

AN EARNEST INVITATION

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AT THE MUSIC HALL ROYAL SURREY GARDENS.**

*“Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish from the way when His wrath is kindled
but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.”
Psalm 2:12.*

IT will not be needful for me this morning to be controversial in my discourse. For but two Sabbaths ago I addressed you from that text, “The mighty God,” and endeavored with the utmost of my ability to prove that Christ must be “very God of very God”—co-equal and co-eternal with His Father. Without, then, attempting to prove that, let us drive onward towards the practical issue. For, after all, practice is the end of preaching—or, if you will have it, I will put it into Herbert’s words —

*“Attend sermons, but prayers most,
Praying’s the end of preaching.”*

And that, too, is in the text, for what lip can give the kiss of sincerity to the Son of God, save the lip of prayer? We drive onward, then, towards the practical conclusion. May God the Holy Spirit assist us.

Now it has sometimes been disputed among most earnest and zealous ministers which is the most likely means of bringing souls to Christ—whether it is the thunder of the threat, or the still small whisper of the promise. I have heard some ministers who preferred the first. They have constantly dwelt upon the terrors of the Law and they have certainly, many of them, been eminently useful. They have had Scripture for their warrant, “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.” With “terrible things in righteousness” declaring the just anger and judgment of God against sin, they have alarmed those who were sitting at ease in a graceless state and have thus been the means in the hands of God of inducing them to flee from the wrath to come.

Some, on the other hand, have rather decried the threats. They have dwelt almost entirely upon the promises. Like John, their ministry has been full of love. They have constantly preached from such texts as this—“Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” “Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”—and such like. Now, these also have been eminently useful. And they, too, have had Scriptural warrant in abundance, for thus spoke Christ’s Apostles full often and thus spoke Jesus Christ Himself, wooing with notes of mercy and melting with tones of love those whom the Law’s terrors would but have hardened in their sins.

My text, however, seems to be a happy combination of the two and I take it that the most successful ministry will combine both means of bringing men to Christ. The text thunders with all the bolts of God—“Lest He be angry and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.” But it does not end in thunder, there comes a sweet soft, reviving shower after the storm—“Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.”

This morning I shall endeavor to use both arguments and shall divide my text thus—First, the command, “Kiss the Son.” Secondly, the argument used, “lest He be angry and you perish from the way.” And thirdly, the benediction with which the text closes—“Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.” This benediction being a second reason why we should obey the commandment.

I. First, then, THE COMMAND—“Kiss the Son.” This bears four interpretations. A kiss has many meanings in it—progressive meanings. I pray that we may be led by grace from step to step, so that we may understand the command in all its fullness by putting it in practice.

1. In the first place, it is a kiss of reconciliation. The kiss is a token of enmity removed, of strife ended and of peace established. You will remember that when Jacob met Esau, although the hearts of the brothers had been long estranged and fear had dwelt in the breast of one and revenge had kindled its fires in the heart of the other—when they met they

were pacified towards each other and they fell upon each other's neck and they kissed—it was the kiss of *reconciliation*. Now, the very first work of grace in the heart is for Christ to give the sinner the kiss of His affection, to prove His reconciliation to the sinner. Thus the father kissed his prodigal son when he returned. Before the feast was spread, before the music and the dance began, the father fell upon his son's neck and kissed him.

On our part, however, it is our business to return that kiss. And as Jesus gives the reconciling kiss on God's behalf, it is ours to kiss the lips of Jesus and to prove by that deed that we are “reconciled to God by the death of His Son.” Sinner, you have up to now been an enemy of Christ's Gospel. You have hated His Sabbaths. You have neglected His Word. You have abhorred His commandments and cast His Laws behind your back. You have, as much as lies in you, opposed His kingdom. You have loved the wages of sin and the ways of iniquity better than the ways of Christ. What do you say? Does the Spirit now strive in your heart? Then, I beseech you, yield to His gracious influence and now let your quarrel be at an end. Cast down the weapons of your rebellion—pull out the plumes of pride from your helmet—and cast away the sword of your rebellion. Be His enemy no longer, for, rest assured, He wills to be your Friend.

With arms outstretched, ready to receive you, with eyes full of tears, weeping over your obstinacy and with a heart moved with compassion for you, He speaks through my lips this morning and He says, “Kiss the Son.” Be reconciled. This is the very message of the Gospel—“The ministry of reconciliation.” Thus speak we, as God has commanded us. “We pray you in Christ's stead, be you reconciled to God.” And is this a hard thing we ask of you, that you should be at friendship with Him who is your best Friend? Is this a rigorous law, like the commands of Pharaoh to the children of Israel in Egypt, when He bids you simply strike hands with Him who shed His blood for sinners? We ask you not to be friends of death or Hell. We beg you rather to dissolve your league with them. We pray that grace may lead you to forswear their company forever and be at peace with Him who is incarnate love and infinite mercy. Sinners, why will you resist Him who only longs to save you? Why scorn Him who loves you? Why trample on the blood that bought you and reject the Cross which is the only hope of your salvation? “Kiss the Son.”—

*“Bow the knee and kiss the Son,
Come and welcome, sinner, come.”*

That is the first meaning of the text—the kiss of reconciliation. The Spirit of God must work a change in man's heart before he will be willing to give this kiss. It is my heart's desire, that by the words which shall be uttered this morning, the Spirit may bow the obdurate heart and lead you to give Christ the kiss of reconciliation this very day.

2. Again—the kiss of my text is a kiss of allegiance and homage. It is an Eastern custom for the subjects to kiss the feet of the king. No, in some instances their homage is so abject that they kiss the dust beneath his feet and the very steps of his throne. Now Christ requires of every man who would be saved, that he shall yield to His government and His rule. There are some who are willing enough to be saved and take Christ to be their Priest—but they are not willing to give up their sins—not willing to obey His precepts, to walk in His ordinances and keep His commandments. Now salvation cannot be cut in two. If you would have justification you must have sanctification, too. If your sins are pardoned they must be abhorred. If you are washed in the blood to take away the guilt of sin, you must be washed in the water to take away the power of sin over your affections and life. Oh, Sinners, the command is, “Kiss the Son.” Bow your knee and come and own him to be a monarch and say, “Other lords have had dominion over us. We have worshipped our lusts, our pleasures, our pride, our selfishness, but now will we submit ourselves to Your easy yoke. Take us and make us Yours, for we are willing to be Your subjects”—

*“Oh, Sovereign Grace our hearts subdue,
We would be led in triumph too,
As willing captives to our Lord,
To sing the triumphs of His Word.”*

You must give Him the kiss of fealty, of homage and loyalty. And take Him to be your king. And is this a hard thing? Is this a rigorous commandment? Why look at Englishmen, how they spring to their feet and sing with enthusiasm—

*“God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!”*

And is it a hard thing for you and me to be bid to cry, “God save King Jesus! Spread His kingdom! Let Him reign, King of kings and Lord of lords! Let Him reign in our hearts”? Is it a hard thing to bow before His gentle scepter? Is there any cruelty in the demand that we should submit ourselves to the law of right, rectitude, justice, and love? “His ways are ways of pleasantness and all His paths are peace.” “His commandments are not grievous.” “Come unto Me,” says the Lord, “and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you.” It is not heavy, “take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest unto your souls.”

O Sinner, leave that black monarch—turn your back upon the king of Hell. May grace enable you now to flee away from him who deludes you today and shall destroy you forever. Come to the Prince Immanuel, the Son of God and now declare yourselves to be the willing subjects of His blessed kingdom. “Kiss the Son.” It is the kiss of reconciliation and the kiss of homage.

3. Again—it is the kiss of *worship*. They that worshipped Baal kissed the calves. It was the custom in the east for idolaters to kiss the god which they foolishly adored. Now the commandment is that we should give to Christ Divine worship. The Unitarian will not do this—he says, “Christ is but a mere man.” He will not kiss the eternal Son of God. Then let him know that God will not alter His Gospel to suit his heresy. If he rebelliously denies the Godhead of Christ, he need not marvel if in the last day Christ shall say—“But those My enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring here and slay them before Me.” It is no marvel if he who rejects the Godhead of Christ should find that he has built his house upon sand and when the rain descends and the flood comes, his hope shall totter and great shall be the fall thereof. We are bid to worship Christ and O, how pleasant is this command, to kiss him in adoration! It is the highest joy of the Christian to worship Jesus. I know of no thrill of pleasure that can more rejoice the Christian’s breast and thrill his soul to music, than the song of—

*“Worthy is He that once was slain,
The Prince of Peace that groaned and died,
Worthy to rise and live,
And reign at His Almighty Father’s side.”*

Surely that shall be the very song of Heaven, to sing “Worthy the Lamb,” and yet again to shout louder still, “Worthy the Lamb! Worthy the Lamb!” Well, Sinner, you are bid to do this—to acknowledge Christ your God. “Kiss the Son.” Go to Him in prayer this very day. Cast yourself on your knees and worship Him. Confess your sins committed against Him. Lay hold of His righteousness. Touch the hem of His garment. Adore Him by your faith, trusting in Him. Adore Him by your service, living for Him. Adore Him with your lips, praising Him. Adore Him with your heart, loving Him and surrendering your whole being to Him. God help you in this way to, “kiss the Son.”

4. There is yet a fourth meaning and I think this is the sweetest of all. “Kiss the Son.” Ah, Mary Magdalene, I need you this morning! Come here, Mary—you shall explain my text. There was a woman who had much forgiven and she loved much and as a consequence, loving much she desired much the company and the presence of the Object of her affection. She came to the Pharisee’s house where he was feasting, but she was afraid to enter for she was a sinner. The Pharisee would repulse her and tell her to go away. Why was a *harlot* there in the house of a holy Pharisee? So she came to the door, as if she would peep in and just get a glimpse of Him whom her soul loved. But there He lay beside the table and happily for her, the Pharisee had slighted Christ, he had not put Him at the head of the table, but at the end and therefore His feet—laying backward as He declined—were close against the door.

She came and oh, she could not dare to look upon His head. She stood at His feet, behind Him, weeping. And as she wept, the tears flowed so plenteously that she washed His feet—which the Pharisee had forgotten to wash—with her tears. And then unbraiding her luxurious tresses, which had been the nets into which she had entangled her lovers, she began to wipe His feet with the hairs of her head. And stooping down she kissed His feet and kissed them yet again. Poor Sinner, you that are full of guilt, if you have played the harlot, or if you have been a sinner in other ways, come, I beseech you, to Jesus now. Look to Him, believe in Him—

*“Trust in His blond, for it alone
Has power sufficient to atone.”*

And this done, come and “kiss the Son”—kiss His feet with love. Oh, if He were here this morning, methinks I would kiss those feet again and again. And if any should enquire the reason, I would answer—

“Love I much? I’ve much forgiven,

I'm a miracle of grace."

Jesus, do You permit me to kiss Your feet with the kisses of affection? And may I pray like the spouse in the Canticles—"Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth, for Your love is better than wine"? May I so pray? Then, glory be to Your name, I will not be slow in praying it! If I may be so highly favored I will not lose the favor through negligence and coldness of heart. Even now my soul gives the kiss of deep and sincere affection—

*"Yes, I love You and adore,
O for grace to love you more."*

"Kiss the Son." Do you see, then, the meaning of it? It is a kiss of reconciliation, a kiss of homage, a kiss of worship and a kiss of affectionate gratitude. "Kiss the Son."

And what if in this great assembly there should be some soul that said, "I will not kiss the Son, I owe Him nothing, I will not serve Him, I will not be reconciled to Him"? Ah, Soul, there are tears for you. Would God that all the people of Christ would weep for you until your heart were changed—for the terrible part of the text which we are to read belongs to you—and before long you shall know its fearful meaning. But may we not hope better things? Have we not somewhere in this great hall some poor trembling penitent, who with the tear in his eye is saying, "Kiss Him and be reconciled to Him!—Oh that I might. My fear is, Sir, if I should try to draw near to Christ, He would say, 'Get you gone, I will have nothing to do with you. You are too vile, too hardened. You have too long resisted the Word, too long despised My grace—get you gone.'"

No, Soul, Jesus never said that yet and He never will. Whatever are your sins, as long as you are in the body there is hope. However great your guilt, however enormous your transgression, if you are now willing to be reconciled, God has made you willing and He would not have put the will if He did not intend to gratify it. There is nothing that can keep you from Christ if you are willing to come. Christ casts out none that desire to be saved. There is in His heart enough for all that seek Him, enough for each, enough for evermore. Oh, think not that Christ is ever slower than we are. We never love Him before He loves us. If our heart loves Him, His soul loved us long ago. And if we are now willing to be reconciled to Him, let us rest assured that Jehovah's melting heart yearns to clasp His Ephraims to His breast. May God bless this exhortation to every heart now present and to Him be the glory.

II. This brings us to the second part of the text. "Kiss the Son"—and THE ARGUMENT is "Lest He be angry and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." Read it—"Lest He be angry." And can He be angry? Is He not the *Lamb of God*? Can a lamb be angry? Did not He weep over sinners? Can He be angry? Did not He die for sinners—can He be angry? Yes, and when He is angry, it is anger, indeed! When He is angry it is anger that none can match. The most awful word, I think, in the whole Bible is that shriek of the lost, "Rocks hide us! Mountains, fall upon us and hide us from the face of Him that sits upon the Throne and from the wrath of the Lamb."

What a fearful conjunction of terms—"the wrath of the Lamb"? Can you picture that dear face of His, those eyes that wept, those hands that bled, those lips that spoke notes of love, such words of pity—and can you believe that one day those eyes shall know no tears, but shall flash with lightning? That those hands shall know no mercy, but shall grasp a rod of iron and break the wicked into pieces like potter's vessels? And those feet shall know no errands of love, but He shall tread upon His enemies and crush them, even as grapes are trod by the wine pressers and the blood thereof shall stain His garments and as He comes up from their destruction they shall ask Him, "Who is this that comes"—not from Calvary, not from Gethsemane, but "Who is this that comes from Edom"—the land of His enemies—with dyed garments from Bozrah"—The land of His stoutest foes—"this that is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength"?

And what shall be the answer? It is most terrible. Who is this that has trod His enemies and crushed them?—"I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Why, Jesus, if You had said, "Mighty to destroy," we might have understood You. But "mighty to save"!—and so He is—this gives the edge to the whole sentence, that when He shall destroy His enemies, He that is mighty to save will be mighty to crush, mighty to damn, mighty to devour and rend His prey in pieces! I know nothing, I repeat, more fearful than the thought that Christ will be angry and that if we live and die finally impenitent, rejecting His mercy and despising His sacrifice we have good need to tremble at this sentence, "Kiss the Son lest He be angry."

And now do you see again that if Christ once is angry, it must be all over with our hopes or our rest? We will suppose now some poor girl who has stepped aside from the paths of right. She has persevered in her iniquity despite many warnings. Friends rise up to help her, but they drop off one by one, for she becomes incorrigibly wicked. Others come to help her, but as often as they rise they fall again, for she sins and sins and sins again. There is, however, one who has oftentimes received her to his bosom, erring though she is—her father. He says, “Shall I forget the child I have begotten? Sinner she is, but she is still my child,” and often as she sins and goes away he will not reject her. He receives her to his house again. Tainted and defiled, again he gives her the kiss of fond affection.

At last she perseveres in her iniquity and goes to such a length that one day in her desperate despair, someone says to her, why not seek a friend to deliver you in this your awful hour of distress and anguish on account of sin? “Oh,” says she, “I have none left.” “But there is your father. Have you not father or a mother?” “Yes,” says she, “but he is angry and he will do nothing for me.” Then her last door is shut and her hope is over. What wonder that—

*“Mad from life’s history,
Glad to death’s mystery,
Swift to be hurled—
Anywhere, anywhere,
Out of the world”—*

she ends her life because her only helper is angry and her hope is gone? Despair must seize her then, when her best, her only helper is angry with her.

Let me give you another picture—a simpler one. There is a dove long gone out of Noah’s ark. Suppose that dove to have been flying many hours till its wings are weary. Poor, poor dove! Across the shoreless sea it flies and finds never a spot whereon its weary feet may rest. At last it remembers the ark. It flies there, hoping there to find a shelter—but suppose it should see Noah standing looking through the window with crossbow to destroy it—then where were its hope? Its only hope has proved the gate of death. Now let it fold its wings and sink into the black stream and die with all the rest. Ah, Sinner, these two are but pictures of the desperateness of your despair when once the Lamb is angry—He who is the sinner’s friend, the sinner’s wooer, He of whom we sometimes say—

“Jesus, lover of my soul.”

When He is angry, where, where, oh where can sinners hide? When He is angry, when He takes a bow and fits an arrow to the string, where is your shelter then?—where your defense and refuge? Sinners, “Kiss the Son,” bow before Him now and receive His grace. Acknowledge His sway, lest He be angry with you and forever shut you up in black despair, for none can give you hope or joy when once He is angry.

And now mark the effects of Christ’s anger. “And you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.” Let me give you a picture. You have seen the maid light the fire. At first it is the match, the spark and there is a little kindling. A kindling but a little. What is that compared with the fire that is to succeed? You have heard of the prairie burning. The traveler has lit his fire and dropped a spark—the fire is kindling but a little and a small circle of flame is forming. You cannot judge what will be the mighty catastrophe when the sheet of flame shall seem to cover half the continent. And yet, mark you, your text says that, “when God’s wrath is kindled *but a little*.” it is even then enough to utterly destroy the wicked, so that they, “perish from the way.” What a fearful thought it presents to us if we have but eyes to see it! It is like one of Martin’s great pictures—it has more cloud in it than plain outline. It has in it great masses of blackness. There is only this little kindling and there is the sinner destroyed.

But what is that! Black thick darkness forever. What must become of the sinner, then, when the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone shall blow up Tophet till its flames reach above all thought and till the fire burns, beneath, even to the lowest Hell? His wrath is kindled but a little, then! Calvin, together with several other excellent commentators, gives another interpretation to this—“In but a little,” and you perish from the way when His wrath is kindled very soon, or, “in but a little time.” So it may be well translated without any violence whatever to the original. God’s anger kindles very speedily when once men have rejected Him. When the period of their mercy is passed away, then comes the hour of their black despair and His wrath is kindled in a little time. This should make each one of us think about our souls—the fact that God may take us away with a stroke and a great ransom cannot deliver us.

We had, last Sabbath Day a terrible picture of how soon God can take away a man with a stroke. On our common, you will remember, at Clapham, a man sought shelter beneath a poplar tree and in a moment a bolt fell from Heaven and

rent his body in pieces and he died. I should not have marveled if last night, when I was reading my text by the glare of the lightning, thinking it over amidst the roaring of the thunder, if many such deaths had occurred. God can soon take us away. But this is the wonder, that men will visit that tree by which their fellow died and go away and be just as careless as they were before. You and I hear of sudden deaths and yet we imagine we shall not die suddenly. We cannot think God's wrath will be kindled in a little time and that He will take us away with a stroke. We get the idea that we shall die in our nests, with a slow and gradual death and have abundance of time for preparation. Oh, I beseech you, let no such delusion destroy your soul! "Kiss the Son now, lest He be angry in a little while and you perish from the way." Now bow before Him and receive His grace.

However, I return to the old reading of the text, "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." How terrible is the doom of the wicked! The little kindling of God's wrath kills them. What shall the eternal burnings be? Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall abide with everlasting burnings? There is a land of thick darkness and despair where dwells the undying worm, which in its ceaseless folds does crush the spirits of the damned. There is a fire quickly burning, that dries up the very marrow of body and soul and yet destroys them not. There also is the pit that knows no bottom, the hopeless falling without a thought of ever coming to an end. There is a land where souls linger in eternal death and yet they never die—crushed, but not annihilated—broken, but not destroyed. Forever, forever, forever, is the ceaseless wave which rolls its fresh tide of fire upon a shore of agony, whose years are as countless as the sands of the sea.

And shall it be your lot and mine to dwell forever with the howling spirits of the damned? Must these eyes weep the briny tear that cannot assuage thirst? Must these lips be parched with infinite heat? Must this body be everlastingly tormented and this soul, with all its powers, become a lake of grief into which torrents of Almighty wrath shall roll ceaselessly with black and fiery streams? Oh, my God, and can the thought be uttered—there may be some in this hall this morning, who, before long, shall be in Hell? If you should see an arrow fitted to a string pointed in yon direction, would you think it a hard prophecy if I should say, that, before long, the arrow would find its mark over yonder? "No," you would say, "it is but nature that it should go in the way in which it is directed." But, Sinners, some of you are this day fitted on the bow of sin. Sin is the string that impels you forward. No, more than this. Some of you are whistling onward towards death, despair and Hell. Sin is the path to Hell and you are traveling in it with lightning speed. Why do you think me harsh if I prophecy that you will get to the end before long and reap the harvest to your soul?

Oh, "kiss the Son," I beseech you. For if you kiss Him not, if you receive not His grace and mercy, you must perish. There is no hope for you—desperate, without remedy—your end must be, if you will not yield your pride and submit to Jesus. Oh, what language shall I use? Here were a task for Demosthenes, if he could rise from the dead and be converted and preach with all his mighty eloquence and exhort you to flee from the wrath to come. Here is a text that might exhaust the eloquence of the Apostle Paul, while with tears running down his cheeks, he would plead with you to flee to Christ and lay hold upon His mercy.

As for me, I cannot speak my soul out. Would that my heart could speak without my lips to tell of the agony I feel just now concerning your souls. Oh, why will you die? "Why will you die, O house of Israel?" Will you make your beds in Hell? Will you wrap yourselves about with flames forever? Will you have the merriment of sin in this life and then reap the harvest of destruction in the world to come? Oh, Brothers and Sisters, I beseech you by the living God, by death, by eternity, by Heaven and by Hell. I implore you, stop! Stop, and "kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish from the way."

Oh, the terrors of the Lord! Who shall speak them?! Last night, we saw, as it were, the back parts of the terrible God, when His garments of light swept through the sky. He made clouds His chariot and He did ride upon the wings of the wind. Sinners, can you stand before the God of thunder? Can you war against the God of lightning? Will you resist Him and despise His Son and reject the offer of mercy and dash yourselves upon His spear and rush upon His sword? Oh, turn! Turn now! Thus says the Lord—"Consider your ways."—

*"Bow the knee and kiss the Son;
Come and welcome, Sinner, come!"*

III. And now give me your attention just a moment or two longer while with all earnestness I endeavor to preach for a little while upon THE BENEDICTION WITH WHICH THE TEXT CLOSSES. "Blessed are all they that put their trust

in Him.” I have been beating the big drum of threat and now let us have the soft, sweet harp of David, of sweet, wooing benedictions. “Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.” Do you put your trust in Him, my Hearer? Beneath the wings of God we nestle and we know of no security elsewhere. This is enough for us. Now the text says that those that trust in Him are blessed. And I would observe, first, that they are *really* blessed. It is no fiction, no imaginary blessing. It is a real blessedness which belongs to those that trust in God—a blessedness that will stand the test of time, the test of life and the trial of death. A blessedness into which we cannot plunge too deeply, for it is none of it a dream, but all a reality.

Again—those that trust in Him have not only a real blessedness, but they oftentimes have a conscious blessedness. They know what it is to be blest in their troubles, for they are in their trials comforted and they are blest in their joys—for their joys are sanctified. They are blest and they know it, they sing about it and they rejoice in it. It is their joy to know that God’s blessing is come to them. Not in word only but in very deed. They are blessed men and blessed women—

*“They would not change their blest estate
For all the world calls good and great.”*

Then, further they are not only really blessed and consciously blessed, but they are increasingly blessed. Their blessedness grows. They do not go downhill, as the wicked do, from bright hope to black despair. They do not diminish in their delights—the river deepens as they wade into it. They are blessed when the first ray of heavenly light streams on their eyeballs. They are blessed when their eyes are opened wider still, to see more of the love of Christ. They are blessed the more their experience widens and their knowledge deepens and their love increases. They are blessed in the hour of death and, best of all, their blessedness increases to eternal blessedness—the perfection of the saints at the right hand of God. “Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.” Time fails me to enter into this blessed benediction and therefore I pause and come back to my old work again, of endeavoring to reach you by earnest entreaty, while I urge you to “kiss the Son.”

Sinner, you are bid to trust in Christ this morning. Come, this is your only hope. Remember, you may do a hundred things, but you will be none the better. You will be like the woman mentioned in Scripture who spent all her money on physicians and was none the better, but, rather, grew worse. There is no hope for you but in Christ. Rest assured that all the mercy of God is concentrated in the Cross. I hear some talk about the uncovenanted mercies of God—there is no such things. The mercies of God are all emptied out into the Covenant. God has put all His grace into the Person of Christ and you shall have none elsewhere. Trust, then, in Christ—so you shall be blessed, but you shall be blessed nowhere else.

Again—I urge you to “kiss the Son,” and trust Christ, because this is the sure way. None have perished trusting in Christ. It shall not be said on earth nor even in Hell shall the blasphemy be uttered, that ever a soul perished that trusted in Christ. “But suppose I am not one of God’s elect?” says one. But if you trust in Christ you are. And there is no supposing about it. “But suppose Christ did not die for me?” If you trust Him, He did die for you. That fact is proved and you are saved. Cast yourself simply on Him. Dare it, run the risk of it—venture on Him, venture on Him, (and there is no risk). You shall not find that you have been mistaken. Sometimes I feel anxiety and doubt about my own salvation. And the only way I can get comfort is this—I go back to where I began and say—

“I the chief of sinners am.”

I go to my chamber and once more confess that I am a wretch undone, without His Sovereign Grace and I pray Him to have mercy on me yet again. Depend on it, it is the only way to Heaven and it is a sure one. If you perish trusting in Christ, you will be the first of the kind. Do you think God would allow any to say, “I trusted in Christ and yet He deceived me. I cast my soul on Him and He was not strong enough to bear me”? Oh, do not be afraid, I beseech you.

And I conclude now by noticing that this is an open salvation. Every soul in the world that feels its need of a Savior and that longs to be saved, may come to Christ. It God has convicted you of sin and brought you to know your need, come, come NOW—come, come NOW! Come NOW—trust now in Christ and you shall now find that blessed are all they that trust in Him. The door of mercy does not stand ajar, it is wide open. The gates of Heaven are not merely hanging on the latch, but they are wide open both night and day. Come, let us go together to that blessed house of mercy and drive our wants away. The grace of Christ is like our street drinking fountains, open to every thirsty wanderer. There is the cup, the cup of faith. Come and hold it here while the water freely flows and drink. There is no one can come up and say it is not made for you. For you can say, “Oh, yes it is, I am a thirsty soul. It is meant for me.” “No,” says the devil,

“you are too wicked.” No, but this is a free drinking fountain. It does not say over the top of the fountain, “No thieves to drink here.” All that is wanted at the drinking fountain is simply that you should be willing to drink, that you should be thirsty and desire. Come, then—

*“Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream.
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him.”*

He has given you this. Come and drink. Drink freely. “The Spirit and the bride say come. And let him that hears say come. And whosoever is thirsty, let him come and take the water of life freely.”

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