it is your

desire and endeavor to do what you can and ought to do; and in this

case God's will is, that lenity and forbearance be exercised towards

you, Deut. xxiv. 12, 13.

2 Object. 2. But it grieves me to behold the necessities of others whom

I was wont to relieve and refresh, but now cannot.

Sol. If you cannot, it ceases to be your duty, and God accepts the

drawing out of your soul to the hungry in compassion and desire to help

them, though you cannot draw forth a full purse to relieve and supply

them.

Object. 3. But I find such a condition full of temptations, a sore clog

in the way to heaven.

Sol. Every condition in the world hath its clogs and attending

temptations; and were you in a prosperous condition, you might there

meet with more temptations and fewer advantages than you now have: for

though I confess poverty hath its temptations as well as prosperity,

yet I am confident prosperity hath not those excellent advantages that

poverty hath: for here you have an opportunity to discover the

sincerity of your love to God, when you can live upon him, find enough

in him, and constantly follow him, even when all external inducements

and motives fail. And thus I have shewed you how to keep your hearts

from the temptations and dangers attending a poor and low condition in

the world; when want pinches and the heart begins to sink, then

improve, and bless God for these helps to keep it.

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SIXTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM WANDERING IN DUTY

"The sixth season of expressing this diligence in keeping the heart, is

the season of duty; when we draw nigh to God in public, private, or

secret duties, then it is time to look to the heart, for the vanity of

the heart seldom discovers itself more than at such times. How often

doth the poor soul cry out, O Lord, how fain would I serve thee, but

vain thoughts will not let me; I came to open my heart to thee, to

delight my soul in communion with thee, but my corruptions have set

upon me: Lord, call off these vain thoughts, and suffer them not to

prostitute the soul, which is espoused to thee, before thy face." The

sixth case then is this:

Case 6. How the heart may be kept from distraction by vain thoughts, in

the time of duty.

There is a two-fold distraction or wandering of the heart in duty: 1.

Voluntary and habitual. They set not their hearts aright, and their

spirit was not steadfast with God, Psal. lxxviii. 8. This is the case

of formalists, and it proceeds from the want of an holy bent and

inclination of the heart to God; their hearts are under the power of

their lusts, and therefore it is no wonder that they go after their

lusts, even when they are about holy things, Ezek. xxxiii. 31. 2d.

Involuntary and lamented distractions, I find then a law, that when I

would do good, evil is present with me; O wretched man that I am, &c.

Rom. vii. 21, 24. This proceeds not from the want of a holy bent and

aim, but from the weakness and imperfection of grace. And in this case

the soul may make the like complaint against its own corruptions that

Abijah did against Jeroboam, Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat is risen up

against his Lord, when Rehoboam was young and tender-hearted, and could

not withstand him, and there are gathered unto him vain men, the

children of Belial, 2 Chr. xiii. 6, 7. Grace hath a dominion, but lusts

are mutinous and seditious during the infancy thereof. But it is not my

business to shew you how these distractions come into the heart, but

rather how to get and keep them out of the heart; in order whereto take

these ten following helps.

Help 1. Sequester yourselves from all earthly employments, and set

apart some time for solemn preparation to meet God in duty: you cannot

come reeking hot out of the world into God's presence, but you will

find a tang of it in your duties: it is with the heart a few minutes

since plunged in the world, now at the feet of God, just as with the

sea after a storm, which still continues working, muddy and disquiet,

though the wind be laid and storm over: thy heart must have some time

to settle. There are few musicians that can take down a lute or viol,

and play presently upon it, without some time to tune it; there are few

Christians who can presently say, as Psal. lvii. 7, O God, my heart is

fixed, it is fixed. O when thou goest to God in any duty, take thy

heart aside, and say, O my soul, I am now addressing myself to the

greatest work that ever a creature was employed about: I am going into

the awful presence of God, about business of everlasting moment.

Oh my soul, leave trifling now, be composed, watchful, serious, this is

no common work; it is God-work, soul-work, eternity-work. I am now

going forth bearing seed, which will bring forth fruit to life or death

in the world to come; pause a while upon thy sins, wants, troubles;

steep thy thoughts a while in these before thou address thyself to

duty. David first mused and then spake with his tongue, Psal. xxxix. 3,

4. So Psal. xlv. 1. My heart is inditing, &c.

Help 2. Having composed thy heart by previous meditation, presently set

a guard upon thy senses: how often are poor Christians in danger of

losing the eyes of their mind by those of their body; for this Job

covenanted with his senses, chap. xxxi. 1, for this David prayed, Turn

away mine eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken thou me in thy

way,Psal. cxix. 37. This may serve to expound that mystical Arabian

proverb, which advises to shut the windows that the house may be light:

It were excellent if you could say in your onsets upon duty, as an holy

man once did, when he came off from duty: Claudimini occuli mei

claudimini, &c. Be shut, O mine eyes, be shut: for it is impossible you

should ever see such beauty and glory in any creature, as I have now

seen in God. You had need avoid all occasions of distraction from

without, for be sure you will meet enough from within. Intention of

spirit in the work of God, locks up the eye and ear against

vanity.--When Marcellus entered the gates of Syracuse, Archemides was

so intent about his mathematical scheme, that he took no notice of the

soldiers when they entered his very study with drawn swords; a fervent

cannot be a vagrant heart.

Help 3. Beg of God a mortified fancy. A working fancy, saith one, how

much soever it be extolled among men, is a great snare to the soul;

except it work in fellowship with right reason, and a sanctified heart;

the phantasy is a power of the soul placed between the senses and the

understanding, it is that which first stirs itself in the soul, and by

its motions the other powers are stirred; it is the common shop where

thoughts are first forged and framed, and as this is, so are they; if

imaginations be not first cast down, it is impossible that every

thought of the heart should be brought into obedience to Christ, 2 Cor.

x. 5. This fancy is naturally the wildest and most untameable power in

the soul. Some Christians (especially such as are of hot and dry

constitutions) have much to do with it.

And truly, the more spiritual the heart is, the more it is troubled

about the vanity and wildness of it. O what a sad thing it is! that thy

nobler soul must lackey up and down after a vain roving fancy, that

such a beggar should ride on horseback, and such a prince run after it

on foot; that it should call off the soul from attendance upon God,

when it is most sweetly engaged in communion with him, to prosecute

such vanities as it would start at before! Beg earnestly of God, that

the power of sanctification may once come upon it. Some Christians have

attained such a degree of sanctification of their fancies, that they

have had much sweetness left upon their hearts by the spiritual working

of it in the night season: when thy fancy is more mortified, thy

thoughts will be more orderly and fixed.

Help 4. If thou wouldst keep thy heart from those vain excursions,

realize to thyself by faith, the holy and awful presence of God in

duties.

If the presence of a grave man will compose us to seriousness, how much

more the presence of an holy God?--Thinkest thou, thy soul durst be so

gay and light, if the sense of a divine eye were upon it? Remember the

place where thou art, is the place of his feet, Isa. lx. 13. Act faith

upon the Omnisciency of God. All the churches shall know that I am he

that searches the heart, and trieth the reins: and I will give to every

one of you according to your works, Rev. ii. 23. All things are naked

and open to the eyes of him with whom we have to do, Heb. iv. 13.

Realize his infinite holiness; into what a serious composed frame did

the sight of God in his holiness put the spirit of the prophet? Isa.

vi. 5. Labour also to get upon thy heart due apprehensions of the

greatness of God, such as Abraham had. I that am but dust and ashes

have taken upon me to speak to God, Gen. xviii. 27. And lastly,

remember the jealousy of God, how tender he is over his worship. And

Moses said unto Aaron, This is that the Lord spake, saying, I will be

sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will

be glorified, Lev. x. 3.

"A man that is praying, saith Bernard, should behave himself as if he

were entering into the court of heaven, where he sees the Lord upon his

throne, surrounded with ten thousand of his angels and saints

ministering unto him." When thou comest from a duty in which thy heart

hath been toying and wandering, thou mayest say, verily God was in this

place, and I knew it not. Suppose all the impertinences and vanities,

which have past through thine heart in a duty were written out, and

interlined with thy petitions; couldst thou have the face to present it

to God? Should thy tongue but utter all the thoughts of thy heart in

prayer, would not men abhor thee? Why, thy thoughts are vocal to God,

Psal. cxxxix. 2. If thou wert petitioning the king for thy life, would

it not provoke him to see thee playing with thy band strings, or

catching at every fly that lights upon thy clothes, whilst thou art

speaking to him about such serious matters? O think seriously upon that

scripture. God is greatly to be feared in the assemblies of his saints,

and to be had in reverence of all that are round about him, Psal.

lxxxix. 7. Why did God descend in thunderings and lightnings, and dark

clouds upon Sinai? Exod. xix. 16, 18. Why did the mountains smoke under

him, the people quake and tremble round about him, yea Moses himself

not exempted; but to teach the people that great truth, Let us have

grace whereby we may serve Him acceptably, with reverence and godly

fear, for our God is a consuming fire,Heb. xii. 28, 29. Present God

thus before thee, and thy vain heart will quickly be reduced to a more

serious frame.

Help 5. Maintain a praying frame of heart in the intervals of duty;

what is the reason our hearts are so dull, careless, and wandering,

when we come to hear or pray, but because there have been such long

intermissions in our communion with God; by reason whereof the heart is

out of a praying frame? If that spiritual warmth, those holy

impressions we carry from God in one duty, were but preserved to kindle

another duty, it would be of marvellous advantage to keep the heart

intent and serious with God.

To this purpose those intermediate ejaculations, betwixt stated and

solemn duties, are of most sweet and excellent use; by these, on duty

is, as it were, linked to another, and so the soul, as it were, wraps

up itself in a chain of duties. That Christian seldom misses his mark

in solemn duty, that shoots up many of these darts in the intervals of

duty. It is an excellent commendation Christ bestows upon the spouse,

Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honey-comb, Cant. iv. 11. Upon which

text one gives this sweet note; the honey-comb drops actually but

sometimes, but it always hangs full of sweet drops ready to fall: if

our ejaculations were more, our lamentations upon this account would be

fewer.

Help 6. Endeavor to engage and raise thy affections to God in duty, if

thou wouldst have thy distractions cured.

A dropping eye, and a melting heart, are seldom troubled as others upon

this account: when the soul is intent upon any work, it gathers in its

strength, and bends all the thoughts about it; and when it is deeply

affected, it will be intent, the affections command the thoughts to go

after them; deadness causes distraction, and distraction increases

deadness: could you but look upon duties as the galleries of communion

in which you walk with God, where your souls may be filled with those

ravishing and matchless delights which are in his presence, your soul

would not offer to stir from thence.

It is with the heart in duty, as it is with those that dig for golden

ore; they try here and finding none, try there; and so go from place to

place, till at last they hit upon the rich vein, and there they sit

down. If thy heart could but once hit the rich vein in duty it would

dwell and abide there with delight and constancy. O how love I thy law,

it is my meditation day and night! Psal. cxix. 97. The soul could dwell

day and night upon its knees, when once its delights, loves, and

desires are engaged. What is the reason your hearts are so shuffling,

especially in secret duties? why are you ready to be gone almost as

soon as you are come into the presence of God, but because your

affections are not engaged?

Help 7. Mourn over the matter to God, and call in assistance from

heaven, when vain thoughts assault thy heart in duty.

When the messenger of Satan buffeted Paul by wicked injections, as is

supposed, he goes to God and mourns over it before him, 2 Cor. xii. 8.

Never slight wandering thoughts in duty as small matters; follow every

vain thought with a deep sigh; turn thee to God with such words as

these: Lord, I came hither to speak with thee, and here a busy devil

and a vain heart conspiring together have set upon me. O my God! what

an heart have I! Shall I never wait upon thee without distraction! when

shall I enjoy an hour of free communion with thee? Help me, my God,

this once; do but display thy glory before mine eyes, and my heart

shall quickly be recovered: thou knowest I came hither to enjoy thee,

and shall I go away without thee? See how the heart of thy poor child

works towards thee, strives to get near thee, but cannot: my heart is

aground; come thou north wind, blow south wind: O for a fresh gale now

from thy Spirit, to set my affections afloat! couldest thou but thus

affectionately bewail thy distractions to God, thou mightest obtain

help and deliverance from them: He would say to Satan, and thine

imperious lusts, as Ahasuerus said of Haman, what, will he force the

queen before my face? Who are these, that set upon my child in my work

and presence?

Help 8. Look upon the success and sweetness of thy duties, as very much

depending upon the keeping of thy heart close with God in them.

These two things, the success and sweetness of duty, are as dear to a

Christian as his two eyes; and both of these must necessarily be lost,

if the heart be lost in duty. Surely God heareth not vanity, neither

doth the Almighty regard it, Job xxxv. 13. The promise is made to an

heart engaged. Then shall ye seek me, and find me, when ye shall search

for me with all your hearts. Jer. xxix. 13. Well, then, when thou

findest thy heart under the power of deadness and distraction, say to

thy soul, O what do I lose by a careless heart now! my praying times

are the choicest parts, the golden spots of all my time: could I but

get up this heart with God, I might now obtain such mercies as would be

matter for a song to all eternity.

Help 9. Look upon it as a great discovery of the sincerity or hypocrisy

of your hearts, according as you find them careful, or careless, in

this matter.

Nothing will startle an upright heart more than this: what, Shall I

give way to a customary wandering of heart from God? Shall the spot of

the hypocrite appear upon my soul? They indeed can drudge on in the

round of duty, never regarding the frames of their hearts, Ezek.

xxxiii. 31, 32. but shall I do so? When men come into the presence

chamber, and the King is not there, they bow to the empty chair. O

never let me be satisfied with empty duties! never let me take my leave

of a duty, until mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.

Help 10. Lastly, It will be of special use to keep thine heart with God

in duties, to consider what influence all thy duties have into thy

eternity.

These are your seed-times, and what you sow in your duties in this

world, you must look to reap the fruit of it in another world, Gal. vi.

7, 8. If you sow to the flesh, of that you shall reap corruption; but

if to the Spirit, life everlasting. O my soul, answer seriously,

wouldst thou be willing to reap the fruit of vanity in the world to

come? Darest thou say, when thy thoughts are roving to the ends of the

earth in duty, when thou scarce mindest what thou sayest or hearest;

now, Lord, I am sowing to the spirit; now I am providing and laying up

for eternity, now I am seeking for glory, honor and immortality; now I

am striving to enter in at the strait gate; now I am taking the kingdom

of heaven by an holy violence? O such consideration as this should make

the multitudes of vain thoughts that press in upon thy heart in duty,

fly seven ways before it. And thus I have shewn you how to keep your

hearts in the times of duty.

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SEVENTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM REVENGEFUL MOTIONS

"The seventh season calling for more than common diligence to keep the

heart, is, when we receive injuries and abuses from men. Such is the

depravedness and corruption of man in his collapsed state, that homo

homini lupus, one man is become a wolf, a tiger, to another: they are,

as the prophet complains, As the fishes of the sea, and as the creeping

things, that have no ruler over them, Hab. i. 14; and as wicked men are

cruel and oppressive one to another, so they conspire together to abuse

and wrong the people of God, as the same prophet complains, The wicked

devoureth the man that is more righteous than he, ver. 13. Now when we

are thus abused and wronged, it is hard to keep the heart from

revengeful motions; to make it meekly and quietly to commit the cause

to him that judgeth righteously; to exercise no other affection but

pity towards them that abuse us. Surely the spirit that is in us

lusteth to revenge, but it must not be so; you have choice helps in the

gospel to keep down your hearts from such sinful motions against your

enemies, and to sweeten your imbittered spirits." The seventh case then

shall be this,

Case 7. How a Christian may keep his heart from revengeful motions,

under the greatest injuries and abuses from men.

The gospel, indeed, allows a liberty to vindicate our innocency, and

assert our rights, but not to vent our corruptions, and invade God's

right. When, therefore, thou findest thy heart begin to be inflamed by

revengeful motions, presently apply the following remedies; and the

first is this,

Remedy 1. Urge upon thy heart the severe prohibitions of revenge by the

law of God. Remember that this is forbidden fruit, how pleasant and

luscious soever it be to our vitiated appetites. O, saith nature,

revenge is sweet: O but, saith God, the effects thereof shall be

bitter. How plainly hath God interdicted this flesh-pleasing sin. Say

not, I will recompense evil, Prov. xx. 22. Say not, I will do so to him

as he hath done to me, Prov. xxiv. 29. Rom. xii. 17, Recompense to no

man evil for evil; and ver. 19, Avenge not yourselves, but rather give

place to wrath. Nay, that is not all; but, Prov. xxv. 21, If thine

enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink. The word feed

him, as critics observe, signifies to feed cheerfully and tenderly, as

birds do their young ones: the scripture is a great friend to the peace

and tranquility of human society, which can never be preserved, if

revenge be not deposed. It was wont to be an argument urged by the

Christians, to prove their religion to be supernatural and pure, that

it forbids revenge, which is so sweet to nature; and verily it is a

thousand pities such an argument should be lost. Well, then, awe your

hearts with the authority of God in these scriptures, and when carnal

reason saith, Mine enemy deserves to be hated, let conscience reply,

But doth God deserve to be disobeyed? Thus, and thus, hath he done, and

so he hath wronged me; but what hath God done, that I should wrong him?

If he dare be so bold to break the peace, shall I be so wicked to break

the precept? If he fears not to wrong me, shall not I fear to wrong

God? O let the fear of God's threatenings repress such sinful motions.

Remedy 2. Set before your eyes the most eminent patterns of meekness

and forgiveness, that your souls may fall in love with them.

This is the way to cut off those common pleas of the flesh for revenge:

as thus, No man would bear such affront: Yes, such and such have borne

as bad, and worse. I shall be reckoned a coward, a fool, if I pass by

this: no matter, as long as I follow the examples of the wisest and

holiest of men; never did any suffer more or greater abuses from men

than Christ did, and never did any carry it more peaceably and

forgivingly. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not

his mouth; he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, &c. Isa. liii. 7.

This pattern of our Lord the Apostle sets before you for your

imitation. For even hereunto are you called, because Christ also

suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps:

who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he

threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously,

1 Pet. ii. 21, 22, 23.. To be of a meek forgiving spirit, is

Christ-like, God-like; then shall you be the children of your Father

which is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise upon the evil, and

upon the good; and sendeth rain on the just, and unjust, Mat. v. 45.

How eminently also did this Spirit of Christ rest upon his apostles?

Never were there such men upon earth for true excellency of spirit.

None were ever abused more, or suffered their abuses better. Being

reviled, say they, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it; being

defamed, we intreat, 1 Cor. iv. 12, 13. Mr. Calvin, though a man of a

quick spirit, yet had attained such a degree of this Christ-like

forgiveness, that when Luther had used some opprobrious language of

him, the good man said no more but this, "although he should call me

Devil, yet I will acknowledge him to be an eminent servant of Jesus

Christ."

I have often heard it reported of holy Mr. Dod, that when one, enraged

at his close, convincing doctrine, picked a quarrel with him, smote him

on the face, and dashed out two of his teeth; this meek servant of

Christ spat out the teeth and blood into his hand, and said, See here,

you have knocked out two of my teeth, and that without any just

provocation; but on condition I might do your soul good, I would give

you leave to dash out all the rest. Here is the excellency of a

Christian's spirit, above all the attainments of moral Heathens: though

they were excellent at many other things, yet they could never attain

this forgiving spirit. It is the first office of justice (said Tully)

to hurt no body, unless first provoked by an injury: whereupon

Lactantius, O quam simplicem veramque sententiam duorum verborum

adjectione, corrupit! What a dainty sentence spoiled the orator, by

adding those two last words! Strive then for this excellency of spirit,

which is the proper excellency of Christians; do some singular thing

that others cannot do, and then you will have a testimony in their

consciences. When Moses outdid the magicians, they were forced to

confess the finger of God in that business.

Remedy 3. Consider well the quality of the person that hath wronged

thee; either he is a good man, or a wicked man, that hath done thee the

injury: if he be a good man, there is light and tenderness in his

conscience, and that will bring him at last to a sense of the evil he

hath done; however Christ hath forgiven him greater injuries than

these, and why shouldst not thou? Will not Christ upbraid him with any

of those wrongs done to him, but frankly forgive him all; and will thou

take him by the throat for some petty abuse that he hath done to thee?

Or is he a wicked man? If so, truly you have more need to exercise pity

than revenge towards him, and that upon a double account: for, 1. He is

beside himself, so indeed is every unconverted sinner, Luke xv. 17.

Should you go into Bedlam, and there hear one rail at you, another mock

you, and a third threaten you; would you say, I will be revenged upon

them? No, you would rather go away pitying them. Alas, poor creatures!

they are out of their wits, and know not what they do. Besides,

2. There is a day coming, if they repent not, when they will have more

misery than you can find in your hearts to wish them; you need not

study revenge, God's vengeance sleepeth not, and will shortly take

place upon them, and is not that enough? Have they not an eternity of

misery coming? If they repent not, this must be the portion of their

cup! and if ever they do repent, they will be ready to make you

reparation.

Remedy 4. Keep down thy heart by this consideration, that by revenge

thou canst but satisfy a lust, but by forgiveness thou shalt conquer a

lust.

Suppose by revenge thou shouldst destroy one enemy, I will shew thee

how, by forgiving, thou shalt conquer three; thine own lust, the

devil's temptation, and thine enemy's heart; and is not this a more

glorious conquest? If by revenge thou overcome thine enemy, yet, as

Bernard saith, Infelix victoria, ubi superans virum succumbit vitio:

unhappy victory, when, by overcoming another man, thou art overcome by

thine own corruption. By this way you may obtain a glorious conquest

indeed. What an honourable and dry victory did David this way obtain

over Saul? And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking

these words, that Saul lifted up his voice and wept; and he said to

David, thou art more righteous than I, 1 Sam. xxiv. 16, 17.

It must be a very disingenuous nature indeed, upon which meekness and

forgiveness will not work; a stony heart, which this fire will not

melt. If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink:

for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, Prov. xxv.

21. Some will have it a sin-punishing fire, but others an heart-melting

fire. To be sure, it will either melt his heart, or aggravate his

misery. Augustine thinks that Stephen's prayer for his enemies, was the

great means of Paul's conversion.

Remedy 5. Seriously propound this question to thy own heart, Have I got

any good by the wrongs and injuries received, or have I not? If they

have done you no good, turn the revenge upon yourselves: O that I

should have such a bad heart, that can get no good out of such

troubles! O that my spirit should be so unlike to Christ's! the

patience and meekness of other Christians, have turned all the injuries

thrown at them into precious stones; the spirits of others have been

raised in blessing God, when they have been loaded with reproaches from

the world, they have bound them as an ornament to their necks.

Superbussio, said Luther, quod vides nomen pessimum mihi crescere, I

could even be proud upon it, that I have a bad name among wicked men.

To the same purpose Jerom said sweetly, Gratius ago Deo meo quod dignus

sum quem mundus oderit; I thank my God, that I am worthy to be hated of

the world. Thus their hearts were provoked by injuries to magnify God,

and bless him for them; if it work contrary with me, I have cause

enough to be filled with self-displicency.

If you have got any good by them; if the reproaches and wrongs you have

received, have made you search your hearts the more, watch your ways

the more narrowly; if their wronging you, has made you see how you have

wronged God, then let me say for them, as Paul did, Pray forgive them

this wrong.

What, can you not find an heart to forgive one that hath been

instrumental of so much good to you? That is strange! what though they

meant it for evil? Yet if God hath turned it to good, you have no more

reason to rage against the instrument, than he had who received a wound

from his enemy, which only brake and let out that imposthume, which

otherwise had been his death.

Remedy 6. It is of excellent use to keep the heart from revenge, to

look up and eye the first cause by which all our troubles are ordered.

This will calm and meeken our spirits quickly: never did a wicked

tongue try the patience of a saint more than David's was tried by that

railing Shimei; yet the spirit of this good man was not at all poisoned

with revenge, though he goes along cursing and casting stones at him

all the way. Yea, though Abishai offered David, if he pleased, the head

of that enemy; yet the king said, What have I to do with you, ye son of

Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him, curse

David: who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? It may be God

uses him as his rod to lash me; because I, by my sin, made his enemies

to blaspheme him; and shall I be angry with the rod? How irrational

were that? This also was it that quieted Job; he doth not rail and vow

revenge upon the Chaldeans and Sabeans, but eyes God as the orderer of

those troubles, and is quiet; The Lord hath taken away, blessed be his

name, Job i. 21.

Objection. But you will say, To turn aside the right of a man, to

subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not, Lam. iii. 36.

Answer. True; but though it fall not under his approving, yet it doth

under his permitting will, and there is a great argument for quiet

submission in that: nay, he hath not only the permitting, but the

ordering of all those troubles. Did we see more of an holy God, we

should show less of a corrupt nature in such trials.

Remedy 7. Consider how you daily wrong God, and you will not be so

easily inflamed with revenge against others that have wronged you.

You are daily grieving and wronging God, and yet he bears, forgives,

and will not take vengeance upon you; and will you be so quick in

avenging yourselves upon others? O what a sharp and terrible rebuke is

that! O thou wicked and slothful servant! I forgave thee all that debt

because thou desiredst me, shouldst not thou also have had compassion

on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? Mat. xviii. 32, 33.

None should be filled with bowels of pity, forbearance, and mercy, to

such as wrong them, as those should be that have experienced the riches

of mercy themselves; methinks the mercy of God to us should melt our

very bowels into mercy over others; it is impossible we should be cruel

to others, except we forget how kind Christ hath been to us. Those that

have found mercy, should shew mercy: if kindness cannot work, methinks

fear should. If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your

Father forgive you your trespasses, Mat. vi. 15.

Remedy 8. Lastly, Let the consideration of the day of the Lord, which

draweth nigh, withhold your hearts from anticipating it by acts of

revenge.

Why are you so quick? Is not the Lord at hand, to avenge all his abused

servants? Be patient therefore, my brethren, unto the coming of the

Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth, &c. Be ye also patient, for the

coming of the Lord draws nigh: grudge not one against another,

brethren, lest ye be condemned. Behold the judge standeth at the door,

Jam. v. 7, 8, 9. This text affords three arguments against revenge; 1.

The Lord's near approach. 2. The example of the husbandman's patience.

3. The danger we draw upon ourselves by anticipating God's judgment:

Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord; he will distribute justice more

equally and impartially than you can: they who believe they have a God

to right them, will not so much wrong themselves, as avenge their own

wrongs.

Objection 1. But flesh and blood are not able to bear such abuses.

Solution. If you resolve to consult flesh and blood in such cases, and

do no more but what that will enable you to do; never pretend to

religion: Christians must do singular and supernatural things.

Objection 2. But if I put up with such abuses, I shall be reckoned a

fool, and every one will trample upon me.

Solution. 1. You may be reckoned so among fools, but God and good men

will account it your wisdom, and the excellency of your spirits. 2. It

must be a base spirit indeed, that will trample upon a meek and

forgiving Christian: and thus learn to keep your hearts from revenge

under all your provocations.

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EIGHTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART UNDER GREAT PROVOCATIONS

'The next season in which we are in danger of losing our hearts, is,

when we meet with great crosses and provocations; then sinful passion

is apt to transport the heart: it is the fault of many good men, to be

of hasty and quick spirits when provoked: though they dare not concoct

anger into malice, for that would be a note of wickedness: yet are they

very incident to sudden anger, which is a sign of weakness. Beza, in

the life of Calvin, observes, that he was of a keen and hasty spirit;

and he that writes the life of great Cameron, saith, that his anger was

soon stirred towards his near and familiar friends, but then he would

soon depose it, and acknowledge his weakness. Alas! when provocations

and trials of our patience come, we know not what spirit we are of. The

eighth case therefore is this;'

Case 8. How the heart may be kept meek and patient under great crosses

and provocations.

There are three sorts of anger, natural, holy, and sinful anger. 1.

Natural, which is nothing else but the motion of the irascible appetite

towards an offensive object; and this in itself is no sin, they are

propassions rather than passions; the infelicities, rather than the

sins of nature, as Jerom calls them. Reason, saith Plutarch, is the

driver, the soul is the chariot, and the two horses that draw it on in

all its motions, are the concupiscible and irascible appetites; whilst

these are rightly managed by reason, they are not only lawful, but very

useful to the soul. God would not have us to be stupid and insensate,

though he would have us to be meek and patient. In Eph. iv. 26, he

allows the natural motion, but forbids the sinful exorbitancy. 2. Holy

anger, which is a pure flame, kindled by an heavenly spark of love to

God, and in scripture is called zeal, which is (as one saith) the

dagger which love draws in God's quarrel. Such was Lot's against the

Sodomites, and that of Moses against the idolatrous Israelites. When

Servetus condemned Zuinglius for his harshness, his answer was, In

aliis mansuetus ero, in blasphemiis in Christum, non ita; In other

cases I will be mild, but in the cause of Christ, not so. That which

the world calls moderation and mildness here, is in God's account

stupidity and cowardness; neither of these are that which I am now

persuading you to keep your hearts against. But, 3. There is a sinful

passion, that's the thing which endangers you. Now anger becomes

sinful, when it is either causeless or excessive, Matth. v. 22; and

that either in measure or time, exceeding the value of the impulsive

cause, be it more transient or abiding, yet it is a sin, and is a

matter of humiliation before God. Now the means to keep the heart from

it under provocations, are these:

Means 1. Get low and humble thoughts of yourselves, and then you will

have meek spirits, and peaceable deportments towards others.

The humble is ever the patient man; pride is the root of passion; a

lofty, will be a surly spirit: bladders blown up with wind will not lie

close together; let out the wind, and you may pack a thousand in a

little room: Only by pride cometh contention, Prov. xiii. 10. When we

overrate ourselves, then we think we are unworthily treated by others,

and that provokes; and here, by the way, take notice of one great

benefit of acquaintance with your own hearts, even the meekening and

calming of your spirits. Christian, methinks thou shouldst know so much

of thyself, that it is impossible any should lay thee lower, or have

baser thoughts of thee, than thou hast of thyself. Some render the

original of that text, Hab. ii. 5, thus: the proud man is as he that

transgresseth by wine; and drunkards, you know, are quarrelsome. O get

more humility, and that will bring you more peace.

Means 2. Be often sweetening your spirits in communion with God, and

they will not easily be imbittered with wrath towards men.

A quiet conscience never produced an unquiet conversation; the peace of

God doth rule in the heart, as an umpire, in appeasing strifes. Wrath

and strife are hugely opposite to the frame and temper of a spiritual

heart, because inconsistent with the delight and contentment of that

dove-like spirit, which loves a sedate and quiet breast. O! saith a

soul that feeds upon the sweet communion of the spirit, shall the

sparkles of provocations now catch in my passions, and raise such a

smoke in my soul as will offend and drive away the comforter from me?

This is so effectual a remedy against passion, that I durst almost

venture, in a Christian of a hasty nature, to make long-suffering a

sign of communion with God. Seest thou such a Christian quiet and calm

under provocations? it is very like his soul feeds upon such sweetness

in God as he is loth to leave; and, on the other side, seest thou a

Christian turbulent and clamorous? doubtless all is not well within;

his spirit is like a bone out of joint, which cannot move without pain

and trouble.

Means 3. Get due apprehensions of the evil nature and effects of sinful

anger: Ira furor brevis; Anger is a short madness, saith one: Ira

animae febris, saith another; Anger is the fever of the soul; it is the

interregnum and eclipse of reason, saith a third. The effects of it are

also very sad.

1. It grieves the Spirit of God, Eph. iv. 30, banishes him from that

breast in which it rages and tumultuates: God is the God of peace; the

presence and comforts of God are only enjoyed in a calm. It is a golden

note one gives upon the fore-cited text, God doth not usually bless

with peace of conscience, such as make no conscience of peace. 2. It

gives advantage to the devil, Eph. iv. 26, 27; Satan is an angry and

discontented spirit, and finds no rest but in restless hearts; he

lives, like the salamander, in fires of contention; he bestirs himself

when the spirits are in commotion, sometimes he fills the heart with

revengeful thoughts, sometimes he fills the lips, and inflames the

tongue with indecent language; even a meek Moses sometimes speaks

unadvisedly with his lips. 3. It dis-tunes the spirit for duty; upon

this account the Apostle dissuades husbands and wives from jarring

carriages and contentions, that their prayers be not hindered, 1 Pet.

iii. 7. All acts of worship must be suitable to the object of worship;

but God is the God of peace, the God of love. 4. To mention no more, it

disparages the Christian religion. How would Plato and Pythagoras shame

us, if they were now living? Christ was a lamb for meekness, and doth

it become his followers to be like lions? O keep your hearts or you

will at once lose not only your own peace, but the credit of religion.

Means 4. Consider how sweet a thing it is to a Christian to conquer his

corruptions, and carry away the spoils of them.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth

his spirit, than he that taketh a city, Prov. xvi. 32. Is there any

content in venting a passion? How much more in mortifying it! When thou

comest in a calm mood, or upon a deathbed, to review thy life, how

comfortable then will it be, to reflect upon the conquests thou hast

got by the fear of God, over the evil propensions of thine own heart!

It was a memorable saying of Valentinian the emperor, when he came to

die: "Amongst all my conquests, said he, there is but one that now

comforts me; and being asked what that was, he answered, I have

overcome my worst enemy, mine own naughty heart."

Means 5. Shame yourselves by setting before you those eminent patterns

that have been most excellent for meekness.

Above all, compare your spirits with the Spirit of Christ; Learn of me,

saith he, for I am meek and lowly, Mat. xi. 29. Christ was meek and

lowly, but I am proud and passionate; it was the high commendation of

Moses, Now the man Moses was meek above all the men of the earth, Numb.

xii. 3: and this was the man that God knew face to face! It is said of

Calvin and Ursin, that they both were of choleric natures, but yet had

so learned the meekness of Christ, as not to utter one word, under the

greatest provocations, unbeseeming religion. When I read the pretty

stories of the very heathens, that never had the advantages we have,

how the Pythagoreans, whatever feuds had been among them in the day,

would hush all, by sending to each other this message, The sun is

almost set; and that of Plato to his scholar, I would beat thee, if I

were not angry.

When I read what lenity and tenderness Lycurgus shewed to an insolent

fellow that had struck out one of his eyes, I am ashamed to see how

much Christians are out-shot by heathens; who by mere moral arguments

and precepts, had thus meekened their spirits and conquered their

passions; the dim light of nature could teach Senaca to say, That anger

will hurt a man more than the offence; for there is a certain bound in

the offence, but I know not how far mine anger will carry me. It is a

shame that these men who came so far behind us in means and advantages,

should so far outstrip us in meekness and patience.

Means 6. Lastly, Avoid all irritating occasions.

He that will not hear the clapper, must not pull the rope: Grievous

words stir up anger, Prov. xv. 1, saith Solomon, Do not only pray and

resolve against it, but get as far as you can out of the way of it: it

is true spiritual valour, to run as fast and far as we can, out of

sin's way: if you can but avoid anger in its first rise, there is no

great fear of it afterwards; for it is not with this sin as it is with

other sins; other sins grow to their full strength by degrees, their

first motions are the weakest; but this sin is born in its full

strength, it is strongest at first; withstand it then, and it falls

before you. Thus learn to keep your hearts when provocations arise.

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NINTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM YIELDING TO SIN

"The ninth season of exerting our greatest diligence, is the critical

hour of temptation, wherein Satan lays close siege to the Fort Royal of

a Christian's heart, and often surprises it for want of watchfulness:

to keep thy heart now, is no less a mercy than a duty; few Christians

are so well skilled in detecting the fallacies, and retorting the

arguments by which Satan uses to draw them to sin, as to come off safe

in those encounters. Watch and pray, saith our Lord, lest ye enter into

temptation, Mark xiv. 38. Even an eminent David, and a wise Solomon,

have smarted for their carelessness at such a time as this." The ninth

case therefore shall be this:

Case 9. How a Christian, when strongly solicited by the devil to sin,

may keep his heart from yielding to the temptation.

Now there are six special arguments by which Satan subtly insinuates

and winds in the temptation; in all which I shall offer thee some help

for the keeping of thy heart; and the first is this:

Argument. 1. The first argument is drawn from the pleasure of sin: O,

saith Satan, here is pleasure to be enjoyed; the temptation comes with

a smiling countenance, and charming voice: what art thou so phlegmatic

and dull a soul, as not to feel the powerful charms of pleasure? Who

can withhold himself from such delights?

Now thine heart may be kept from the danger of this temptation, by

retorting this argument of pleasure upon the tempter; which is done two

ways.

1. Thou tellest me, Satan, that sin is pleasant; be it so: but are the

gripes of conscience, and the flames of hell so too? Is it pleasant to

feel the wounds and throbs of conscience? If so, why did Peter weep so

bitterly? Mat. xxvi. 75. Why did David cry out of broken bones? Psal.

li. I hear what thou sayest of the pleasure of sin, and I have read

what David hath said of the terrible effects of sin in his psalm to

bring to remembrance, Psal. xxxviii. ver. 2. Thine arrows stick fast in

me, and thy hand presseth me sore: Ver. 3. There is no soundness in my

flesh, because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones,

because of my sin: Ver. 4. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head;

as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me: Ver. 5. My wounds stink,

and are corrupt; because of my foolishness: Ver. 6. I am troubled, I am

bowed down greatly; I go mourning all day long: Ver. 7. My loins are

filled with a loathsome disease; and there is no soundness in my flesh:

Ver. 8. I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the

disquietness of my heart.

Here I see the true face of sin; if I yield to thy temptation, I must

either feel the pangs of conscience, or the flames of hell.

2. What talkest thou of the pleasure of sin, when by experience I know

there is more true pleasure in the mortification, than can be in the

commission of sin? O how sweet is it to please God, to obey conscience,

to preserve inward peace! to be able to say, in this trial I have

discovered the sincerity of my heart; now I know I fear the Lord, now I

see that I truly hate sin. Hath sin any such delight as this? This will

choke that temptation.

Arg. 2. The second argument is drawn from the secrecy of sin: O, saith

Satan, this sin will never disgrace thee abroad, none shall know it.

This argument may be retorted, and thy heart secured thus: thou sayest

none shall know it; but Satan, canst thou find a place void of the

divine presence for me to sin in? Thus Job secured his heart from this

temptation, Job xxxi. 4. Doth he not see my ways, and count all my

steps? Therefore he makes a covenant with his eyes, ver. 1. After the

same manner Solomon teacheth us to retort this temptation, And why my

son wilt thou be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom

of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and

he pondereth all his goings, Prov. v. 20, 21. What if I hide it from

the eyes of the world for the present? I cannot hide it from God; and

the time is at hand, when all the world shall know it too; for the word

assures me, That what now is done in secret, shall be proclaimed as

upon the house-top, Luke viii. 17.--Besides, is not my conscience as a

thousand witnesses? Do I owe no reverence to myself? Could the heathen

men say, Turps quid ausurus, te sine teste time; when thou art tempted

to commit sin, fear thyself without any other witness: and shall not I

be afraid to sin before mine own conscience which always hath a reproof

in its mouth, or a pen in its hand, to record my most secret actions?

Arg. 3. The third argument by which Satan tempteth to sin is taken from

the gain and profit arising out of it: why so nice and scrupulous? It

is but to stretch conscience a little, and thou mayest make thyself:

now is thy opportunity.

The heart may be kept from falling into this dangerous snare, by

retorting the temptation thus: but what profit will it be, if a man

should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man

give in exchange for his soul? Shall I hazard thee for all the good

that is in this world? There is an immortal spirit dwelling in this

fleshly tabernacle, of more value than all earthly things, which must

live to all eternity, when this world shall lie in white ashes. A soul

for which Jesus Christ shed his precious and invaluable blood. I was

sent into this world to provide for this soul; indeed God hath also

committed to me the care of my body, but, as one happily expresses it,

with this difference; a master commits two things to a servant, the

child and the child's clothes; will the master thank the servant, if he

plead, I have kept the clothes, but I have neglected the life of the

child??

Arg. 4. The fourth argument is drawn from the smallness of the sin; it

is but a little one, a small matter, a trifle; who would stand upon

such niceties?

This argument may be retorted three ways.

1. But is the majesty of heaven a little one too? If I commit this sin,

I must offend and wrong a great God, Isa. xl. 15, 16, 17, 22.

2. Is there any little hell to torment little sinners in? Are not the

least sinners there filled with the fulness of wrath? O there is great

wrath treasured up for such as the world counts little sinners.

3. The less the sin, the less the inducement to commit it; what, shall

I break with God for a trifle? destroy my peace, wound my conscience,

grieve the spirit, and all this for nothing? O what madness is this?

Arg. 5. A fifth argument is drawn from the grace of God; and hopes of

pardon: come, God will pass by this as an infirmity, he will not be

extreme to mark it. But stay, my heart.

1. Where do I find a promise of mercy to presumptuous sinners? Indeed,

for involuntary surprisals, unavoidable and lamented infirmities, there

is a pardon of course; but where is the promise to a daring sinner,

that sins upon presumption of pardon? Pause a while my soul, upon that

scripture, And if a soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a

she-goat of the first year for a sin offering, &c. But the soul that

doth aught presumptuously, the same reproacheth the Lord, and that soul

shall be cut off from among his people, Numb. xv. 27, 30.

2. If God be a God of so much mercy, how can I abuse so good a God?

Shall I take so glorious an attribute as the mercy of God is, and abuse

it unto sin? Shall I wrong him because he is good? or should not rather

the goodness lead me to repentance? Rom. ii. 4. There is mercy with

thee, that thou mayest be feared, Psal. cxxx. 4.

Arg. 6. Lastly, Sometimes Satan encourages to sin from the examples of

good and holy men; thus, and thus they sinned and been restored,

therefore this may consist with grace, and thou be saved nevertheless.

The danger of this temptation is avoided, and the heart secured, by

retorting the argument these three ways:

1. Though good men may commit the same sin materially, which I am

tempted to, yet did ever any good man venture to sin, upon such a

ground and encouragement as this?

2. Did God record these examples for my imitation, or for my warning?

Are they not set up as sea-marks, that I might avoid the rocks upon

which they split? Now these were our examples, to the intent we should

not lust after evil things, as they also lusted, 1 Cor. x. 6.

3. Am I willing to feel what they felt for sin? O I dare not follow

them in the ways of sin, quia me vestigia terrent; Lest God should

plunge me into the deeps of horror into which he cast them.

Thus learn to keep your hearts, in the hour of temptation, from sin.

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TENTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM DESPERATE CONCLUSIONS

'The tenth special season to keep the heart with all diligence, is the

time of spiritual darkness and doubting, when it is with the soul, as

it was with Paul in his dangerous voyage, neither sun, nor moon, nor

star appeared for many days; when by reason of the hidings of God's

face, the prevalency of corruption, and the inevidence of grace, the

soul is even ready to give up all its hopes and comforts for lost; to

draw sad and desperate conclusions upon itself; to call its former

comforts vain delusions; its grace hypocrisy. When the serene and clear

heavens are overcast with dark clouds, yea, filled with thunders, and

horrible tempests; when the poor pensive soul sits down and weeps forth

this sad lamentation, My hope is perished from the Lord? Now to keep

the heart from sinking in such a day as this, to enable it to maintain

its own sincerity, is a matter of great difficulty.' The tenth case

then will be this.

Case 10. How the people of God, in dark and doubting seasons, may keep

their hearts from entertaining such sad conclusions about their

estates, as destroy their peace, and unfit them for their duty.

There are two general heads, to which the grounds of doubting our

sincerity may be reduced. 1. God's carriage towards the soul, either in

the time of some extraordinary affliction, or of some long and sad

desertion. Or, 2, The soul's carriage towards God: and here it usually

argues against the truth of its own graces; either 1. From its relapses

into the same sins, from which it hath formerly risen with shame and

sorrow. Or, 2. From the sensible declining of its affections from God.

Or, 3. From the excess of the affections towards creature-comforts and

enjoyments. Or, 4. From its enlargements in public and often

straitnings in private duties. Or, 5. From some horrid injections of

Satan, with which the soul is greatly perplexed. Or, Lastly, from God's

silence, and seeming denial of its long depending suits and prayers.

These are the common grounds of those sad conclusions: now in order to

the establishment and support of the heart in this condition, it will

be necessary,

1. That you be acquainted with some general truths, which have a

tendency to the settlement of a trembling and doubting soul.

2. That you be rightly instructed about the 'forementioned particulars,

which are the grounds of your doubting.

The general truths requisite for poor doubting souls to be acquainted

with, are these:

1. That every working and appearance of hypocrisy doth not presently

prove the person in whom it is, to be an hypocrite. You must carefully

distinguish between the presence and predominancy of hypocrisy: there

are remains of deceitfulness in the best hearts; David and Peter had

sad experience of it; yet the standing frame and general bent of the

heart being upright, it did not denominate them hypocrites.

2. That we ought as well to hear what can be said for us, as against

us: it is the sin of upright hearts, sometimes to use an over-rigid and

merciless severity against themselves: they do not indifferently

consider the case of their own souls: it is in this case, as Solomon

speaks in another, There is that maketh himself rich, and yet hath

nothing; and there is that maketh himself poor, and yet hath great

riches, Prov. xiii. 7. It is the damning sin of the self-flattering

hypocrite, to make his condition better than it is: and it is the sin

and folly of some upright ones to make their condition worse than

indeed it is. Why should you be such enemies to your own peace, to read

over the evidences of God's love to your souls, as a man doth a book,

which he intends to confute? Why do you study to find evasions to turn

off those comforts which are due to you? It is said of Joseph, that he

was minded to put away his espoused Mary, not knowing that that holy

thing which was conceived in her, was by the Holy Ghost; and this may

be your case. A third truth is this,

3. That many a saint hath charged and condemned himself for that, which

God will never charge him with, nor condemn him for. Why hast thou

hardened our hearts from thy fear? Isa. lxiii. 17, saith the church,

and yet the verse before manifests, that their hearts were not so

hardened: Godly Bradford wrote himself an hypocrite, a painted

sepulchre; yet doubtless God acquitted him of that charge.

4. Every thing which is a ground of grief to the people of God, is not

a sufficient ground of questioning their sincerity. There are many more

things to trouble you, than there is to stumble you: if upon every slip

and failing through infirmity, you should question all that ever was

wrought upon you, your life must be made up of doubtings and fears: you

can never attain a settled peace, nor live that life of praise and

thankfulness the gospel calls for.

5. The soul is not at all times fit to pass judgment upon its own

condition: to be sure in the dark day of desertion, when the soul is

benighted; and in the stormy day of temptation, when the soul is in a

hurry, it is utterly unfit to judge its estate: Examine your hearts

upon your beds, and be still, Psal. iv. 4. This is rather a season for

watching and resisting, than for judging and determining.

6. That every breach of peace with God, is not a breach of covenant

with God. The wife hath many weaknesses and failings, often grieves and

displeases her husband; yet in the main is faithful, and truly loves

him: these failings may cause him to alter his carriage, but not to

withdraw his love, or deny his relation. Return, O backsliding Israel,

for I am married unto you.

7. Lastly, Whatever our sin, or trouble be, it should rather drive us

to God, than from God. Pardon my sin; for it is great, Psal. xxv. 11,

suppose it be true, that thou hast so and so sinned, that thou art thus

long and sadly deserted: Yet it is a false inference, that therefore

thou shouldst be discouraged, as if there were no help for thee in thy

God. When you have well digested these seven established truths, if

still the doubt remain, then consider what may be replied to the

particular grounds of those doubts. As,

1. You doubt, and are ready to conclude, the Lord hath no regard or

love for your souls, because of some extraordinary affliction which is

come upon you: but I would not have thy soul so to conclude, till thou

be able satisfactorily to answer these three questions.

Question 1. If great troubles and afflictions be marks of God's hatred,

why should not impunity and constant prosperity be tokens of his love?

For contraiorum contraria est ratio et consequentia? of contrary things

there is a contrary reason and consequence; but is this so indeed? or

saith not the scripture quite otherwise? Prov. i. 32. The prosperity of

fools destroys them. So, Psal. lxxiii. 3-5.

Quest. 2. Dare I draw the same conclusion upon all others that have

been as much, yea more afflicted than myself? If this argument conclude

against thee, then so it doth against every one in thy condition; yea,

the greater the affliction of any child of God hath been, the more

strongly the argument still concludes; and then woe to David, Job,

Heman, Paul, and all that have been afflicted as they were.

Quest. 3. Had God exempted you only from those troubles which all other

his people feel, would not that have been a greater ground of doubting

to you than this? Especially since the scripture saith, If ye be

without chastenings, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards,

and not sons, Heb. xii. 8.

Oh how is our Father put to it by froward children! If he afflicts,

then one cries, he loves me not: if he exempt from affliction, others

question his love upon that ground. Surely you have other work to do

under the rod, than this.

2. Or do you rashly infer the Lord has no love for you, because he

hides his face from you; that your condition is miserable, because dark

and uncomfortable? Before you draw such rash conclusions, see what

answer you can give to these four following queries.

Query 1. If any action of God towards his people will bear a

favourable, as well as a harsh and severe construction, why should not

his people interpret it in the best sense? And is not this such? May he

not have a design of love, as well as of hatred, in this dispensation?

May he not depart for a season, and not for ever; yea, that he might

not depart for ever? You are not the first that have mistaken God's

ends in desertion, Isa. xlix. 14. Zion said, the Lord hath forsaken me,

my God hath forgotten me: Was it so indeed? Nothing less. Ver. 15. Can

a woman forget, &c.

Query 2. Do you find the marks of an absolute, total and final

desertion upon your own spirits, that you are so apt to conclude yours

to be such? Do you find your heart inclined to forsake God? Have you

lost your conscientious tenderness in point of sin? If so, sad

characters appear upon you indeed; but if, in this dark hour, you are

as tender of sin as ever, as much resolved to cleave to God as ever, I

cannot, I will not forsake God, let him do what he will with me: Oh no,

I cannot. If your hearts work thus, it can be but a partial, limited,

and temporary desertion; by this he still keeps his interest in your

hearts, a sure sign he will return and visit you again.

Query 3. Is sense and feeling a competent judge of God's actions and

designs? Or may a man safely rely upon its testimony after so many

discoveries of the infallibility of it? is this a sound argument? If

God had any love for my soul, if it were not quite gone I should feel

it now as well as in former times; but I cannot feel it: therefore it

is quite gone. Do not you know the sun still keeps on his course in the

heavens, even in foul and close weather, when you cannot see it? and

may it not be so with the love of God? Read Isa. l. 10. May not I as

well conclude in winter, when the flowers have hid their beautiful

heads under ground, they are quite dead and gone, because I cannot find

them in December where I saw them in May?

Query 4. Think you the Lord cares not to break his children's hearts,

and his own promise too! Hath he no more regard to either? If he return

no more, these must be the consequences, Isa. lvii. 16, 17. Heb. xiii.

5.

Well then, from God's carriage towards you, either in affliction or

desertion, no such discouraging, heart-sinking conclusions can be

inferred. Next, let us see whether they may not be inferred from our

carriage towards God; and here the principal grounds of doubting are

such as these:

1. I have fallen again into the same sin from which I have formerly

risen, with repentance and resolution; therefore my sinning is

customary sinning; a spot that is not the spot of God's children. Hence

the upright soul trembles; upon this it is ready to affirm, that all

its former humiliations for, and oppositions unto sin, were but acts of

hypocrisy. But stay, poor trembling heart.

Query 1. If this be so, how comes it to pass that Christ puts such a

favourable construction upon the disciples sleeping the third time,

when he had as often reproved them for it? Matth. xxvi. 40, 41; and how

is it that we find in scripture so many promises made to God's people,

not only upon their first sins, but upon their backslidings also? Jer.

iii. 22. Hos. xiv. 4.

Query 2. Is not your repentance and care renewed as often as your guilt

is renewed? Yea, the oftener you sin, the more you are troubled; it is

not so in customary sinning, the rise whereof Bernard excellently

discovers. 1. Saith he, When a man accustomed to good, sinneth

grievously, it seems insupportable, yea, he seems to descend alive into

hell. 2. In process of time it seems not insupportable, but heavy; and

betwixt insupportable and heavy, there is no small descent. 3. Next it

becomes light, his conscience smites but faintly, and he feels not the

stripes of it. 4. Then there is not only a total insensibleness of it,

but that which was bitter and displeasing, is now become sweet and

pleasing in some degree. 5. Then it is turned into custom, and not only

pleases, but daily pleases. Lastly, custom is turned into nature; he

cannot be pulled away from it, but defends and pleads for it: This is

customary sinning, this is the way of the wicked; but the quite

contrary is our condition.

Query 3. Are you sure from scripture grounds, that a good man may not

relapse again and again into the same sin? It is true, as for gross

sins, they do not use to relapse into them: David committed adultery no

more; Paul persecuted the church no more; Peter denied Christ no more:

but I speak of ordinary infirmities. Job's friends were good men, yet,

saith he, chap. xix. 3, These ten times have ye reproached me. So then,

no such conclusions follow from this first ground of doubting.

2. The second ground is, the declining and withering of our affections

to spiritual things. O! saith the upright soul, if ever I had been

planted a right seed, I should have been as a green olive-tree in the

house of my God; but my branches wither: therefore my root is naught.

But stay,

Query 1. May you not be mistaken about the decay of grace, and fading

of your affections? What if they are not so quick and ravishing as at

first, may not that be recompensed in the spirituality and solidity of

them now? I pray God your love may abound more and more in all

judgment: Phil. i. 9. It may be more solid, though not so ferverous; or

do you not mistake, by looking forward to what you would be, rather

than backward to what once you were? It is a good note of Ames, that we

discern the growth of grace, as the growth of plants, which we perceive

rather Grevisse quam crescere, to have grown, than to grow.

Query 2. But grant it be so indeed as you affirm, must it needs follow,

that the root of the matter is not in you? David's last ways are

distinguished from his first, 2 Chr. xvii. 3. and yet both first and

last a holy man. The Church of Ephesus is charged by Christ for leaving

her first love, and yet a golden candlestick, many precious saints in

that church, Rev. ii. 2, 3, 4.

3. A third ground of those sad conclusions is the excess of our

affections to some creature enjoyments. I fear I love the creature more

than God; and if so, my love is but hypocritical: I sometimes feel

stronger and more sensible motions of my heart to earthly comforts,

than I do to heavenly objects: therefore my soul is not upright in me.

But stay, O soul,

Query 1. May not a man love God more solidly and strongly than the

creature, and yet his affections to the creature be sometimes moved

more violently and sensibly than towards God? As rooted malice argues a

stronger hatred, than a sudden, though more violent passion, so we must

measure our love, not by a violent motion of it now and then, but by

the depth of the root, and constancy of its actings. Because David was

so passionately moved for Absalom, Joab concludes, that if he had

lived, and all the people died, it would have pleased him well, 2 Sam.

xix. 7. but that was argued more like a soldier, than a logician.

Query 2. If you indeed love the creature for itself, if you make it

your end, and religion but a means, then the conclusion is rightly

drawn upon you. But, if you love the creature in reference to God, and

see nothing in it separated from him, though sometimes your affections

offend in the excess; this is consistent with sincere love to God. To

love the creature inordinately, to put it in God's room, and make it a

man's end; this is the love of a carnal heart; to love it immoderately,

that is, to let out more affection to it than we ought, is sometimes

the sin of the best hearts.

Query 3. Have not many souls feared as you do, that, when Christ and

creatures should stand as competitors in some eminent trial, they

should forsake Christ rather than the creature; and yet when brought to

that dilemma, have been able to cast all the world at their heels for

Christ? Many of the martyrs had such fears, and thus they were

satisfied; the prevalency of love is best seen at parting; there may be

more love to Christ in thy soul, than thou art now aware of; and if God

bring thee to such a pinch, thou mayest see it.

4. A fourth ground of these sad conclusions is from hence, that we find

our hearts sometimes more straitened in private, than in public duties.

O! if my soul were sincere, its actings in duty would be uniform; I

fear I am but a Pharisee upon this ground. It is sad indeed we should

at any time find our hearts straitened in private. But,

Query 1. Do not all thine enlargements in duty, whether public or

private, depend upon the Spirit, who is the Lord of influences; and

according as he gives out, or holds back those influences, so art thou

enlarged or straitened? And what if sometimes he pleases to give that

in a public, which he withholds in a private duty? As long as thy soul

is satisfied with neither, without communion with God, and the

straitness of thy heart is indeed its burden? Doth that argue thee to

be an hypocrite?

Query 2. Dost thou not make conscience of private duties, and set

thyself as before the Lord in them? Indeed, if thou live in the

constant neglect or careless performance of them; if thou art curious

about public, and careless about private duties, that would be a sad

sign: but when you have conscientiously performed, and often met with

God in them, it will not follow that you are insincere, because that

communion is sometimes interrupted. Besides,

Query 3. May there not be something at sometimes in a public, which is

wanting in a private duty, to raise and advantage thine affections? God

may sometimes make use of the melting affections of them with whom thou

hearest or prayest, as petty instruments to move thy affections; this

advantage is wanting in private: therefore from hence (the case so

standing) no such inference can be drawn.

5. Another ground is from those horrid injections of Satan, with which

the soul is greatly perplexed; by these I may see what an heart I have:

can grace be where these are?

Yes, grace may be where such thoughts are, though not where they are

lodged and consented to. Dost thou cry out under the burden, enter thy

protest in heaven against them, strive to keep up holy and reverend

thoughts of God? Then it is violence, not a voluntary prostitution.

6. The last ground of these sad conclusions, is the Lord's long

silence, and seeming denial of our long depending suits and prayers. O

if God had any regard to my soul, he would have heard my cries before

now! But I have no answer from him, therefore no interest in him. But

stay, doubting soul,

Query 1. Have not many saints stumbled upon this stone before thee?

Psal. xxxi. 22. I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine

eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplication. So the

church, Lam. iii. 44. "Thou coverest thyself with a cloud, that our

prayers should not pass through." Jonah ii. 4. "Then said I, I am cast

out of thy sight." And may not you be mistaken in this matter as well

as they?

Query 2. Though God's abhorring, and final rejecting prayer, be an

argument of his abhorring the person that prays; yet dare we conclude

so from a mere suspension of the answer? God may bear long with his own

elect, that cry unto him day and night. Luke xviii. 7.

Query 3. Can you deny but that there are some signs appearing in your

souls, even whilst God suspends his answer, that argue your prayers are

not rejected by him? As, 1. Though no answer come, yet you are still

resolved to wait: you dare not say as that profane wretch did, This

evil is of the Lord, why should I wait for him any longer? 2 Kings vi.

33. 2. You can clear and justify God still, and lay the reason and

cause of his silence upon yourselves. So did David, Psal. xxii. 2, 3, O

my God, I cry in the day time, and thou hearest not; and in the night,

and am not silent: but thou art holy, &c. 3. The suspension of God's

answer makes you inquisitive into your own hearts, what evils are there

that obstruct your prayers; so the church, Lam. iii. 8, He shutteth out

my prayer: and how doth he this work? You may see, v. 40. Let us search

and try our ways. Well then, neither from hence may you conclude that

God hath no love for your souls.

Caution. And thus I have shewn you how to keep your hearts in a dark

and doubting season from those desperate conclusions of unbelief. God

forbid any false heart should encourage itself from these things; it is

our unhappiness that when we give saints and sinners their proper

portions, that each of them are so prone to take up the other's part.

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ELEVENTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY KEEP HIS

HEART FROM RELAPSING UNDER SUFFERINGS

'The eleventh special season, calling for this diligence to keep our

hearts, is, when sufferings for religion come to an height, then look

to your hearts, Mat. xxiv. 8, 9, 10, All these are the beginning of

sorrows, and they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill

you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake; and then

shall many be offended. When sufferings for religion grow hot, then

blessed is he that is not offended in Christ. Troubles are then at an

height, 1. When a man's nearest friends and relations forsake and leave

him, Mic. vii. 5, 6. 2 Tim. iv. 16. When a man is engaged alone. 2.

When it comes to resisting to blood, Heb. xii. 4. 3. When temptations

are presented to us in our sufferings, Heb. xi. 37. 4. When eminent

persons for profession turn aside, and desert the cause of Christ, 2

Tim. ii. 19. 5. When God hides his face in a suffering hour, Jer. xvii.

17. 6. When Satan falls upon us with strong temptations, to question

the grounds of our sufferings, or the soul's interest in Christ: now it

is hard to keep the heart from turning back, and the steps from

declining God's ways.' The eleventh question then shall be this:

Case 11. How the heart may be kept from relapsing under the greatest

sufferings for religion? If the bitterness of sufferings at any time

cause thy soul to distaste the way of God, and take up thoughts of

forsaking it; stay thine heart under that temptation, by propounding

these eight questions solemnly to it.

Question 1. What reproach and dishonour shall I pour upon Christ and

religion, by deserting him at such a time as this? This will proclaim

to all the world, that how much soever I have boasted of the promises,

yet, when it comes to the trial, I dare hazard nothing upon the credit

of them: and how will this open the mouths of Christ's enemies to

blaspheme? O better had I never been born, than that worthy name should

be blasphemed through me! shall I furnish the triumphs of the

uncircumcised? Shall I make mirth in hell? O if I did but value the

name of Christ as much as many a wicked man values his own name, I

would never endure to see it exposed in such contempt! will proud dust

and ashes venture death, yea, hell, rather than a blot upon their

names? And shall I venture nothing to save the honour and reputation of

Christ?

Question 2. Dare I violate my conscience to save my flesh? Who shall

comfort me when conscience wounds me? What comfort is there in life,

liberty, or friends, when peace is taken away from the inner man? When

Constantius threatened to cut off Samosatenus's right hand, if he would

not subscribe somewhat that was against his conscience; he help up both

his hands to the messenger that was sent, saying, he shall cut off both

rather than I will do it: farewell, all peace, joy, and comfort, from

that day forward. Had Zimri peace, that slew his master? said Jezebel.

So say I here, had Judas peace? Had Spira peace? And shall you have

peace, if you tread in their steps? O consider what you do!

Question 3. Is not the public interest of Christ and religion,

infinitely more than any private interest of my own? It is a famous

passage, that of Terentius, captain to Adrian the emperor; he presented

a petition to Adrian, that the Christians might have a temple by

themselves to worship God, apart from the Arians: the emperor tore his

petition and threw it away, bidding him to ask something for himself,

and it should be granted. But he modestly gathered up the pieces of his

petition again, and told him, If he could not be heard in God's cause,

he would never ask anything for himself. Yea, even Tully, though an

heathen, could say, Ne immortalitatem quidem contra rempublicam; he

would not accept even of immortality itself against the commonwealth. O

if we had more pubic, we should not have such cowardly spirits!

Question 4. Did Jesus Christ serve me so, when for my sake he exposed

himself to far greater sufferings than can be before me? His sufferings

were great indeed, he suffered from all hands in all his offices, in

every member, not only in his body, but in his soul; yea, the

sufferings of his soul were the very soul of his sufferings: witness

the bloody sweat in the garden; witness the heart-melting and

heaven-rending out-cry upon the cross, My God, my God, why hast thou

forsaken me? And yet he flinched not, he endured the cross, despising

the shame. Alas! what are my sufferings compared with Christ's? He hath

drank up all that vinegar and gall that would make my sufferings

bitter. When one of the martyrs was asked, why he was so merry at his

death? Oh, said he, it is because the soul of Christ was so heavy at

his death. Did Christ bear such a burden for me, with unbroken patience

and constancy; and shall I shrink back from momentary and light

afflictions for him?

Question 5. Is not eternal life worth the suffering of a moment's pain?

If I suffer with him, I shall reign with him. O how will men venture

life and limb for a fading crown, swim through seas of blood to a

throne! and will I venture nothing, suffer nothing for the crown of

glory that fadeth not away? My dog will follow my horse's heels from

morning to night, take many a weary step through mire and dirt, rather

than leave me, though at night all he gets by it is but bones and

blows: if my soul had any true greatness, any sparks of generosity in

it, how would it despise the sufferings of the way, for the glory of

the end? how would it break down all difficulties before it? whilst by

an eye of faith it sees the forerunner, who is already entered,

standing, as it were, upon the walls of heaven, with the crown in his

hand, saying, He that overcometh, shall inherit all things. Come on

then, my soul, come on, there is eternal life laid up for them that, by

patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, honour, and

immortality, Rom. ii. 7.

Question 6. Can I so easily cast off the society and company of the

saints, and give the right hand of fellowship to the wicked? How can I

part with such lovely companions as these have been? how often have I

been benefited by their counsels? Ezra x. 3. how often refreshed,

warmed and quickened by their company? Eccl. iv. 10, 11. how often have

I fasted and prayed with them? What sweet counsel have I taken with

them, and gone to the house of God in company? And shall I now shake

hands with them, and say, farewell, all ye saints, forever, I shall

never be among you more: come drunkards, swearers, blasphemers,

persecutors, you shall be my everlasting companions? O rather let my

body and soul be rent asunder, than that ever I should say thus to the

excellent of the earth, in whom is all my delight.

Question 7. Have I seriously considered the terrible

scripture-comminations against backsliders? O my heart! darest thou

turn thy back upon the very point of such threatenings as these? Jer.

xvii. 5, 6, Thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusteth in

man, and maketh flesh his arm: and whose heart departeth from the Lord;

for he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when

good cometh; that is, the curse of God shall wither him root and

branch. And, Heb. x. 26, 27. If we sin wilfully after we have received

the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

but a certain fearful looking for of judgment, and fiery indignation,

which shall devour the adversaries. And again, v. 38. If any man draw

back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him; as if he should say, Take

him world, take him, devil, for your own, I have no delight in him. O

who dare draw back, when God hath hedged up the way with such terrible

threats as these!

Question 8. Can I look Christ in the face at the day of judgment, if I

desert him now?

He that is ashamed of me, and of my words, in this adulterous and

sinful generation, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed when he

cometh in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels, Mark viii. 38.

Yet a little while, and you shall see the sign of the Son of man coming

in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; the last trump

shall sound, the dead, both small and great, even all that sleep in the

dust, shall awake, and come before that great white throne, on which

Christ shall sit in that day. And now, do but imagine thou sawest the

trembling knees, and quivering lips of guilty sinners; imagine thou

heardest the dreadful sentence of the judge upon them, go, ye cursed,

&c. and then a cry. Oh! the weeping, wailing, and wringing of hands

that there shall be. Wouldst thou desert Christ now, to protract a poor

miserable life on earth? If the word of God be true, if the sayings of

Christ be sealed and faithful, this shall be the portion of the

apostate. It is an easy thing to stop the mouth of conscience now, but

will it be easy to stop the mouth of the judge then? Thus keep thy

heart, that it depart not from the living God.

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TWELFTH SEASON

HOW A CHRISTIAN MAY ENCOURAGE

HIS HEART AGAINST DEATH

The twelfth season of looking diligently to our hearts, and keeping

them with greatest care, is the time of sickness: 'When a child of God

draws nigh to eternity, when there are but a few sands more in the

upper part of his glass to run down, and when Satan busily bestirs

himself; of him it may be said, as of the natural serpent, Nunquam nisi

moriens producitur in longum; he is never seen at his full length till

dying: and now his great design, since he cannot win the soul from God,

is to discourage and make it unwilling to go to God, though the

gracious soul, with Jacob, should then rouse up itself upon a dying

bed, and rejoice that the marriage day of the Lamb is now almost come;

though it should then say with dying Austin, Vivere renou ut Christo

vivan; I despise life to be with Christ. Or as dying Milius, when one

asked him whether he were willing to die? O, said he, illius est nolle

mori, qui nolit ire ad Christum; let him be unwilling to die, who is

unwilling to go to Christ. But O! what shrinking from death, what

lothness to depart, may sometimes, indeed too frequently, be observed

in the people of God? How loth are some of them to take death by the

cold hand? If such a liberty were indulged to us, not to be dissolved,

till we dissolve ourselves; when should we say with St. Paul, I desire

to be dissolved? Well then, the last case shall be this,'

Case 12. How the people of God in times of sickness may get their

hearts loose from all earthly engagements, and persuade them into a

willingness to die.

And there are seven arguments; which I shall urge upon the people of

God at such a time as this, to make them cheerfully entertain the

messenger of death, and die, as well as live, like saints. And the

first is this:

Argument 1. First, The harmlessness of death to the people of God.

Though it keeps its dart, it hath lost its sting: a saint (to allude to

that, Isa. xi. 8.) may play upon the hole of this asp, and put his hand

into the cockatrice's den. Death is the cockatrice or asp, the grave is

his hole or den; a saint need not fear to put his hand boldly into it:

it hath left and lost its sting in the sides of Christ, 1 Cor. xv. 55.

O death! where is thy sting? Why art thou afraid, O saint, that this

sickness may be in thy death, as long as thou knowest, that the death

of Christ is the death of death? Indeed, if thou didst die in thy sins,

as John viii. 21, if death, as a king, did reign over thee, Rom. v. 14.

if it could feed upon thee, as the lion doth upon the prey he hath

taken, as Psal. xlix. 14, if hell followed the pale horse, as it is,

Rev. vi. 8, then thou mightest well startle and shrink back from it;

but when God hath put away thy sins from thee, as far as the east is

from the west, Psal. ciii. 12, as long as there is no other evil left

in death for thee to encounter with, but bodily pain; as long as the

scriptures represent it to thee under such harmless and easy notions as

the putting off thy clothes, 2 Cor. v. 2. And lying down to sleep upon

thy bed, Isa. lvii. 2, why shouldst thou be afraid? There is as much

difference betwixt death to the people of God, and others, as betwixt

the unicorn's horn, when it is upon the head of the fierce beast, and

when it is in the apothecary's shops, where it is made salubrious and

medicinal.

Arg. 2. Thy heart may be kept from shrinking back at such a time as

this, by considering the necessity of death, in order to the full

fruition of God.

Whether thou art willing to die or no, I assure thee there is no other

way to obtain the full satisfaction of thy soul, and to complete its

happiness; till the hand of death do thee the kind office to draw aside

the curtain of the flesh, thy soul cannot see God: This animal life

stands betwixt him and thee, 2 Cor. v. 6, Whilst we are at home in the

body, we are absent from the Lord. Thy body must be refined and cast

into a new mould, else that new wine of heavenly glory would break it.

Paul, in his highest rapture, 2 Cor. xii. 4, when he heard things

unutterable, was then but as a stander-by, a looker-on, not admitted

into the company as one of them; but as the angels are in our

assemblies, so was Paul in that glorious assembly above, and no

otherwise; and yet even for this he must, as it were, be taken out of

the body, unclothed for a little time, to have a glimpse of that glory,

and then put on his clothes again! O then! who would not be willing to

die for a full sight and enjoyment of God? Methinks thy soul should

look and sigh, like a prisoner, through the grates of this mortality; O

that I had wings like a dove! then would I fly away and be at rest:

most men need patience to die; but a saint that understands what death

admits him to, should rather need patience to live; methinks he should

often look out, and listen on a death-bed for his Lord's coming; and

when he receives the news of his approaching change, should say, The

voice of my beloved! Behold, he cometh leaping over the mountains,

skipping over the hills, Cant. ii. 8.

Arg. 3. Another argument, persuading to this willingness, is the

immediate succession of a more excellent and glorious life.

It is but wink, and you shall see God: your happiness shall not be

deferred till the resurrection; but as soon as the body is dead, the

gracious soul is swallowed up in life, Rom. viii. 10, 11. When once you

have loosed from this shore, in a few moments your souls will be wafted

over upon wings of angels to the other shore of a glorious eternity,

Phil. i. 23. I desire to be dissolved, and to be with Christ. Did the

soul and body die together, as Berilius taught; or did they sleep till

the resurrection, as others have groundlessly fancied; it had been a

madness for Paul to desire a dissolution for the enjoyment of Christ,

for if this were so, he enjoyed of Christ whilst his soul dwelt in its

fleshly tabernacle, than he should out of it.

There are but two ways of the soul's living known in scripture, viz.

the life of faith, and the life of vision, 1 Cor. v. 5. Those two

divide all time, both present and future, betwixt them, 1 Cor. xiii.

12. If when faith fails, sight should not immediately succeed, what

should become of the unbodied soul? But, blessed be God, this great

heart-establishing truth is evidently revealed in scripture, Luke

xxiii. 43. You have Christ's promise, John xiv. 3, I will come and

receive you to myself. O what a change will a few moments make upon

your condition? Rouse up, dying saint; when thy soul is come out a

little farther; when it shall stand like Abraham at its tent door, the

angels of God shall soon be with it: the souls of the elect are, as it

were, put out to the angels to nurse, and when they die, these angels

carry them home again to their father's house: if an angel were caused

to fly swiftly to bring a saint the answer of his prayer, Dan. ix. 22,

how much more will the angels come post from heaven to receive and

transfer the praying soul itself?

Arg. 4. Farther, It may much conduce to thy willingness to die, to

consider, That by death, God oftentimes hides his people out of the way

of all temptations and troubles upon earth, Rev. xiv. 13, Write, from

henceforth, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. It is God's

usual way, when some extraordinary calamities are coming upon the

world, to set his people out of harm's way before-hand, Isa. lvii. 1,

2. Merciful men are taken away from the evil to come. See, Mic. vii. 1,

2; when such an evil time comes as is there described, that they all

lie in wait for blood, and every man hunts his brother in a net: God by

an act of favour houses his people before-hand. Dost thou know what

evil may be in the earth which thou art so loth to leave? Thy God

removes thee from thy great advantage; thou art disbanded by death, and

called off the field; other poor saints must stand to it, and endure a

great fight of afflictions.

It is observed, that Methuselah died the very year before the flood;

Augustine, a little before the sacking of Hippo; Pareus, just before

the taking of Heidelburgh: Luther observes that all the apostles died

before the destruction of Jerusalem: and Luther himself before the wars

broke out in Germany. It may be the Lord sees thy tender heart cannot

endure to see the misery, or bear the temptations that are coming, and

therefore will now gather thee to thy grave in peace; and yet wilt thou

cry, O spare me a little longer?

Arg. 5. If yet thy heart hang back, consider the great advantage you

will have by death, above all that ever you enjoyed on earth; and that,

1. As to your communion with God: 2. As to your communion with saints.

1. For your communion with God: the time of perfecting that is now

come: thy soul shall shortly stand before the face of God, and have the

immediate emanations and beamings forth of his glory upon it; here thy

soul is remote from God, the beams of his glory strike it but obliquely

and feebly, but shortly it will be under the line, and there the sun

shall stand still, as it did in Gibeon; there shall be no cloudings nor

declinings of it: O how should this fill thy soul with desires of being

unclothed!

2. As for the enjoyment of saints, here indeed we have fellowship with

them of the lower form; but that fellowship is so dissweetened by

remaining corruptions, that there is no satisfaction in it: as it is

the greatest plague that can befal an hypocrite, to live in a pure

church; so it is the greatest vexation to the spirit of a saint, to

live in a corrupt and disordered church; but when death hath admitted

you into that glorious assembly of the spirits of just men made

perfect, you shall have the desire of your hearts: here you cannot

fully close one with your own souls. O what discords, jarrings,

censurings are here? What perfect blessed harmony there! In heaven each

saint loves another as himself, they are altogether lovely. O my soul

haste thee away from the lions' dens, from the mountains of Bether,

from divided saints, to those mountains of myrrh, and hills of

frankincense: thou art now going to thine own people, as the apostle's

phrase imports, 2 Cor. v. 8.

Arg. 6. If this will not do, consider what heavy burdens death will

ease thy shoulders of.

In this tabernacle we groan, being burthened. 1. With bodily

distempers; how true do we find that of Theophrastus, the soul pays a

dear rent for the tenement it now lives in? But glorified bodies are

clogged with no indispositions; death is the best physician; it will

cure thee of all diseases at once. 2. With the indwelling of sin; this

makes us groan from the very bowels, Rom. vii. 24. But he that is dead,

is free from sin, Rom. vi. 7. Hath justification destroyed its damning

power, and sanctification its reigning power? So glorification destroys

its very being and existence. 3. We groan under temptations here, but

as soon as we are out of the body, we are out of the reach of

temptation: when once thou art got into heaven, thou mayest say, now

Satan, I am there where thou canst not come; for as the damned in hell

are malo obsormati, so fixed in sin and misery that their condition

cannot be altered; so glorified saints are bono confirmati, so fixed in

holiness and glory, that they cannot be shaken. 4. Here we groan under

various troubles and afflictions, but then the days of our mourning are

ended. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes: O then let us haste

away, that we may be at rest.

Arg. 7. If still thou linger like Lot in Sodom, then, lastly, examine

all pleas and pretences for a longer time on earth, why art thou

unwilling to die?

Objection 1. O I have many relations in the world, I know not what will

become of them when I am gone.

Solution. If thou art troubled about their bodies, and outward

condition, why should not that word satisfy thee, Jer. xlix. 11. Leave

thy fatherless children to me, I will keep them alive, and let thy

widows trust in me? Luther in his last will and testament hath this

expression, "Lord, thou hast given me wife and children, I have nothing

to leave them, but I commit them unto thee. O Father of the fatherless

and judge of widows, Nutri, serva, doce; nourish, keep, and teach

them." Or art thou troubled for their souls? Thou canst not convert

them, if thou shouldst live; and God can make thy prayers and counsels

to live, and take place upon them when thou art dead.

Objection 2. I would fain live, to do God more service in the world.

Solution. Well, but if he have no more service for thee to do here, why

shouldst thou not say with David, If he have no delight to use me any

further, here am I, let him do what seemeth him good. In this world

thou hast no more do do, but he is calling thee to an higher service

and employment in heaven; and what thou wouldst do for him here, he can

do that by other hands.

Objection 3. I am not yet fully ready, I am not as a bride completely

adorned for the bridegroom.

Solution. Thy justification is complete already, though thy

sanctification be not so; and the way to make it so, is to die: for

till then, it will have its defects and wants.

Objection 4. O but I want assurance: if I had that, I could die

presently.

Solution. Yea, there it sticks indeed; but then consider, that an

hearty willingness to leave all the world to be freed from sin, and be

with God, is the next way to that desired assurance; no carnal person

was ever willing to die upon this ground.

And thus I have finished those cases which so nearly concern the people

of God, in the several conditions of their life, and taught them how to

keep their hearts in all. I shall next apply the whole.

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I. USE OF INFORMATION

TO HYPOCRITES AND FORMAL PROFESSORS

You have heard, that the keeping of the heart is the great work of a

Christian, in which the very soul and life of religion consists, and

without which all other duties are of no value with God; hence then I

shall infer, to the consternation of hypocrites, and formal professors,

1. That the pains and labours which many persons have taken in

religion, is but lost labour and pains to no purpose, such as will

never turn to account.

Many great services have been performed, many glorious works are

wrought by men, which yet are utterly rejected by God, and shall never

stand upon record in order to an eternal acceptation, because they took

no heed to keep their hearts with God in those duties: this is that

fatal rock, upon which thousands of vain professors have split

themselves eternally; they are curious about the externals of religion,

but regardless of their hearts. O how many hours have some professors

spent in hearing, praying, reading, conferring! and yet, as to the main

end of religion, as good they had sat still and done nothing; for all

this signifies nothing, the great work, I mean heart work, being all

the while neglected. Tell me, thou vain professor, when didst thou shed

a tear for the deadness, hardness, unbelief, or earthliness of thy

heart? Thinkest thou, such an easy religion can save thee? If so, we

may invert Christ's words, and say, Wide is the gate, and broad is the

way, that leadeth to life, and many there be that go in thereat. Hear

me, thou self deluding hypocrite, thou that hast put off God with

heartless duties, thou that hast acted in religion as if thou hadst

been blessing an idol, that could not search and discover thy heart;

thou that hast offered to God but the skin of the sacrifice, not the

marrow, fat, and inwards of it; how wilt thou abide the coming of the

Lord? How wilt thou hold up thy head before him, when he shall say. O

thou dissembling false-hearted man! how couldst thou profess religion?

With what face couldst thou so often tell me that thou lovedst me, when

thou knewest all the while in thine own conscience, that thine heart

was not with me? O tremble to think what a fearful judgment it is to be

given over to a heedless and careless heart; and then to have religious

duties, instead of a rattle, to quiet and still the conscience!

2. Hence I also infer, for the humiliation even of upright hearts, That

unless the people of God spend more time and pains about their hearts

than generally and ordinarily they do, they are never like to do God

much service, or be the owners of much comfort in this world.

I may say of that Christian that is remiss and careless in keeping his

heart, as Jacob said of Reuben, Thou shalt not excel. It grieves me to

see how many Christians there are that go up and down dejected and

complaining, that live live at a poor low rate, both of service and

comfort; and how can they expect it should be otherwise, as long as

they live at such a careless rate? O how little of their time is spent

in the closet, in searching, humbling, and quickening their hearts!

You say your hearts are dead; and do you wonder they are so, as long as

you keep them not with the fountain of life? If your bodies had been

dieted as your souls have been, they would have been dead too; never

expect better hearts, till you take more pains with them: Qui fugit

molam, fugit farinam; he that will not have the sweat, must not expect

the sweet of religion.

O Christians! I fear your zeal and strength have run in the wrong

channel; I fear most of us may take up the church's complaint, Cant. i.

6, They have made me the keeper of the vineyards, but mine own vineyard

have I not kept. Two things have eaten up the time and strength of the

professors of this generation, and sadly diverted them from heart work:

1. fruitless controversies started by Satan, I doubt not to this very

purpose, to take us off from practical godliness, to make us puzzle our

heads, when we should be searching our hearts. O how little have we

minded that of the apostle, Heb. xiii. 9, It is a good thing, that the

heart be established with grace, and not with meats; that is, with

disputes and controversies about meats, which have not profited them

that have been occupied therein.

O how much better is it to see men live exactly, than to hear them

dispute subtilly! These unfruitful questions, how have they rended the

churches, wasted time and spirits, and called Christians off from their

main business, from looking to their own vineyard? What think ye, sirs?

Had it not been better if the questions agitated among the people of

God of late days, had been such as these? How shall a man discern the

special from the common operations of the Spirit? How may a soul

discern its first declinings from God? How may a backsliding Christian

recover his first love? How may the heart be preserved from

unseasonable thoughts in duty? How may a bosom-sin be discovered and

mortified? &c. Would not this have tended more to the credit of

religion and comfort of your soul? O it is time to repent and be

ashamed of this folly! When I read what Suarez, a papist, said, who

wrote many tomes of disputations, that he prized the time he set apart

for the searching and examining of his heart, in reference to God,

above all the time that ever he spent in other studies; I am ashamed to

find the professors of this age yet insensible of their folly. Shall

the conscience of a Suarez feel a relenting pang for strength and time

so ill employed, and shall not yours? This it is your ministers long

since warned you of; your spiritual nurses were afraid of the rickets,

when they saw your heads only to grow, and your hearts to wither. O

when will God beat our swords into ploughshares! I mean, our disputes

and contentions, into practical Godliness. 2. Another cause of

neglecting our hearts hath been earthly incumbrances; the heads and

hearts of many have been filled with such a crowd and noise of worldly

business, that they have sadly and sensibly declined and withered in

their zeal, love, and delight in God; in their heavenly serious and

profitable way of conversing with man.

O how hath this wilderness entangled us! our discourses and

conferences, nay, our very prayers and duties, have a tang of it: we

have had so much work without doors, that we have been able to do but

little within. It was the sad complaint of an holy one, `O, saith he,

it is sad to think how many precious opportunities I have lost, how

many sweet motions and admonitions of the Spirit I have passed over

unfruitfully, and made the Lord to speak in vain; in the secret

illapses of his Spirit the Lord hath called upon me, but my worldly

thoughts did still lodge within me, and there was no place in my heart

for such calls of God.' Surely there is a way of enjoying God, even in

our worldly employments; God would never have put us upon them to our

loss; Enoch walked with God, and begat sons and daughters, Gen. v. 22.

He walked with God, but did not retire and separate himself from the

things of this life: and the angels, that are employed by Christ in the

things of this world (for the spirit of the living creatures is in the

wheels) they are finite creatures, and cannot be in a twofold Ubi at

one time; yet they lose nothing of the beatifical vision, all the time

of their administration; for, Mat. xviii. 10. their angels (even whilst

they are employed for them) behold the face of their Father which is in

heaven. We need not lose our visions by our employments, if the fault

were not our own. Alas! that ever Christians, who stand at the door of

eternity, and have more work upon their hands than this poor moment of

interposing time is sufficient for, should yet be filling our heads and

hearts with trifles.

3. Hence also I infer, for the awakening of all, That if the keeping of

the heart be the great work of a Christian, then there are but few real

Christians in the world.

Indeed if every one that hath learned the dialect of Christianity, and

can talk like a saint; if every one that hath gifts and parts, and by

the common assisting presence of the spirit, can preach, pray or

discourse like a Christian; in a word, if such as associate themselves

with the people of God, and delight in ordinances, might pass for

Christians, the number then is great.

But, alas! to what a small number will they shrink, if you judge them

by this rule! how few are there that make conscience of keeping their

hearts, watching their thoughts, judging their ends, &c. O there be but

few closet men among professors! it is far easier for men to be

reconciled to any duties in religion, than to these: the profane part

of the world will not so much as touch with the outside of religious

duties, much less to this; and for the hypocrite, though he be polite

and curious about those externals, yet you can never persuade him to

this inward work, this difficult work: to which there is no inducement

by human applause; this work, that would quickly discover what

hypocrites care not to know; so that by a general consent, this heart

work is left to the hands of a few secret ones, and I tremble to think

in how few hands it is.

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II. USE OF EXHORTATION

MOTIVES BY WAY OF INDUCEMENT TO

KEEP THE HEART

If the keeping of the heart be so important a business; if such choice

advantages accrue to you thereby; if so many dear and precious

interests be wrapt up in it, then let me call upon the people of God

every where to fall close to this work.

O study your hearts, watch your hearts, keep your hearts! away with

fruitless controversies and all idle questions; away with empty names

and vain shews; away with unprofitable discourse and bold censures of

others; turn in upon yourselves; get into your closets, and now resolve

to dwell there. You have been strangers to this work too long; you have

kept others vineyards too long, you have trifled about the borders of

religion too long; this world hath detained you from your great work

too long; will you now resolve to look better to your hearts? Will you

haste and come out of the crowds of business, and clamours of the

world, and retire yourselves more than you have done? O that this day

you would resolve upon it!

Reader, methinks I should prevail with thee: all that I beg for is but

this, that thou wouldst step a little oftener to talk with God, and

thine own heart; that thou wouldst not suffer every trifle to divert

thee; that thou wouldst keep a more true and faithful account of thy

thoughts and affections; that thou wouldst but seriously demand of

thine own heart, at least every evening, O my heart, where hast thou

been to day? Whither hast thou made a road to day? If all that hath

been said by way of inducement be not enough, I have yet more motives

to offer you. And the first is this:

1. Motive. The studying, observing, and diligent keeping of your own

hearts, will marvellously help your understanding in the deep mysteries

of religion.

An honest well experienced heart, is a singular help to a weak head;

such a heart will serve you instead of a commentary upon a great part

of the scriptures: by this means you shall far better understand the

things of God, than the learned rabbis and profound doctors (if

graceless and unexperienced) ever did; you shall not only have a more

clear, but a more sweet perception and gust of them: a man may

discourse orthodoxly and profoundly of the nature and effects of faith,

the troubles and comforts of conscience, the sweetness of communion

with God, that never felt the efficacy and sweet impressions of these

things upon his own spirit: But, O how dark and dry are these notions,

compared with his upon whose heart they have been acted! When such a

man reads David's psalms, or Paul's epistles, there he finds hos own

objections made and answered. O, said he, these holy men speak my very

heart: their doubts were mine, their troubles mine, and their

experiences mine. I remember Chrysostom, speaking to his people of

Antioch about some choice experiences, used this expression: Sciunt

initiati quid dico: those that are initiated, know what I say:

experience is the best school-master. O then, study your hearts, keep

your hearts!

Motive 2. The study and observation of your own hearts will antidote

you against the dangerous and infecting errors of the times and places

you live in.

For what think you is the reason that so many professors in England

have departed from the faith, giving heed to fables; that so many

thousands have been led away by the error of the wicked; that Jesuits

and Quakers, who have sown corrupt doctrine, have had such plentiful

harvests among us, but because they have met with a company of empty

notional professors, that never knew what belongs to practical

godliness, and the study and study of their own hearts.

If professors did but give diligence to study, search and watch their

own hearts, they would have that steadfastness of their own, that Peter

speaks of, 1 Pet. iii. 17, and this would ballast and settle them, Heb.

xiii. 9. Suppose a subtil Papist would talk to such, of the dignity and

merit of good works, could he ever work the persuasion of it into that

heart, that is conscious to itself of so much darkness, deadness,

distraction and unbelief attending its best duties? It is a good rule,

Non est disputandum de gustus: there is no disputing against taste.

What a man hath felt and tasted, one cannot beat him off from that by

argument.

Motive 3. Your care and diligence in keeping your hearts, will prove

one of the best evidences of your sincerity.

I know no external act of religion that differences the sound from the

unsound professor: it is wonderful to consider, how far hypocrites go

in all external duties; how plausibly they can order the outward man,

hiding all their indecencies from the observation of the world.

But then, they take no heed to their hearts; they are not in secret

what they appear to be in public; and before this trial no hypocrite

can stand: it is confessed, they may in a fit, under a pang upon a

death-bed, cry out of the wickedness of their hearts; but, alas! there

is no heed to be taken to these extorted complaints: in our law, no

credit is to be given to the testimony of one upon the rack, because it

may be supposed that the extremity of the torture may make him say any

thing to be eased. But, if self-jealousy, care, and watchfulness be the

daily workings and frames of thy heart, it strongly argues the

sincerity of it: for what but the sense of a divine eye, what but the

real hatred of sin as sin, could put thee upon those secret duties,

which lie out of the observation of all creatures?

If then it be a desirable thing in thine eyes to have a fair testimony

of thine integrity, and to know of a truth that thou fearest God: then

study thy heart, watch thy heart, keep thy heart.

Motive 4. How fruitful, sweet, and comfortable would all ordinances and

duties be to us, if our hearts were better kept?

O what precious communion might you have with God, every time you

approach him, if your hearts were but in frame! You might then say,

with David, Psal. civ. 34, My meditation of him shall be sweet. That

which loses all our comforts in ordinances and more secret duties, is

the indisposedness of the heart: a Christian whose heart is in a good

frame, gets the start of all others that come with him in that duty.

They strive hard to get up their hearts to God, now trying this

argument upon them, and then that, to quicken and affect them; and

sometimes go away as bad as they came. Sometimes the duty is almost

ended before their hearts begin to stir or feel any warmth, quickening,

or power from it; but all this while the prepared heart is at its work;

this is he that ordinarily gets the first sight of Christ in a sermon,

the first seal from Christ in a sacrament, the first kiss from Christ

in secret prayer. I tell you, and I tell you but what I have felt, that

prayers and sermons would appear to you other manner of things than

they do, did you but bring better ordered hearts unto them; you would

not go away dejected and drooping. O this hath been a lost day, a lost

duty to me; if you had not lost your hearts, it had not been so: if

then the comfort of ordinances be sweet, look to your hearts, keep your

hearts.

Motive 5. Acquaintance with your own hearts would be a fountain of

matter to you in prayer.

A man that is diligent in heart-work, and knows the state of his own

soul, will have a fountain-fulness of matter to supply him richly in

all his addresses to God; his tongue shall not falter, and make pauses

for want of matter; Psal. xlv. 1, My heart is indicting a good matter;

Or, as Montanus renders the original, my heart is boiling up good

matter like a living spring, that is still bubbling up fresh water; and

then my tongue is as the pen of a ready writer: others must pump their

memory, rack their inventions, and are often at a loss, when they have

done all; but if thou have kept, and faithfully have studied thine own

heart, it will be with thee (as Job speaks in another case) like

bottles full of new wine that want vent, which are ready to burst: as

holy matter flows plentifully, so more feelingly and sweetly from such

a heart. When a heart-experienced Christian is mourning before God over

some special heart-corruption, wrestling with God for the supply of

some special inward want, he speaks not as other men do, that have

learned to pray by rote; their confessions and petitions are squeezed

out, his drop freely, like pure honey from the comb: it is a happiness

then to be with or near such a Christian. I remember Bernard, having

given rules to prepare the heart for prayer, concludes them thus, Et

cum talis fueris memento mei; and saith he, when thy heart is in this

frame, then remember me.

Motive 6. By this the decayed power of religion will be recovered again

among professors, which is the most desirable sight in this world.

O that I might live to see that day, when professors shall not walk in

a vain shew, when they shall please themselves no more with a name to

live, being spiritually dead! when they shall be no more (as many of

them now are) a company of frothy, vain, and unserious persons; but the

majestic beams of holiness, shining from their heavenly and serious

conversations, shall awe the world and command reverence from all that

are about them; when they shall warm the hearts of those that come nigh

them; so that men shall say, God is in these men of a truth.

Well, such a time may again be expected, according to that promise,

Isa. lx. 21. The people shall be all righteous. But till we pursue

closer this great work of keeping our hearts, I am out of hopes to see

those blessed days; I cannot expect better times, till God gives better

hearts. Doth it not grieve you to see what a scorn religion is made in

the world? What objects of contempt and scorn the professors of it are

made in the world.

Professors, would you recover your credit? Would you again obtain an

honourable testimony in the consciences of your very enemies? Then,

keep your hearts, watch your hearts: it is the looseness, frothiness,

and earthliness of your hearts, that hath made your lives so; and this

hath brought you under contempt of the world; you first lost your

sights of God, and communion with him, then your heavenly and serious

deportment among men, and by that, your interest in their consciences:

O then, for the credit of religion, for the honour of your profession,

keep your hearts!

Motive 7. By diligence in keeping our hearts, we should prevent, and

remove the fatal scandals and stumbling-blocks out of the way of the

world.

Woe to the world (saith Christ) because of offences! Mat. xviii. 7.

Doth not shame cover your faces? Do not your hearts bleed within you,

to hear of the scandalous miscarriages of many loose professors? Could

you not, like Shem and Japhet, go backward with a garment to cover the

shame of many professors? How is that worthy name blasphemed? Jam. ii.

7, 2 Sam. xii. 13, 14. The hearts of the righteous saddened? Psal. xxv.

3, Ezek. xxxvi. 20. By this the world is fearfully prejudiced against

Christ and religion; the bonds of death made fast upon their souls;

those that have a general love and liking to the ways of God, startled

and quite driven back, and thus soul-blood is shed: woe to the world!

Yea, how are the consciences of fallen professors plunged and even

overwhelmed in the deeps of trouble? God inwardly excommunicating their

souls from all comfortable fellowship with himself, and the joys of his

salvation: infinite are the mischiefs that come by the scandalous lives

of professors.

And what is the true cause and reason of all this, but the neglecting

of their hearts? Were our hearts better kept, all this would be

prevented. Had David kept his heart, he had not broken his bones; a

negligent and careless heart must of necessity produce a disorderly

scandalous life. I thank God for the freedom and faithfulness of a

reverend brother in shewing professors their manifold miscarriages; and

from my heart do wish, that when their wounds have been thoroughly

searched by that probe, God would be pleased to heal them by this

plaster. O professors! if ever you will keep religion sweet; if ever

you hope to recover the credit of it in the world, keep your hearts;

either keep your hearts, or loose your credit; keep your hearts, or

loose your comforts; keep your hearts, lest you shed soul-blood. What

words can express the deep concernments, the wonderful consequences of

this work! Every thing puts a necessity, a solemnity, a beauty upon it.

Motive 8. An heart well kept will fit you for any condition God casts

you into, or any service he hath to use you in.

He that hath learnt how to keep his heart lowly, is fit for prosperity;

and he that knows how to use and apply to it scripture-promises and

supports, is fit to pass through any adversity: he that can deny the

pride and selfishness of his heart is fit to be employed in any service

for God. Such a man was Paul: he did not only spend his time in

preaching to others, in keeping others vineyards, but he looked to

himself, kept his own vineyard, 1 Cor. ix. 27; Lest when I have

preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away. And what an eminent

instrument was he for God? He could turn his hand to any work; he could

dexterously manage both in adverse and prosperous condition; I know how

to abound, and how to suffer want. Let the people deify him, it moves

him not, unless to indignation. Let them stone him, he can bear it: If

a man purge himself from these (saith he, 2 Tim. ii. 21) he shall be a

vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and

prepared unto every good work.

First, the heart must be purged; and then it is prepared for any

service of God. When the heart of Isaiah was purified, which was the

thing signified by the touching of his lips with a coal from the altar,

Isa. vi. 7. then he was fit for God's work: Here am I, send me, v. 8. A

man that hath not learned to keep his heart, put him upon any service

for God, and if it be attended with honour, it shall swell up and

overtop his spirit; if with suffering, it will exanimate and sink him.

Jesus Christ had an instrumental fitness for his Father's work above

all the servants that ever God employed; he was zealous in public work

for God, so zealous that he sometimes forgot to eat bread, yea, that

his friends thought he had been besides himself: but yet he so carried

on his public work, as not to forget his own private communion with

God: and therefore you read, Mat. xiv. 23. that when he had been

labouring all day, yet after that, he went up to a mountain apart to

pray, and was there alone. O let the keepers of the vineyards look to

their own vineyard! We shall never be so instrumental to the good of

others, as when we are most diligent about our own souls.

Motive 9. If the people of God would more diligently keep their hearts,

how exceedingly would the communion of saints thereby be sweetened.

How goodly then would be thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O

Israel: then, as it is prophesied of the Jews, Zech. viii. 23. men

would say, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is among

you. It is the fellowship your souls have with the Father, and with the

Son, that draws out the desires of others after fellowship with you, 1

John i. 3. I tell you, if saints would be persuaded to take more pains,

and spend more time about their hearts, there would quickly be such a

divine lustre upon the face of their conversations, that men would

account it no small privilege to be with, or near them.

It is the pride, passion, and earthliness of our hearts that have

spoiled Christian fellowship. Whence is it, that when Christians meet,

they are often jarring and contending? but only for their unmortified

passions: whence are their uncharitable censures of their brethren? but

only from self-ignorance: why are they so rigid and unmerciful towards

those that are fallen? but because they consider not themselves, as the

apostle speaks, Gal. vi. 1. Why is their discourse so frothy and

unprofitable when they meet? is not this from the earthliness and

vanity of their hearts?

My brethren, these be the things that have spoiled Christian

fellowship, and made it become a dry and sapless thing; so that many

Christians are even weary of it, and are ready to say, with the

prophet, Jer. ix. 2. O that I had a cottage in the wilderness, &c. that

I might leave my people, and go from them! and, with David, Psal. cxx.

6. My soul hath long dwelt with them that hate peace. This hath made

them long for the grave, that they might go from them that are not

their own people, to them that are their own people, as the original of

that text imports, 2 Cor. v. 8.

But now if professors would study their own hearts more, watch and keep

them better, all this would be prevented; and the beauty and glory of

communion again restored: they would divide no more, contend no more,

censure rashly no more; when their hearts are in tune, their tongues

will not jar; how charitable, pitiful and tender will they be of one

another, when every one is daily humbled under the evil of his own

heart. Lord, hasten those much desired days, and bless these counsels

in order to them.

Motive 10. Lastly, By this the comforts of the Spirit, and precious

influences of all ordinances, would be fixed, and much longer preserved

in your souls, than now they are.

Ah! what would I give, that my soul might be preserved in that frame I

sometimes find it after an ordinance! Aliquando intromittis me Domine

in affectum multum inusiatum, intorsus ad quam nescio dulcedinem, &c.

Sometimes, O Lord (saith one of the fathers sweetly) thou admittest me

into the most inward, unusual and sweet delights, to I know not what

sweetness, which, were it perfected in me, I know not what it would be,

or rather what it would not be: But, alas! the heart grows careless

again, and quickly returns, like water removed from the fire, to its

native coldness. Could you but keep those things for ever in your

hearts, what Christians would you be, what lives would you live! and

how is it that these things remain no longer with us? Doubtless it is

because we suffer our hearts to take cold again: we should be as

careful after an ordinance or duty to prevent this, as one that comes

out of a hot bath, or great sweat, is of going out into the chill air.

We have our hot and cold fits by turns; and what is the reason, but our

unskillfulness and carelessness in keeping the heart?

It is a thousand pities, that the ordinances of God, as to their

quickening and comforting effects, should be like those human

ordinances the apostle speaks of, that perish in the using. O then, let

me say to you, as Job xv. 11. Do the consolations of God seem small to

you? Look over these ten special benefits; weigh them in a just

balance; are they small matters? Is it a small matter to have thy weak

understanding assisted? thy endangered soul antidoted, thy sincerity

proved, thy communion with God sweetened, thy sails filled in prayer?

Is it a small thing to have the decayed power of godliness again

recovered, all fatal scandals removed, an instrumental fitness to serve

Christ obtained, the communion of saints restored to its primitive

glory, and the influences of ordinances abiding in the souls of saints?

If these be no common blessings, no small benefits, then surely it is a

great duty to keep the heart with all diligence.

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III. USE OF DIRECTION

CHOICE MEANS TO

KEEP THE HEART

The next use shall be for direction to some special means for the

keeping of the heart. And here, besides what hath been hinted in the

explication of the duty, at the beginning of this discourse, to which I

refer the reader, and all those directions throughout the whole,

appropriated to particular cases and seasons; I shall further add

several other general means of excellent use to this end. And the first

is this,

Means 1. Would you thus keep your hearts as hath been persuaded? then

furnish your hearts richly with the word of God, which is their best

preservative against sin.

Keep the word and the word will keep you: as the first receiving of the

word regenerated your hearts, so the keeping of the word within you,

will preserve your hearts; Col. iii. 16. Let the word of Christ dwell

richly in you; let it dwell, not tarry with you for a night, and let it

dwell richly or plentifully, in all that is of it, in its commands,

promises, threats; in all that is in you, in your understandings,

memories, consciences, affections; and then it will preserve your

hearts; Psal. cxix. 11. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might

not sin against thee. It is the slipperiness of our hearts, in

reference to the word, that causes so many slips in our lives.

Conscience cannot be urged or awed with forgotten truths; but keep it

in the heart, and it will keep both heart and life upright; Psal.

xxxvii. 31. The law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall

slide; or if he do, the word will recover the straying heart again;

Mat. xxvi. 75. Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus and wept

bitterly. We never lose our hearts, till they have first lost the

efficacious and powerful impressions of the word.

Means 2. Call your hearts frequently to account; if ever you mean to

keep them with God.

Those that put a stock into the hands of unfaithful or suspicious

servants, will be sure to make short reckonings with them; the heart is

deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, Jer. xvii. 9. O it

is as necessary, as sweet, that we and our reins, that is, we and our

secret thoughts, should confer together every night, Psal. xvi. 7. We

should call our hearts to account every evening, and say, O my heart,

where hast thou been today? Where have thy thoughts been wandering to

day? What account canst thou give of them? O naughty heart! vain heart!

couldst thou not abide by the fountain of delights? Is there better

entertainment with the creature than with God? The oftener the heart

meets with rebukes and checks for wandering, the less it will wander:

if every vain thought were retracted with a sigh, every excursion of

the heart from God with a severe check, it would not dare so boldly and

frequently to digress and step aside; those actions which are committed

with reluctance are not committed with frequency.

Means 3. He that will keep his heart, must take heed of plunging

himself into such a multiplicity of earthly business, as he cannot

manage without neglecting his main business.

It cannot be imagined, he should keep his heart with God, that hath

lost himself in a wood of earthly business: take heed you do not pinch

your souls, by gratifying the immoderate desires of your flesh. I wish

many Christians could truly say, what an Heathen once did, I do not

give, but only lend myself to business. It is said Germanicus reigned

in the Roman hearts; Tiberius only in their provinces. Though the world

be in your hands, let it not justle Christ out of your hearts.

Take heed, Christian, lest thy shop steal away thy heart from thy

closet. God never intended earthly employments for a stop, but rather

for a step to heavenly ones. O let not Aristippus, the Heathen, arise

in judgment against thee, who said, He would rather neglect his means

than his mind, his farm than his soul. If thy ship be overladen, thou

must cast some over-board; more business than thou canst well manage,

is like more meat than thou canst well digest, which will quickly make

a sickly soul.

Means 4. He that means to keep his heart, must carefully observe its

first declinings from God, and stop it there.

He that will find his house in good repair, must stop every chink as

soon as discovered; and he that would keep his heart must not let a

vain thought be long neglected: the serpent of heart apostasy is best

killed in the egg of a small remission. Oh! if many poor decayed

Christians had looked to their hearts in time, they had never come to

that sad pass they now are! we may say of heart-neglects, as the

apostle doth of vain babblings; that they increase to more and more

ungodliness. Nemo repente fit turpissimus; Little sins neglected, will

quickly become great and masterless; the greatest crocodile once lay in

an egg, the greatest oak was once but an acorn. The firing of a small

train of powder may blow up all, by leading to a greater quantity. Men

little think what a proud, vain, wanton, or worldly thought may grow

to: behold how great a matter a little fire kindles!

Means 5. Take heed of losing the liveliness and sweetness of your

communion with God, lest thereby your hearts be loosed off from God.

The heart is an hungry and restless thing; it will have something to

feed upon; if it enjoy nothing from God, it will hunt for something

among the creatures, and there it often loses itself, as well as its

end. There is nothing more engages the heart to a constancy and

evenness in walking with God, than the sweetness which it tastes

therein: as the Gauls, when once they tasted the sweet wine of Italy,

could never be satisfied till they conquered that country where it

grew.

It is true, conscience of duty may keep the heart from neglecting it;

but when there is no higher motive, it drives on deadly, and is filled

with distractions; that which we delight in, we are never weary of, as

is evident in the motions of the heart to earthly things, where the

wheels, being oiled with delight, run nimbly, and have often need of

trigging; the motions of the heart upward would be as free, if its

delight in heavenly things were as great.

Means 6. Habituate thy heart to spiritual meditations, if thou wouldst

have it freed from those burdensome diversions.

By this means you will get a facility and dexterity in heartwork: it is

pity those smaller portions of our time betwixt solemn duties should

lie upon our hands, and be rendered useless to us. O learn to save, and

be good husbands upon your thoughts. To this purpose, a neat author

speaks, "These parentheses, which happen to come between the more

solemn passages (whether business or recreation) of human life, are

wont to be lost by most men, for want of a due value for them, and even

by good men, for want of skill to preserve them; for though they do not

properly despise them, yet they neglect, or lose them, for want of

knowing how to rescue them, or what to do with them: but although

grains of sand and ashes be apart but of a despicable smallness, and

liable to be scattered and blown away, yet the skilful artificer, by a

vehement fire, brings numbers of these to afford him that noble

substance, glass, by whose help we may both see ourselves, and our

blemishes lively represented, (as in looking-glasses) and discern

celestial objects (as with the telescopes) and with sunbeams kindle

disposed materials (as with burning-glasses): so when these little

fragments, or parcels of time, which if not carefully looked to, would

be dissipated and lost, come to be managed by a skilful contemplator,

and to be improved by the celestial fire of devotion, they may be so

ordered as to afford us both looking-glasses to dress our souls by, and

prospectives to discover heavenly wonders, and incentives to inflame

our hearts with zeal." Thus far he.

Something of that nature I have under hand, for a public benefit, if

God give life to finish, and opportunity to produce it: certainly this

is a great advantage for the keeping of the heart with God.

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IV. USE OF CONSOLATION

FOR SUPPORT AND COMFORT IN

KEEPING THE HEART

I shall now close the whole with a word or two of consolation to all

diligent and serious Christians, that faithfully and closely ply

heart-work; that are groaning and weeping in secret over the hardness,

pride, earthliness and vanity of their hearts; that are fearing and

trembling over the experienced deceitfulness and falseness of them,

whilst other vain professors eyes are abroad, their time and strength

eaten up by fruitless disputes, and earthly employments, or, at best by

a cold and formal performance of some heartless and empty duties. Poor

Christian! I have three things to offer thee in order to thy support

and comfort; and doubtless either of them alone mixed with faith is

sufficient to comfort thee over all the trouble thou hast with thine

own heart.

Comfort 1. This argues thy heart to be upright and honest, whatever thy

other gifts and abilities are.

It is uprightness of heart will comfort thee upon a death-bed, 2 Kings

xx. 2,3. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord,

saying, remember now, O Lord, how I have walked before thee in truth,

and with a perfect heart, &c.

I am really of his mind, who said, si mihi daretur optio, eligerem

Christiani rustici sordidissimum et maxime agreste opus prae omnibus

victoriis et triumphis Alexandri aut Caesaris; might I have my wish, I

would prefer the most despicable and sordid work of a rustic Christian,

before all the victories and triumphs of Alexander or Caesar; yea, let

me add, before all the elaborated duties and excellent gifts of vain

professors; before the tongues of men and angels. It will signify more

to my comfort to spend one solitary hour in mourning before the Lord

over heart-corruption, than many hours in a seeming zealous, but really

dead, performance of common duties, with the greatest enlargements and

richest embellishments of parts and gifts.

By this very thing Christ distinguishes the formal and serious

Christian, Mat. vi. 5. The one is for the street and synagogue, for the

observation and applause of men, but the other is a closet-man, he

drives on a home-trade, a heart-trade. Never be troubled then for the

want of those things that a man may have, and be eternally damned; but

rather bless God for that which none but the favourites and darlings of

heaven have. Many an one is now in hell that had a better head than

thine; and many an one now in heaven that complained of as bad an heart

as thine.

Comfort 2. Know further for thy comfort, that God would never leave

thee under so many heart-troubles and burdens, if he intend not thy

real benefit thereby.

Thou art often crying out, Lord! why is it thus? why go I mourning all

the day, having sorrow in my heart? Thus long have I been exercised

with hardness of heart, and to this day have not obtained a broken

heart. Many years have I been praying and striving against vain

thoughts, yet am still infested and perplexed with them. O when shall I

get a better heart! I have been in travail, and brought forth but wind;

I have obtained no deliverance, neither have the corruptions of my

heart fallen! I have brought this heart many times to prayers, sermons,

sacraments, expecting and hoping for a cure from them, and still my

sore runneth, and ceaseth not.

Pensive soul! let this comfort thee; thy God designs thy benefit, even

by these occasions of thy sad complaints. For, 1st, hereby he would let

thee see what thy heart by nature is and was, and therein take notice

how much thou art beholding to free grace. He leaves thee under these

exercises of spirit, that thou mayest lie, as with thy face upon the

ground, admiring that ever the Lord of glory should take so vile a

creature into his bosom. Thy base heart, if it be good for nothing

else, yet serves to commend and set off the unsearchable riches of free

grace. 2d. This serves to beat thee off continually from resting, yea,

or but glancing, upon thine own righteousness or excellency. The

corruption of thy heart, working in all thy duties, makes thee sensibly

to feel that the bed is too short, and the covering too narrow. Were it

not for those reflections thou hast after duties, upon the dullness and

distractions of thine heart in them; how apt wouldst thou be to fall in

love with, and admire thine own performances and enlargements? For, it,

notwithstanding these, thou hast much to do with the pride of thy

heart, how much more, if such humbling and self-abasing considerations

were wanting! And, lastly, this tends to make thee the more

compassionate and tender towards others: perhaps thou wouldst have

little pity for the distresses and soul troubles of others, if thou

hadst less experience of thine own.

Comfort 3. To conclude, God will shortly put a blessed end to all these

troubles, cares and watchings.

The time is coming when thy heart shall be as thou wouldst have it;

when thou shall be discharged of these cares, fears, and sorrows, and

never cry out, O my hard, my proud, my vain, my earthly heart, any

more! when all darkness shall be banished from thine understanding; and

thou shalt clearly discover all truths in God, that crystal ocean of

truth: when all vanity shall be purged perfectly out of thy thoughts,

and they be everlastingly, ravishingly, and delightfully entertained

and exercised upon that supreme goodness, and infinite excellency of

God, from whom they shall never start any more like a broken bow. And,

as for thy pride, passion, earthliness, and all other the matters of

thy complaint and trouble, it shall be said of them, as of the

Egyptians to Israel, Stand still, and see the salvation of God. These

corruptions thou seest to day, henceforth thou shalt see them no more

for ever; when thou shalt lay down thy weapons of prayers, tears, and

groans, and put on the armour of light, not to fight, but triumph in.

Lord! when shall this blessed day come? How long! how long! holy and

true? My soul waiteth for thee! come, my beloved! and be thou like a

roe, or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether. Amen.

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[1] I say constant; for the reason added in the text extends the duty

to all the states and conditions of a Christian's life, and makes it

bind ad semper: if the heart must be kept because out of it are the

issues of life, then as long as these issues of life do flow out of it,

we are obliged to keep it.

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A DOUBLE TABLE

Containing, in the first, the Sins most incident to the Members of

particular Churches, plainly forbidden in the Word, and for which God sets

marks of his displeasure on them.--In the second, the duties enjoined on

them in the Scripture, in the conscientious discharge whereof, they receive

signal fruits of his favour.

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FIRST TABLE

Sin1. The first, and more general sin of church-members, is, a defect

in their care and circumspection, to prevent all just offences to them

that are without; forbidden Col. iv. 5. Walk in wisdom towards them

which are without. By a careless disregard of this rule, we harden the

wicked in their sins, bring guilt upon ourselves, and reproach upon the

name and ways of God.

Sin 2. The second, and more particular sin of some church-members, is

idleness, and neglect of their civil callings; against the express

rule, 2 Thess. iii. 11, 12. There are some which walk among you

disorderly, working not at all: such we command and exhort by our Lord

Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

This brings poverty on themselves, and scandal on religion.

Sin 3. The third sin is tale-bearing, and revealing the secrets of

families, and persons; whence many strifes arise, to the cooling and

quenching of mutual love; expressly forbidden, Lev. xix. 16.Thou shalt

not go up and down as a tale-bearer among the people. And 1 Tim. v.

13.Not only idle, but tattlers also and busy-bodies, speaking things

which they ought not.

Sin 4. The fourth sin is an easy credulity of private whispers and rash

censures thereupon. This we ought not to do against the meanest member.

2 Cor. xii. 20. Lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes,

backbitings, whisperings, &c. Much less against church officers. 1 Tim.

v. 19, Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or

three witnesses. This strikes at the bond of peace.

Sin 5. The fifth sin is their neglect of God's ordinances upon slight

diversions, when they are neither disabled by works of necessity, or

mercy; contrary to Heb. x. 25, Not forsaking the assembling of

ourselves together, as the manner of some is. Trivial occasions should

divert no Christian from attending upon God's ordinances.

Sin 6. The sixth sin is a defect in zeal for God's ordinances, manifest

in their dilatory attendance; contrary to Psal. cxxii. 1, I was glad

when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. And

unsuitable to their first practice, Gal. iv. 15. Where is then the

blessedness? &c.

Sin 7. The seventh sin is irreverence, and want of seriousness under

ordinances; contrary to Psal. lxxxix. 7, Gos is greatly to be feared in

the assembly of the saints; and to be had in reverence of all that are

round about him. And this is manifest in vain attires, 1 Cor. xi. 10.

The woman ought to have power on her head, because of the Angels. And

unseemly postures and gestures, Eccl. v. 1. Keep thy foot, when thou

goest to the house of God; and be more ready to hear, than to give the

sacrifice of fools.

Sin 8. The eighth sin reprovable in them, is, the neglect of giving and

taking due reproofs from each other; contrary to Lev. xix. 17. Thou

shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

And Christ's own rule, Matt. xviii. 15. Go, and tell him his fault

between thee and him alone. And so for taking reproofs, see Psal. cxli.

5. Let the righteous smite me, &c.

Sin 9. The ninth sin is, mutual strifes and animosities, not seasonably

and prudently composed among themselves, but scandalously exposed to

the view of the world; contrary to the Apostle's rule, 1 Cor. vi. 5, 6.

Is there not a wise man among you, &c. But brother goeth to law with

brother, and that before unbelievers? Now therefore, there is utterly a

fault among you.

Sin 10. The tenth sin is, the privateness of their spirits, centring

too much in their own concerns; expressly condemned, Phil. ii. 21. All

seek their own, not the things that are Jesus Christ's. And contrary to

scripture-example, 2 Cor. xi. 29. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who

is offended, and I burn not?

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SECOND TABLE

Duty 1. Their first duty is, to be often together in acts of Christian

communion, Mal. iii. 16. Then they that feared the Lord, spake often

one to another, &c. Such meetings, prayer, repetition of sermons, and

Christian conference greatly conduce to mutual edification; which is

the principal intention of Christian fellowship, Eph. iv. 15, 16.

Duty 2. Their second duty is, to follow and back the great design of

the gospel in the world, and therein assist the public ministry, by

their private and prudent helping on the conversion of the carnal and

careless world, Phil. iv. 3. Help those women that laboured with me in

the gospel, &c. For the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of

the spirit, strive together with me, Rom. xv. 30.

Duty 3. Their third duty is, humble condescension to the infirmities of

their weaker brethren, and denying themselves in what they can, without

sin, that they give them no offence, Rom. xv. 1. We then that are

strong, ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please

ourselves. And ver. 2, Let every one of us please his neighbour for his

good to edification.

Duty 4. Their fourth duty is, to be exceeding tender of the church's

unity, both in judgment, love, and practice; avoiding (as much as may

be, and as far as the gospel rule allows) all calls and occasions of

division and separation, Rom. xvi. 17. Mark them which cause divisions

and offences, and avoid them. And Phil. ii. 1, 2, If there be any

consolation in Christ, &c. be ye like minded.

Duty 5. Their fifth duty is, a respectful carriage towards the meanest

Christian, and to have higher esteem of others than themselves.

External things make no difference with Christ, Rom. xii. 10. In honour

preferring one another. Gal. iii. 28. Ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Yet a decorum is to be kept suitable to civil differences, Eph. v. 21.

Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.

Duty 6. Their sixth duty is, meekly to receive reproofs from each other

for their sins, especially when the matter is just, and the manner of

delivering it regular, Psal. cxli. 5. Let the righteous smite me, it

shall be a kindness; and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent

oil, &c.

Duty 7. Their seventh duty is, to communicate their spiritual stock of

gifts, graces and experiences, not interfering with public offices, nor

by sinful partiality including some, and excluding many others (to whom

it is due, and who may have more need) from the benefit thereof, 1 Pet.

iv. 10. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same

one to another, 1 Tim. v. 21. Observe these things, without preferring

one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

Duty 8. Their eighth duty is, cheerfully to communicate their outward

good things for the relief of their brethren, Heb. xiii. 16. To do good

and to communicate forget not. And, the better to enable them hereunto,

to be diligent in their calling, Eph. iv. 28. Working with his hands,

that he may have to give to him that needeth. And especially to make

comfortable provision for their ministers, not by way of courtesy, but

delay, 1 Cor. ix. 14. Even so hath God ordained that they which preach

the gospel should live of the gospel.

Duty 9. Their ninth duty is, not only to relieve the distressed members

of Christ, but to seek out, and visit them, to know their spiritual and

temporal wants, in order to a full discharge of that duty, Jam. i. 27.

Pure religion and undefiled before God, and the Father, is this, to

visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, &c.

Duty 10. Their tenth duty is, to put charitable constructions upon

doubtful words and actions; and, if either will admit a double sense,

always to take it in the fairest, according to the law of charity, 1

Cor. xiii. 7. Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth

all things, endureth all things. And, such a charity will defend and

maintain church peace and unity.

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SIX BENEFITS

IN WALKING BY THESE RULES

Benefit 1. Strict and heedful attendance to these rules, will put a

lustre upon religion before the world, and make it glorious in the eyes

of such as now despise it, Tit. ii. 10. Adorn the doctrine of God our

Saviour in all things. Which he here speaks, to encourage all to

ordinate walking.

Benefit 2. This will allure and win the world over to Christ, and

wonderfully prosper and further the design of the gospel, Phil. ii. 15,

16. That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without

rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, &c. That I may

rejoin in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither

laboured in vain.

Benefit 3. This will effectually stop the mouths of all the detracting

and blaspheming enemies of religion, 1 Pet. ii. 15. For so is the will

of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of

foolish men.

Benefit 4. This will eminently glorify God, which is the ultimate end

of our beings, Matt. v. 16. Let your light so shine before men, that

they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in

heaven.

Benefit 5. This will fill the people of God (by way of evidence) which

much inward peace, Gal. vi. 16. And as many as walk according to this

rule, peace be on them, and upon the Israel of God.

Benefit 6. This will secure the presence of God with, and among us;

whence results both the efficacy of ordinances, and the stability and

glory of the churches: for Christ walks among the golden candlesticks,

and threatens the churches, in case of defection from gospel rules, to

remove the candlestick out of his place, except they repent, Rev. ii.

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Indexes

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Index of Scripture References

Genesis

[1]4:14 [2]5:22 [3]6:5-7 [4]6:7 [5]17:1 [6]17:1 [7]18:27

[8]21:17 [9]32:7 [10]32:9-10 [11]32:10 [12]32:12

Exodus

[13]17:12 [14]19:16 [15]19:18 [16]33:14

Leviticus

[17]10:3 [18]19:16 [19]19:17 [20]26:36

Numbers

[21]12:3 [22]14:9 [23]14:19 [24]15:27 [25]15:30

Deuteronomy

[26]6:10-12 [27]24:12-13 [28]26:5 [29]32:15

Judges

[30]6 [31]6:12-13 [32]6:17 [33]6:36

1 Samuel

[34]2:1 [35]17:37 [36]24:16-17 [37]25:8

2 Samuel

[38]7:14 [39]7:18 [40]7:26 [41]12:13-14 [42]12:13-14

[43]16:10 [44]19:7

1 Kings

[45]8:38 [46]19:4

2 Kings

[47]6:33 [48]10:31 [49]20:2-3 [50]20:2-3

2 Chronicles

[51]13:6-7 [52]17:3 [53]17:5 [54]17:5-6 [55]20:29 [56]32:26

[57]32:26

Ezra

[58]9:13 [59]10:3

Nehemiah

[60]2:2 [61]6:11

Job

[62]1:7-8 [63]1:11-12 [64]1:21 [65]5:6 [66]11:13 [67]15:11

[68]19:3 [69]31:1 [70]31:1 [71]31:1 [72]31:4 [73]31:4

[74]35:13 [75]38:41

Psalms

[76]4:4 [77]5:8 [78]10:14 [79]16:7 [80]18:2 [81]19:8

[82]19:12 [83]22:2-3 [84]23:1 [85]24:1 [86]25:3 [87]25:11

[88]27:1 [89]31:22 [90]33:18-19 [91]34:9-10 [92]37:30-31

[93]37:31 [94]38:2 [95]38:3 [96]38:4 [97]38:5 [98]38:6

[99]38:7 [100]38:8 [101]39:3-4 [102]45:1 [103]45:1

[104]45:1 [105]47:7 [106]49:14 [107]51:8 [108]56:3

[109]57:7 [110]63:5-6 [111]73:3-5 [112]74:14 [113]77:6

[114]78:8 [115]84:11 [116]86:11 [117]86:11 [118]89:7

[119]89:7 [120]103:12 [121]103:13 [122]104:34 [123]110:3

[124]112:7 [125]116:10 [126]119:11 [127]119:11 [128]119:11

[129]119:36-37 [130]119:37 [131]119:71 [132]119:80

[133]119:97 [134]119:113 [135]120:6 [136]122:1 [137]130:4

[138]139:2 [139]139:17-18 [140]141:5 [141]141:5

Proverbs

[142]1:32 [143]4:23 [144]5:20-21 [145]13:7 [146]13:10

[147]15:1 [148]16:32 [149]20:22 [150]23:26 [151]24:29

[152]25:21 [153]25:21 [154]28:1 [155]28:14

Ecclesiastes

[156]4:10-11 [157]5:1 [158]8:12

Song of Solomon

[159]1:6 [160]2:8 [161]4:11

Isaiah

[162]6:5 [163]6:7 [164]6:8 [165]7:2 [166]8:12-13 [167]9:1

[168]10:12 [169]11:8 [170]22:12 [171]26:3 [172]27:9

[173]40:15-17 [174]40:22 [175]41:17 [176]43:1-3 [177]49:14

[178]49:15 [179]50:10 [180]51:12-13 [181]51:13 [182]53:7

[183]54:5 [184]55:7 [185]57:1-2 [186]57:2 [187]57:16-17

[188]57:18 [189]60:13 [190]60:21 [191]63:17 [192]66:3

[193]66:3

Jeremiah

[194]2:3 [195]2:31 [196]2:31 [197]3:22 [198]4:7 [199]4:14

[200]9:2 [201]10 [202]11 [203]17:5-6 [204]17:9 [205]17:17

[206]24:5 [207]25:6 [208]29:13 [209]30:21 [210]49:11

Lamentations

[211]3:8 [212]3:36 [213]3:40 [214]3:44

Ezekiel

[215]1:24-26 [216]33:31 [217]33:31-32 [218]33:31-32 [219]36:20

Daniel

[220]9:22

Hosea

[221]4:17 [222]12:4 [223]14:4

Amos

[224]6:1

Jonah

[225]2:4

Micah

[226]6:4-5 [227]7:1-2 [228]7:5-6 [229]7:7

Habakkuk

[230]1:13 [231]1:14 [232]2:5 [233]3:17

Zephaniah

[234]3:12

Zechariah

[235]2:8 [236]8:23

Malachi

[237]3:16

Matthew

[238]5:16 [239]5:22 [240]5:45 [241]6:5 [242]6:15 [243]6:26

[244]6:32 [245]7:11 [246]10 [247]10:26 [248]10:28

[249]10:31 [250]11:29 [251]13:3-4 [252]14:23 [253]15:14

[254]15:19 [255]18:7 [256]18:7 [257]18:10 [258]18:15

[259]18:32-33 [260]19:22 [261]19:24 [262]24:8-10 [263]24:51

[264]26:40-41 [265]26:75 [266]26:75

Mark

[267]8:38 [268]11:12 [269]14:32 [270]14:38

Luke

[271]1:46 [272]6:45 [273]8:17 [274]10:2 [275]12:48

[276]15:17 [277]18:7 [278]21:9 [279]21:25-26 [280]23:43

John

[281]8:21 [282]14:3 [283]15:5 [284]19:11

Acts

[285]2:6 [286]8:21 [287]8:21 [288]10:35

Romans

[289]1:21 [290]2:4 [291]2:7 [292]5:14 [293]6:6-7 [294]6:7

[295]7:21 [296]7:24 [297]7:24 [298]8:10-11 [299]8:28

[300]8:28 [301]8:31 [302]8:32 [303]9:1 [304]12:10

[305]12:17 [306]12:19 [307]15:1 [308]15:2 [309]15:30

[310]16:17

1 Corinthians

[311]1:26 [312]4:11 [313]4:12-13 [314]5:5 [315]6:2

[316]6:5-6 [317]6:9 [318]9:14 [319]9:27 [320]10:6

[321]10:13 [322]11:10 [323]13:7 [324]13:12 [325]15:55

2 Corinthians

[326]1:10 [327]4:13 [328]5:2 [329]5:6 [330]5:8 [331]5:8

[332]7:5 [333]10:5 [334]11:29 [335]12:4 [336]12:8 [337]12:20

Galatians

[338]3:28 [339]4:15 [340]5:17 [341]6:1 [342]6:7-8 [343]6:16

Ephesians

[344]1:3 [345]1:11 [346]1:18 [347]3:17 [348]4:15-16

[349]4:24 [350]4:26 [351]4:26-27 [352]4:28 [353]4:30

[354]5:21 [355]6:18-19

Philippians

[356]1:9 [357]1:23 [358]1:28 [359]2:1-2 [360]2:15-16

[361]2:21 [362]3:11 [363]3:18-19 [364]4:3

Colossians

[365]3:16 [366]4:5

2 Thessalonians

[367]1:8-9 [368]3:11-12

1 Timothy

[369]5:13 [370]5:19 [371]5:21

2 Timothy

[372]1:7 [373]2:19 [374]2:21 [375]4:16

Titus

[376]2:10 [377]2:11-12

Philemon

[378]1:22

Hebrews

[379]4:13 [380]4:16 [381]5:7 [382]10:25 [383]10:26-27

[384]10:38 [385]11:37 [386]12:4 [387]12:8 [388]12:10

[389]12:28-29 [390]13:5 [391]13:5 [392]13:9 [393]13:9

[394]13:16 [395]13:18-19

James

[396]1:2-3 [397]1:27 [398]1:27 [399]2:5 [400]2:7 [401]5:7-9

[402]5:11

1 Peter

[403]2:11-12 [404]2:15 [405]2:21-23 [406]3:4 [407]3:7

[408]3:13 [409]3:17 [410]4:10 [411]4:19

2 Peter

[412]2:9

1 John

[413]1:3 [414]3:20

Revelation

[415]2:1 [416]2:2-4 [417]2:5 [418]2:23 [419]2:23 [420]6

[421]6:8 [422]14:13

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Index of Pages of the Print Edition

[423]3 [424]4 [425]5 [426]6 [427]7 [428]8 [429]9 [430]10

[431]13 [432]14 [433]15 [434]16 [435]17 [436]18 [437]19 [438]20

[439]21 [440]22 [441]23 [442]24 [443]25 [444]26 [445]27 [446]28

[447]29 [448]30 [449]31 [450]32 [451]33 [452]34 [453]35 [454]36

[455]37 [456]38 [457]39 [458]40 [459]41 [460]42 [461]43 [462]44

[463]45 [464]46 [465]47 [466]48 [467]49 [468]50 [469]51 [470]52

[471]53 [472]54 [473]55 [474]56 [475]57 [476]58 [477]59 [478]60

[479]61 [480]62 [481]63 [482]64 [483]65 [484]66 [485]67 [486]67

[487]68 [488]70 [489]71 [490]72 [491]73 [492]74 [493]75 [494]76

[495]77 [496]78 [497]79 [498]80 [499]81 [500]82 [501]83 [502]84

[503]85 [504]86 [505]87 [506]88 [507]89 [508]90 [509]91 [510]92

[511]93 [512]94 [513]95 [514]96 [515]97 [516]98 [517]99

[518]100 [519]101 [520]102 [521]103 [522]104 [523]105 [524]106

[525]107 [526]108 [527]109 [528]110 [529]111 [530]112 [531]113

[532]114 [533]115 [534]116 [535]117 [536]118 [537]119 [538]120

[539]121 [540]122 [541]123 [542]124 [543]125 [544]126 [545]127

[546]128 [547]129 [548]130 [549]131 [550]132 [551]133 [552]134

[553]135 [554]136 [555]137 [556]138 [557]139 [558]140 [559]141

[560]142 [561]143 [562]144 [563]145 [564]146 [565]147 [566]148

[567]149 [568]150 [569]151 [570]152 [571]153 [572]154 [573]155

[574]156 [575]157 [576]158 [577]159 [578]160 [579]161 [580]162

[581]163 [582]164 [583]165 [584]166 [585]167 [586]168 [587]169

[588]170 [589]171 [590]172 [591]173 [592]174 [593]175 [594]176

[595]177 [596]178 [597]179 [598]180 [599]181 [600]182 [601]183

[602]184 [603]185 [604]186 [605]187 [606]188 [607]189 [608]190

[609]191 [610]192 [611]193 [612]194 [613]195 [614]196 [615]197

[616]198 [617]199 [618]200 [619]201 [620]202 [621]203 [622]204

[623]205 [624]206 [625]207 [626]208 [627]209 [628]210 [629]211

[630]212 [631]213 [632]214 [633]215 [634]216 [635]217 [636]218

[637]219 [638]220 [639]221 [640]222 [641]223 [642]224 [643]225

[644]226 [645]227 [646]228 [647]229 [648]230 [649]231 [650]232

[651]233 [652]234 [653]235 [654]236 [655]237 [656]238 [657]239

[658]240 [659]241 [660]242 [661]243 [662]244 [663]245 [664]246

[665]247 [666]248 [667]249 [668]250 [669]251 [670]252 [671]253

[672]254 [673]255 [674]256 [675]257 [676]258 [677]259 [678]260

[679]261 [680]262 [681]263 [682]264 [683]265 [684]266 [685]267

[686]268 [687]269 [688]270 [689]271 [690]272 [691]273 [692]274

[693]275 [694]276 [695]277 [696]278 [697]279 [698]280 [699]281

[700]282 [701]283 [702]284 [703]285 [704]286 [705]287 [706]288

[707]289 [708]290 [709]291 [710]292 [711]293 [712]294 [713]295

[714]296 [715]297 [716]298 [717]299 [718]300 [719]301 [720]302

[721]303 [722]304 [723]305 [724]306 [725]307 [726]308 [727]309

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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References

1. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=4&scrV=14#v.iii.iv-p24.2

2. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=5&scrV=22#v.iv.i-p9.1

3. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=6&scrV=5#v.ii-p3.1

4. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=6&scrV=7#v.ii-p3.2

5. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=17&scrV=1#v.i-p16.2

6. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=17&scrV=1#v.iii.v-p25.3

7. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=18&scrV=27#v.iii.vi-p10.5

8. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=21&scrV=17#v.iii.v-p25.8

9. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=32&scrV=7#v.iii.iv-p2.4

10. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=32&scrV=9#v.iii.iv-p2.5

11. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=32&scrV=10#v.iii.i-p12.1

12. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gen&scrCh=32&scrV=12#v.iii.iv-p15.4

13. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Exod&scrCh=17&scrV=12#v.i-p19.1

14. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Exod&scrCh=19&scrV=16#v.iii.vi-p11.3

15. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Exod&scrCh=19&scrV=18#v.iii.vi-p11.4

16. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Exod&scrCh=33&scrV=14#v.iii.iii-p10.7

17. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lev&scrCh=10&scrV=3#v.iii.vi-p10.6

18. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lev&scrCh=19&scrV=16#vi.i-p3.1

19. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lev&scrCh=19&scrV=17#vi.i-p8.1

20. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lev&scrCh=26&scrV=36#v.iii.iv-p2.2

21. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Num&scrCh=12&scrV=3#v.iii.viii-p13.2

22. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Num&scrCh=14&scrV=9#v.iii.iii-p10.1

23. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Num&scrCh=14&scrV=19#v.iii.iv-p19.4

24. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Num&scrCh=15&scrV=27#v.iii.ix-p19.1

25. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Num&scrCh=15&scrV=30#v.iii.ix-p19.2

26. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Deut&scrCh=6&scrV=10#v.iii.i-p1.1

27. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Deut&scrCh=24&scrV=12#v.iii.v-p30.1

28. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Deut&scrCh=26&scrV=5#v.iii.i-p12.3

29. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Deut&scrCh=32&scrV=15#v.iii.i-p1.2

30. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Judg&scrCh=6&scrV=0#v.iii.iii-p10.3

31. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Judg&scrCh=6&scrV=12#v.iii.iii-p10.4

32. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Judg&scrCh=6&scrV=17#v.iii.iii-p10.5

33. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Judg&scrCh=6&scrV=36#v.iii.iii-p10.6

34. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Sam&scrCh=2&scrV=1#v.iii.i-p14.1

35. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Sam&scrCh=17&scrV=37#v.iii.iv-p19.2

36. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Sam&scrCh=24&scrV=16#v.iii.vii-p12.1

37. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Sam&scrCh=25&scrV=8#v.iii.v-p6.2

38. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=7&scrV=14#v.iii.ii-p5.1

39. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=7&scrV=18#v.iii.i-p12.2

40. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=7&scrV=26#v.iii.i-p13.1

41. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=12&scrV=13#iv-p8.2

42. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=12&scrV=13#v.iv.ii-p22.3

43. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=16&scrV=10#v.iii.iii-p5.1

44. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Sam&scrCh=19&scrV=7#v.iii.x-p34.1

45. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Kgs&scrCh=8&scrV=38#v.i-p9.2

46. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Kgs&scrCh=19&scrV=4#v.iii.iii-p2.3

47. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Kgs&scrCh=6&scrV=33#v.iii.x-p46.1

48. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Kgs&scrCh=10&scrV=31#v.ii-p5.1

49. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Kgs&scrCh=20&scrV=2#iv-p28.1

50. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Kgs&scrCh=20&scrV=2#v.iv.iv-p3.1

51. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=13&scrV=6#v.iii.vi-p3.5

52. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=17&scrV=3#v.iii.x-p32.1

53. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=17&scrV=5#v.iii.i-p16.1

54. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=17&scrV=5#v.iii.i-p6.3

55. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=20&scrV=29#v.iii.iv-p15.3

56. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=32&scrV=26#v-p15.1

57. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Chr&scrCh=32&scrV=26#v.i-p9.1

58. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezra&scrCh=9&scrV=13#v.iii.i-p15.1

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61. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Neh&scrCh=6&scrV=11#v.iii.iv-p28.1

62. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=1&scrV=7#iv-p29.3

63. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=1&scrV=11#v.iii.iv-p6.3

64. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=1&scrV=21#v.iii.vii-p18.1

65. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=5&scrV=6#v.iii.ii-p4.1

66. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=11&scrV=13#v.i-p7.1

67. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=15&scrV=11#v.iv.ii-p36.1

68. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=19&scrV=3#v.iii.x-p29.1

69. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=31&scrV=1#v.i-p11.1

70. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=31&scrV=1#v.iii.vi-p6.1

71. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=31&scrV=1#v.iii.ix-p10.2

72. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=31&scrV=4#v.i-p16.1

73. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=31&scrV=4#v.iii.ix-p10.1

74. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=35&scrV=13#v.iii.vi-p20.1

75. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Job&scrCh=38&scrV=41#v.iii.v-p25.6

76. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=4&scrV=4#v.iii.x-p12.1

77. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=5&scrV=8#iv-p29.4

78. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=10&scrV=14#v.iii.iv-p26.3

79. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=16&scrV=7#v.iv.iii-p5.2

80. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=18&scrV=2#v.iii.i-p13.2

81. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=19&scrV=8#iv-p10.2

82. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=19&scrV=12#v.i-p10.1

83. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=22&scrV=2#v.iii.x-p46.2

84. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=23&scrV=1#v.iii.v-p11.1

85. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=24&scrV=1#v.iii.v-p25.2

86. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=25&scrV=3#v.iv.ii-p22.4

87. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=25&scrV=11#v.iii.x-p14.1

88. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=27&scrV=1#v.iii.iv-p2.1

89. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=31&scrV=22#v.iii.x-p44.1

90. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=33&scrV=18#v.iii.v-p10.2

91. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=34&scrV=9#v.iii.v-p10.1

92. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=37&scrV=30#v.ii-p13.1

93. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=37&scrV=31#v.iv.iii-p3.3

94. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=2#v.iii.ix-p6.3

95. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=3#v.iii.ix-p6.4

96. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=4#v.iii.ix-p6.5

97. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=5#v.iii.ix-p6.6

98. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=6#v.iii.ix-p6.7

99. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=7#v.iii.ix-p6.8

100. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=38&scrV=8#v.iii.ix-p6.9

101. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=39&scrV=3#v.iii.vi-p5.1

102. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=45&scrV=1#v.ii-p12.1

103. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=45&scrV=1#v.iii.vi-p5.2

104. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=45&scrV=1#v.iv.ii-p16.1

105. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=47&scrV=7#v.iii.iv-p7.3

106. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=49&scrV=14#v.iii.xii-p4.5

107. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=51&scrV=8#v.iii.ix-p6.2

108. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=56&scrV=3#v.iii.iv-p26.1

109. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=57&scrV=7#v.iii.vi-p4.1

110. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=63&scrV=5#v.ii-p24.5

111. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=73&scrV=3#v.iii.x-p16.2

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113. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=77&scrV=6#v.i-p8.1

114. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=78&scrV=8#v.iii.vi-p3.1

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117. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=86&scrV=11#v.i-p10.2

118. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=89&scrV=7#v.iii.vi-p11.2

119. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=89&scrV=7#vi.i-p7.1

120. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=103&scrV=12#v.iii.xii-p4.7

121. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=103&scrV=13#v.iii.v-p25.4

122. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=104&scrV=34#v.iv.ii-p14.1

123. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=110&scrV=3#v.i-p5.3

124. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=112&scrV=7#v.iii.iv-p26.4

125. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=116&scrV=10#v.ii-p24.2

126. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=11#v-p10.2

127. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=11#v.ii-p8.1

128. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=11#v.iv.iii-p3.2

129. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=36#v.ii-p8.3

130. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=37#v.iii.vi-p6.2

131. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=71#v.iii.ii-p4.6

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133. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=97#v.iii.vi-p16.1

134. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=119&scrV=113#v.ii-p9.1

135. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=120&scrV=6#v.iv.ii-p32.2

136. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=122&scrV=1#vi.i-p6.1

137. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=130&scrV=4#v.iii.ix-p20.2

138. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=139&scrV=2#v.iii.vi-p11.1

139. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=139&scrV=17#v.ii-p24.4

140. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=141&scrV=5#vi.i-p8.3

141. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ps&scrCh=141&scrV=5#vi.ii-p6.1

142. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=1&scrV=32#v.iii.x-p16.1

143. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=4&scrV=23#v-p2.1

144. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=5&scrV=20#v.iii.ix-p10.3

145. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=13&scrV=7#v.iii.x-p9.1

146. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=13&scrV=10#v.iii.viii-p5.1

147. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=15&scrV=1#v.iii.viii-p16.1

148. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=16&scrV=32#v.iii.viii-p11.1

149. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=20&scrV=22#v.iii.vii-p4.1

150. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=23&scrV=26#v.i-p20.1

151. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=24&scrV=29#v.iii.vii-p4.2

152. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=25&scrV=21#v.iii.vii-p4.5

153. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=25&scrV=21#v.iii.vii-p13.1

154. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=28&scrV=1#v.iii.iv-p24.1

155. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Prov&scrCh=28&scrV=14#v.i-p15.1

156. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eccl&scrCh=4&scrV=10#v.iii.xi-p8.2

157. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eccl&scrCh=5&scrV=1#vi.i-p7.3

158. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eccl&scrCh=8&scrV=12#v.iii.iv-p15.2

159. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Song&scrCh=1&scrV=6#v.iv.i-p7.1

160. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Song&scrCh=2&scrV=8#v.iii.xii-p6.3

161. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Song&scrCh=4&scrV=11#v.iii.vi-p13.1

162. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=6&scrV=5#v.iii.vi-p10.4

163. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=6&scrV=7#v.iv.ii-p27.1

164. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=6&scrV=8#v.iv.ii-p27.2

165. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=7&scrV=2#v.iii.iv-p1.1

166. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=8&scrV=12#v.iii.iv-p34.2

167. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=9&scrV=1#v.iii.v-p9.1

168. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=10&scrV=12#v.iii.iii-p7.2

169. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=11&scrV=8#v.iii.xii-p4.1

170. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=22&scrV=12#v.iii.iii-p2.1

171. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=26&scrV=3#v.iii.iv-p26.2

172. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=27&scrV=9#v.iii.ii-p4.3

173. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=40&scrV=15#v.iii.ix-p15.1

174. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=40&scrV=22#v.iii.ix-p15.2

175. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=41&scrV=17#v.iii.v-p10.5

176. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=43&scrV=1#v.iii.iv-p13.2

177. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=49&scrV=14#v.iii.x-p21.1

178. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=49&scrV=15#v.iii.x-p21.2

179. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=50&scrV=10#v.iii.x-p23.1

180. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=51&scrV=12#v.iii.iv-p9.6

181. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=51&scrV=13#v.iii.iv-p11.1

182. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=53&scrV=7#v.iii.vii-p6.1

183. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=54&scrV=5#v.iii.iv-p7.2

184. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=55&scrV=7#v.ii-p11.2

185. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=57&scrV=1#v.iii.xii-p10.2

186. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=57&scrV=2#v.iii.xii-p4.9

187. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=57&scrV=16#v.iii.x-p24.1

188. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=57&scrV=18#v.iii.iii-p18.1

189. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=60&scrV=13#v.iii.vi-p10.1

190. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=60&scrV=21#v.iv.ii-p19.1

191. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=63&scrV=17#v.iii.x-p10.1

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193. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Isa&scrCh=66&scrV=3#v.ii-p3.5

194. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=2&scrV=3#v.iii.i-p6.1

195. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=2&scrV=31#v.iii.i-p6.2

196. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=2&scrV=31#v.iii.v-p14.1

197. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=3&scrV=22#v.iii.x-p27.2

198. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=4&scrV=7#v.ii-p3.4

199. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=4&scrV=14#v.ii-p3.3

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201. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=10&scrV=0#iv-p23.1

202. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=11&scrV=0#iv-p23.1

203. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=17&scrV=5#v.iii.xi-p9.1

204. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=17&scrV=9#v.iv.iii-p5.1

205. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=17&scrV=17#v.iii.xi-p1.7

206. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=24&scrV=5#v.iii.iii-p7.1

207. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=25&scrV=6#v.iii.ii-p6.2

208. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=29&scrV=13#v.iii.vi-p20.2

209. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=30&scrV=21#v.ii-p8.2

210. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jer&scrCh=49&scrV=11#v.iii.xii-p19.1

211. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lam&scrCh=3&scrV=8#v.iii.x-p46.3

212. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lam&scrCh=3&scrV=36#v.iii.vii-p19.1

213. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lam&scrCh=3&scrV=40#v.iii.x-p46.4

214. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Lam&scrCh=3&scrV=44#v.iii.x-p44.2

215. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezek&scrCh=1&scrV=24#v.iii.iv-p6.1

216. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezek&scrCh=33&scrV=31#v.iii.vi-p3.2

217. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezek&scrCh=33&scrV=31#v.ii-p5.3

218. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezek&scrCh=33&scrV=31#v.iii.vi-p22.1

219. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Ezek&scrCh=36&scrV=20#v.iv.ii-p22.5

220. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Dan&scrCh=9&scrV=22#v.iii.xii-p9.5

221. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hos&scrCh=4&scrV=17#v.iii.iii-p12.1

222. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hos&scrCh=12&scrV=4#v.iii.iv-p17.1

223. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hos&scrCh=14&scrV=4#v.iii.x-p27.3

224. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Amos&scrCh=6&scrV=1#v.iii.iii-p2.2

225. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jonah&scrCh=2&scrV=4#v.iii.x-p44.3

226. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mic&scrCh=6&scrV=4#v.iii.i-p10.1

227. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mic&scrCh=7&scrV=1#v.iii.xii-p10.3

228. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mic&scrCh=7&scrV=5#v.iii.xi-p1.2

229. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mic&scrCh=7&scrV=7#v.iii.ii-p7.2

230. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hab&scrCh=1&scrV=13#v.iii.vii-p1.2

231. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hab&scrCh=1&scrV=14#v.iii.vii-p1.1

232. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hab&scrCh=2&scrV=5#v.iii.viii-p5.2

233. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Hab&scrCh=3&scrV=17#v.iii.v-p1.2

234. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Zeph&scrCh=3&scrV=12#v.iii.iii-p11.1

235. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Zech&scrCh=2&scrV=8#v.iii.iv-p7.1

236. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Zech&scrCh=8&scrV=23#v.iv.ii-p30.1

237. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mal&scrCh=3&scrV=16#vi.ii-p1.1

238. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=5&scrV=16#vi.iii-p4.1

239. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=5&scrV=22#v.iii.viii-p3.2

240. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=5&scrV=45#v.iii.vii-p6.3

241. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=6&scrV=5#v.iv.iv-p5.1

242. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=6&scrV=15#v.iii.vii-p22.2

243. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=6&scrV=26#v.iii.v-p25.7

244. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=6&scrV=32#v.iii.v-p25.1

245. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=7&scrV=11#v.iii.ii-p6.1

246. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=10&scrV=0#v.iii.iv-p34.1

247. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=10&scrV=26#v.iii.iv-p9.3

248. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=10&scrV=28#v.iii.iv-p9.4

249. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=10&scrV=31#v.iii.iv-p9.5

250. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=11&scrV=29#v.iii.viii-p13.1

251. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=13&scrV=3#v.ii-p25.1

252. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=14&scrV=23#v.iv.ii-p28.1

253. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=15&scrV=14#v.iii.iii-p12.2

254. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=15&scrV=19#v.ii-p11.3

255. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=18&scrV=7#iv-p8.1

256. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=18&scrV=7#v.iv.ii-p22.1

257. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=18&scrV=10#v.iv.i-p9.2

258. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=18&scrV=15#vi.i-p8.2

259. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=18&scrV=32#v.iii.vii-p22.1

260. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=19&scrV=22#v.iii.ii-p8.1

261. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=19&scrV=24#v.iii.i-p5.1

262. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=24&scrV=8#v.iii.xi-p1.1

263. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=24&scrV=51#iv-p7.1

264. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=26&scrV=40#v.iii.x-p27.1

265. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=26&scrV=75#v.iii.ix-p6.1

266. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Matt&scrCh=26&scrV=75#v.iv.iii-p3.4

267. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mark&scrCh=8&scrV=38#v.iii.xi-p11.1

268. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mark&scrCh=11&scrV=12#v.iii.v-p6.3

269. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mark&scrCh=14&scrV=32#v.iii.iv-p36.1

270. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Mark&scrCh=14&scrV=38#v.iii.ix-p1.1

271. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=1&scrV=46#v.iii.i-p14.2

272. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=6&scrV=45#v-p13.1

273. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=8&scrV=17#v.iii.ix-p10.4

274. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=10&scrV=2#iv-p31.1

275. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=12&scrV=48#v.iii.i-p10.2

276. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=15&scrV=17#v.iii.vii-p9.1

277. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=18&scrV=7#v.iii.x-p45.1

278. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=21&scrV=9#v.iii.iv-p9.1

279. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=21&scrV=25#v.iii.iv-p1.2

280. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Luke&scrCh=23&scrV=43#v.iii.xii-p9.3

281. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=John&scrCh=8&scrV=21#v.iii.xii-p4.3

282. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=John&scrCh=14&scrV=3#v.iii.xii-p9.4

283. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=John&scrCh=15&scrV=5#v-p11.2

284. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=John&scrCh=19&scrV=11#v.iii.iii-p5.2

285. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Acts&scrCh=2&scrV=6#v.ii-p16.1

286. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Acts&scrCh=8&scrV=21#v.ii-p4.1

287. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Acts&scrCh=8&scrV=21#v.ii-p5.2

288. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Acts&scrCh=10&scrV=35#v.iii.i-p7.2

289. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=1&scrV=21#v-p10.1

290. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=2&scrV=4#v.iii.ix-p20.1

291. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=2&scrV=7#v.iii.xi-p7.1

292. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=5&scrV=14#v.iii.xii-p4.4

293. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=6&scrV=6#v.i-p5.4

294. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=6&scrV=7#v.iii.xii-p16.2

295. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=7&scrV=21#v.iii.vi-p3.3

296. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=7&scrV=24#v.iii.vi-p3.4

297. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=7&scrV=24#v.iii.xii-p16.1

298. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=8&scrV=10#v.iii.xii-p8.1

299. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=8&scrV=28#v.iii.ii-p4.5

300. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=8&scrV=28#v.iii.iv-p15.1

301. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=8&scrV=31#v.iii.iii-p10.2

302. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=8&scrV=32#v.iii.v-p10.4

303. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=9&scrV=1#iv-p29.5

304. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=12&scrV=10#vi.ii-p5.1

305. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=12&scrV=17#v.iii.vii-p4.3

306. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=12&scrV=19#v.iii.vii-p4.4

307. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=15&scrV=1#vi.ii-p3.1

308. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=15&scrV=2#vi.ii-p3.2

309. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=15&scrV=30#vi.ii-p2.2

310. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rom&scrCh=16&scrV=17#vi.ii-p4.1

311. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=1&scrV=26#v.iii.i-p5.2

312. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=4&scrV=11#v.iii.v-p6.1

313. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=4&scrV=12#v.iii.vii-p6.4

314. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=5&scrV=5#v.iii.xii-p9.1

315. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=6&scrV=2#iv-p29.1

316. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=6&scrV=5#vi.i-p9.1

317. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=6&scrV=9#iv-p6.2

318. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=9&scrV=14#vi.ii-p8.3

319. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=9&scrV=27#v.iv.ii-p26.1

320. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=10&scrV=6#v.iii.ix-p23.1

321. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=10&scrV=13#v.iii.iv-p13.1

322. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=11&scrV=10#vi.i-p7.2

323. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=13&scrV=7#vi.ii-p10.1

324. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=13&scrV=12#v.iii.xii-p9.2

325. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Cor&scrCh=15&scrV=55#v.iii.xii-p4.2

326. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=1&scrV=10#v.iii.iv-p19.3

327. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=4&scrV=13#v.ii-p24.3

328. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=5&scrV=2#v.iii.xii-p4.8

329. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=5&scrV=6#v.iii.xii-p6.1

330. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=5&scrV=8#v.iii.xii-p14.1

331. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=5&scrV=8#v.iv.ii-p32.3

332. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=7&scrV=5#v.iii.iv-p1.3

333. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=10&scrV=5#v.iii.vi-p7.1

334. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=11&scrV=29#vi.i-p10.2

335. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=12&scrV=4#v.iii.xii-p6.2

336. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=12&scrV=8#v.iii.vi-p18.1

337. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Cor&scrCh=12&scrV=20#vi.i-p4.1

338. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=3&scrV=28#vi.ii-p5.2

339. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=4&scrV=15#vi.i-p6.2

340. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=5&scrV=17#v.ii-p9.2

341. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=6&scrV=1#v.iv.ii-p31.1

342. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=6&scrV=7#v.iii.vi-p24.1

343. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Gal&scrCh=6&scrV=16#vi.iii-p5.1

344. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=1&scrV=3#v.iii.v-p15.2

345. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=1&scrV=11#v.iii.ii-p4.2

346. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=1&scrV=18#v.i-p5.2

347. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=3&scrV=17#v.ii-p24.1

348. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=15#vi.ii-p1.2

349. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=24#v.i-p5.1

350. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=26#v.iii.viii-p3.1

351. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=26#v.iii.viii-p9.2

352. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=28#vi.ii-p8.2

353. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=4&scrV=30#v.iii.viii-p9.1

354. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=5&scrV=21#vi.ii-p5.3

355. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Eph&scrCh=6&scrV=18#iv-p31.2

356. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=1&scrV=9#v.iii.x-p31.1

357. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=1&scrV=23#v.iii.xii-p8.2

358. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=1&scrV=28#v.iii.iv-p9.2

359. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=2&scrV=1#vi.ii-p4.2

360. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=2&scrV=15#vi.iii-p2.1

361. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=2&scrV=21#vi.i-p10.1

362. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=3&scrV=11#v.iii.ii-p4.7

363. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=3&scrV=18#iv-p3.1

364. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phil&scrCh=4&scrV=3#vi.ii-p2.1

365. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Col&scrCh=3&scrV=16#v.iv.iii-p3.1

366. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Col&scrCh=4&scrV=5#vi.i-p1.1

367. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Thess&scrCh=1&scrV=8#iv-p6.1

368. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Thess&scrCh=3&scrV=11#vi.i-p2.1

369. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Tim&scrCh=5&scrV=13#vi.i-p3.2

370. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Tim&scrCh=5&scrV=19#vi.i-p4.2

371. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Tim&scrCh=5&scrV=21#vi.ii-p7.2

372. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Tim&scrCh=1&scrV=7#v.iii.iv-p2.3

373. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Tim&scrCh=2&scrV=19#v.iii.xi-p1.6

374. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Tim&scrCh=2&scrV=21#v.iv.ii-p26.2

375. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Tim&scrCh=4&scrV=16#v.iii.xi-p1.3

376. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Titus&scrCh=2&scrV=10#vi.iii-p1.1

377. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Titus&scrCh=2&scrV=11#iv-p10.3

378. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Phlm&scrCh=1&scrV=22#iv-p31.4

379. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=4&scrV=13#v.iii.vi-p10.3

380. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=4&scrV=16#v.iii.v-p1.1

381. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=5&scrV=7#v.iii.iv-p36.2

382. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=10&scrV=25#vi.i-p5.1

383. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=10&scrV=26#v.iii.xi-p9.2

384. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=10&scrV=38#v.iii.xi-p9.3

385. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=11&scrV=37#v.iii.xi-p1.5

386. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=12&scrV=4#v.iii.xi-p1.4

387. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=12&scrV=8#v.iii.x-p18.1

388. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=12&scrV=10#v.iii.ii-p4.4

389. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=12&scrV=28#v.iii.vi-p11.5

390. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=5#v.iii.ii-p7.1

391. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=5#v.iii.x-p24.2

392. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=9#v.iv.i-p7.2

393. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=9#v.iv.ii-p8.2

394. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=16#vi.ii-p8.1

395. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Heb&scrCh=13&scrV=18#iv-p31.3

396. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=1&scrV=2#v.iii.ii-p4.8

397. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=1&scrV=27#iv-p10.1

398. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=1&scrV=27#vi.ii-p9.1

399. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=2&scrV=5#v.iii.v-p15.1

400. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=2&scrV=7#v.iv.ii-p22.2

401. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=5&scrV=7#v.iii.vii-p24.1

402. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Jas&scrCh=5&scrV=11#v.iii.v-p25.5

403. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=2&scrV=11#v.ii-p11.1

404. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=2&scrV=15#vi.iii-p3.1

405. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=2&scrV=21#v.iii.vii-p6.2

406. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=3&scrV=4#v.iii.i-p7.1

407. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=3&scrV=7#v.iii.viii-p9.3

408. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=3&scrV=13#v.iii.iv-p21.1

409. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=3&scrV=17#v.iv.ii-p8.1

410. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=4&scrV=10#vi.ii-p7.1

411. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1Pet&scrCh=4&scrV=19#v.iii.iv-p21.2

412. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=2Pet&scrCh=2&scrV=9#v.iii.iii-p17.1

413. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1John&scrCh=1&scrV=3#v.iv.ii-p30.2

414. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=1John&scrCh=3&scrV=20#v-p10.3

415. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=2&scrV=1#vi.iii-p6.1

416. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=2&scrV=2#v.iii.x-p32.2

417. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=2&scrV=5#vi.iii-p6.2

418. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=2&scrV=23#iv-p29.2

419. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=2&scrV=23#v.iii.vi-p10.2

420. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=6&scrV=0#v.iii.iv-p6.2

421. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=6&scrV=8#v.iii.xii-p4.6

422. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3?scrBook=Rev&scrCh=14&scrV=13#v.iii.xii-p10.1

423. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#i-Page\_3

424. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_4

425. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_5

426. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_6

427. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_7

428. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_8

429. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_9

430. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#ii-Page\_10

431. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_13

432. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_14

433. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_15

434. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_16

435. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_17

436. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_18

437. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_19

438. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_20

439. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_21

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441. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_23

442. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_24

443. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_25

444. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_26

445. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_27

446. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_28

447. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#iv-Page\_29

448. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_30

449. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_31

450. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_32

451. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_33

452. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_34

453. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_35

454. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_36

455. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v-Page\_37

456. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_38

457. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_39

458. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_40

459. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_41

460. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_42

461. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_43

462. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_44

463. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_45

464. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_46

465. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_47

466. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_48

467. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.i-Page\_49

468. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_50

469. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_51

470. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_52

471. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_53

472. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_54

473. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_55

474. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_56

475. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_57

476. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_58

477. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_59

478. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_60

479. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_61

480. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_62

481. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_63

482. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_64

483. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_65

484. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_66

485. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_67

486. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_67\_1

487. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_68

488. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_70

489. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_71

490. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.ii-Page\_72

491. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.i-Page\_73

492. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.i-Page\_74

493. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.i-Page\_75

494. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.i-Page\_76

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506. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.ii-Page\_88

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513. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.ii-Page\_95

514. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.ii-Page\_96

515. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.ii-Page\_97

516. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_98

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518. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_100

519. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_101

520. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_102

521. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_103

522. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_104

523. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_105

524. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_106

525. file://localhost/ccel/f/flavel/saintindeed/cache/saintindeed.html3#v.iii.iii-Page\_107

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