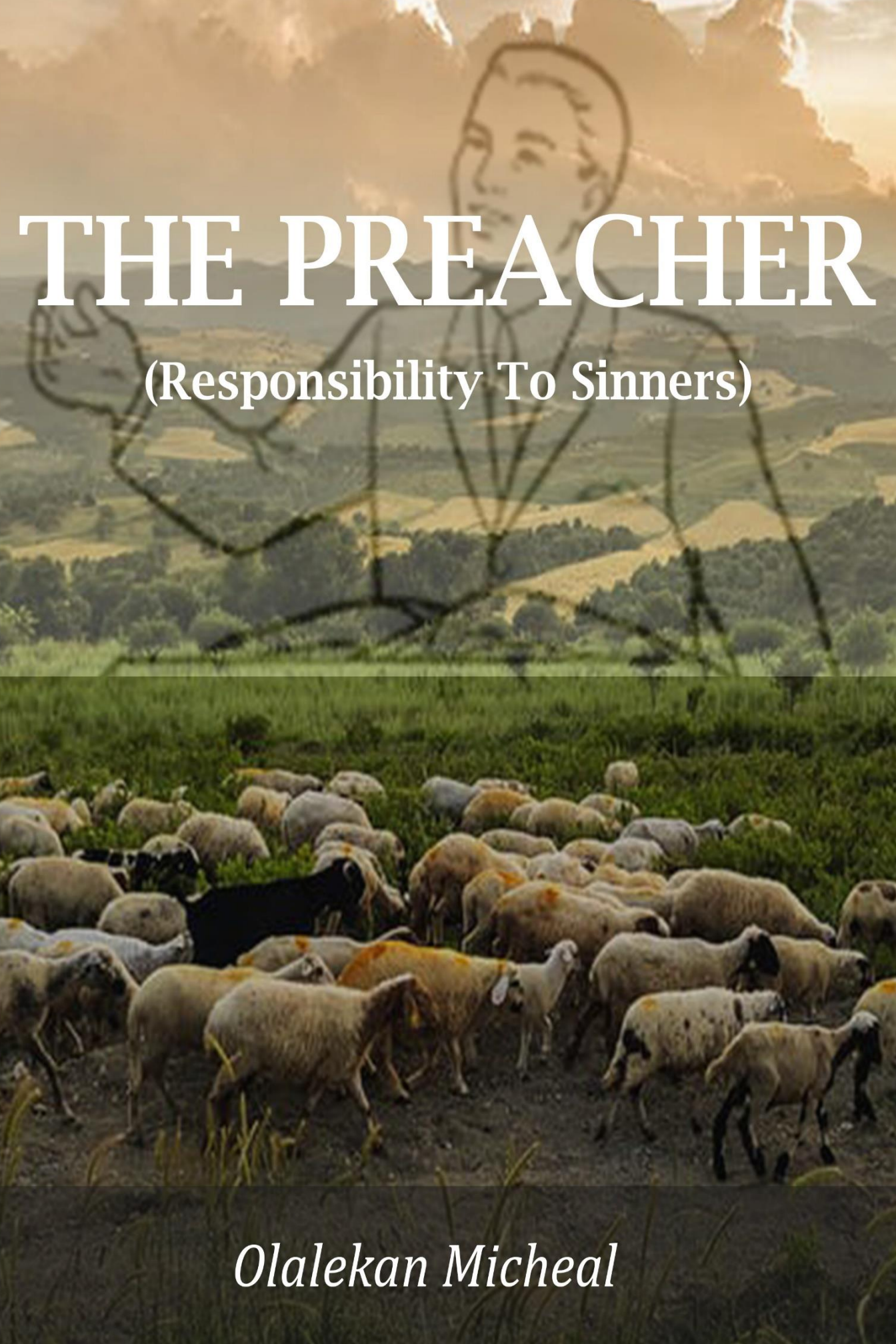




THE PREACHER

(Responsibility To Sinners)

Olalekan Micheal

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Published by Revival Watch Publications

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Olalekan Micheal

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In a time and age when the whole world is soaked in sin and filled with sinful men. The preacher is faced with an awesome responsibility to warn, persuade, and condemn sinners under the Holy Ghost, peradventure the sinner would repent and turn to God. The preacher must take up this daunting challenge, defending it even at the cost of his blood.

The preacher owes sinners the truth, however bitter it is, it is his responsibility to sinners.

The greatest danger in our time is preachers not warning sinners. Paul warned sinners of the terror of the Lord; pleading, weeping, becoming filth and dirt of this world that sinners may be saved.

*The preacher shall stop warning sinners the day he by logic or reasoning invalidates God's argument and prospect of doom for the sinner, except he believes it not himself. A criminal, **Charlie Peace**, once said to a fellow preacher, "Sir, if I believed what you and the church of God say that you believe, even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees and think it worthwhile living, just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that."*

The position or terrible situation of a sinner (who constantly rejects the blood of Christ for atonement) is a constant life of defeat in the matter of sin. It is a continuum of defeat.

The fate of the sinner is not yet sealed while the sinner has breath, he can still rest his faith on the son of God who died and gave Himself for sinners.

Sin is a sinker: it sinks the sinner's soul into the depth of hell.

The preacher must be bold to say like Paul: I am pure from the blood of all men – for I have not shun to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses all sins – no sin can withstand the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

The preacher may have big titles, and men calling him big names. Yet inside, empty; dry; and dead – a dry bone in God's vineyard.

Dedication

This work is dedicated to Christ the Savior of the world who by the blood of His atonement obtained pardon for sinners, may His name be praised forever. Amen. And also to the Missionaries, Evangelists, Preachers, and Ministers of the gospel laboring for souls in all parts of the world to the glory of God and the advancement of the Kingdom of His Christ.

Forward

Dear reader,

You may drop this material, if you have no burden for the present depravity and decay in the Christian circle; if your passion to see men genuinely saved has turn to Zero; if the heartbeat of Jesus means nothing to you; if Jesus' burden and passion have died off from your heart. You will truly find it convenient to drop this book, but if you are still burdened and passionate about lost souls, and the poverty of us preachers in winning the lost then read on. Heaven will stir your heart once again.

Many preachers have become motivational speakers speaking nice words to sinful people. We must confess the eternal destination of sinners – this does not bother many preachers anymore. But is it not wrong to receive from a man who you never trust Jesus for his salvation?

We have been wrongly motivated into ministry. Our hearts filled with desire for worldly gain. Glory to God for this heaven sent material to redirect us. I believe heeding these instructions will help us save a generation for God. Yes, we have travelled the wrong path for too long, but it will not take eternity for God to send us help again if we will heed His counsels contained in these few pages.

This blessed work has come to us all at the right time. Just as it has blessed me, I pray it will bless us all and renew our passion and hunger for genuine spiritual awakening.

Have an impactful study.

Yawus Plangshak Yakubu

Jos, Plateau, Nigeria.

Author's Introduction

In my mind are all these thoughts scattered, it was fueled from a little gospel tract which I picked up from the hospital on a certain night when I went to pick my sister-in-law. As I began to read and pray the next morning, the Holy Ghost seemed to be brooding upon my own heart not only to write but that I might take these lessons to heart. This is a charge as well as a call to repentance to my **Brothers** and **Sisters**; the **Preacher**. The Lord has intentionally sent this short message at this crucial time in order to warn us to pay close attention to the matter that matters the most, lest we get discharged from our duty post.

There is no nobler office on earth other than the service of God to humanity on behalf of God. God's reward is usually on it and His blessing follows both in time and in eternity. It was said of Jehoiada thus: "... **they buried him in the city of David among the Kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house**" (2. **Chronicles. 24:16**). Not all the kings in the history of Israel and Judah were buried in the city of David among the kings; yet this man who was a faithful priest was honored by men in death by burying him among kings; this has men done, how great shall the reward of him who he served be? Truly He rewards them that diligently seek Him.

The preacher has no greater message than to call men to seek their God in true spirit of repentance, he must persuade, beg, scold, and use all means possible to make the sinner aware of his current state and the impending danger that hangs over his weakling soul. Our Lord, the greatest preacher of all time started with this message. He proclaimed it as his primary message, calling men to repent that they may receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It was also the message of the early church and her foremost preachers, calling all men to repent and turn unto

God. Could Paul better say this in his conversation at Athens, ***“and the times of ignorance God has winked at; but now commandeth that all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30)***? It is God’s commandment, yet is that your core message dear preacher?

I am of a strong opinion that no message is of greater importance or weightier than calling the sinner to a conscious awareness that his or her feet shall soon slide into hell as ***Bro. Jonathan Edwards*** puts it in his intense warning ***“sinners in the hands of an angry God”***.

May God grant us courage to fearlessly proclaim to the sinner ***“woe unto you, it shall be ill with you”***, peradventure the sinner may fearfully seek his God.

In no other generation do we desperately need a preacher like Noah than now – a preacher of righteousness, who with passion and intensity sounded the alarm to the men of his age for a *hundred and twenty years* unrelenting, pleading that at least one man would join him in the ark. Does God need to send Noah again when you are here? With impunity sinners claims to be righteous; an adulterous generation eats, and wipes her mouth and said, we have done no wickedness – this is because we have not told them the sad truth about their sad condition.

Let as many as are called and named after the office of God gear up themselves, dust their notepads and sermon books, turn off the TV, get out of the social media world (***slavery media world***), and the stinking entertainments with which they are soaked daily. Away from all other books; preacher, and turn back into the Bible to search out the truth and preach it. Be courageous enough to seek a true spiritual reformation in your own assembly, community, and city as you warn all men to return to their maker in true repentance and embracing the man of Calvary.

PART I
THE SINNER

Chapter 1

The Nature of Sin

Sin and the Sinner

Sin and the sinner are inseparable, it is the presence of sin that makes a man a sinner; the absence of sin in man makes him righteous, not on his own account I must say but on the righteousness wrought by *grace* in Christ Jesus.

Sin is a nature; and the nature thrives best in man. It is like a virus that cannot survive on its own except there is a host body to nourish it; ***for he that is dead is free from sin (Romans 6:7)***. As I have often times explain; slap an angry dead man, he cannot respond or fight back – though by nature he was an angry man, but now he is dead; he has lost every ability to become angry. This analogy best proves that until a man dies to sin he cannot be free from sin – the physical death and the death of the sinful nature when the man comes to Calvary. When sinful men die however, they are not totally free from sin; they cannot escape the woes and damnation that results from their sins, they must face the dire consequences of their sins and rebellion against God and His laws.

The sinful nature is a degraded and corroded nature of man. It is the lowest state of man in God's perspective – the sinner is not only an enemy to himself alone, but a friend to the enemy of God (sin), which makes him an enemy of God all together. Irrespective of *University Degrees, Connections, Social Class, Influence, Intellect*, and all other valuable attributes such man may possess, he is still a dead man (dead in sin). Dead men have no value – such is the man to God until being converted. The sinner is in a great danger,

for he is in the hands of an angry God – and it is a fearful thing for the sinner to fall into the hands of a Holy God – the sinner must dread this prospect.

The human nature is a sinful nature, man and sin are tightly knitted together. Sin is inborn, and it is encoded within the makeup of the man. Its origin can be traced back to the fallen state of the first man (Adam); a result of his disobedience and rebellion towards the law of the Divine Creator. Thus through one man's disobedience, sin came into the world and death by sin for all have sinned. The nature of sin is traceable back to the formation of man, even from birth, David cried out saying "***Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me***" (*Psalm 51:5*).

To the natural man, sin is intuitive. Cain was the first murderer; no one had ever committed that crime before, this was the second generation of man. So, how did he know that the best thing to do was to kill his brother? Who informed him? After he had killed his brother, who taught him lies to cover up? Who taught him how to hide the body of his brother in the ground? these and many more questions – it shows us clearly that the intent to sin is natural to a sinner. He has no control over the desire to sin. Sin lies continually at the door of his heart, ready to prey on him at every given occasion (Genesis 4:7).

A child as little as two years seem to understand how to lie whether by gesture or speech. when a man is born, he is born with a seed called the ***seed of unrighteousness***; as he grows he begin to exhibit the fruit of that tree, such fruit is the outward manifestation of sin considered as the works of the flesh. You must have wondered why sin has no respect for age, gender, education or special status, it is manifest in every unregenerated soul. Have your ever thought it through why it seems so natural to do wrong? I mean to an unregenerated man. It is his nature, that is how he was wired, he manifests it because it is inborn. He cannot be free because its root supports his current life – there

must be a rebirth. The experience of a sinner is best described as two in a boxing ring, the sinner and his sinful nature (sin), both in a duel for supremacy, each time the sinner makes a move to throw a hard blow at sin, sin dodges it and on the rebound he strikes with a hard punch on the sinner's face. A knock out, the man falls to the ground and on and on it goes – it is a continuous life of defeat for the man. Except there be a supernatural enablement and assistance from the one who has power over sin, death and hell; the sinner is going to live in constant defeat and under eternal condemnation of sin.

To overcome sin, there must be an evacuation leading to the death of the nature of sin that has become a mighty fruit-producing tree; and in its place must the *seed of righteousness* be planted. As it is written, ***“whosever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1. John 3:8).***

For this to happen, the sinner must turn to a superior power to help him overcome this nature, this must be solely on God's terms.

Chapter 2

The Sinners' Woe

“And if the righteous be scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?” (1. Peter 5:18).

This pose a great question which the sinner must answer and that which the preacher must pay attention to. The subject shows that the sinner must be terrified of his destination in eternity, he must be prepared to face the divine judgement of the Holy Judge of all the earth who will do right and render unto everyman according to his or her deeds.

“Where shall the sinner flee in the day which God shall visit him? Let him flee to the highest of mountains, He is certainly there, let him make his bed in Hell, surely the Lord is there also. The sinner on the day of reckoning is inescapable from God’s mighty hands.”

The sinner is in great danger and thus must be warned. God cannot be clearer on His verdict over the sinner, He has expressed it over and over again, He has gone as far as to put it in the conscience of every sinner, ***“the soul that sinneth it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20)***. The ruin of the sinner will be his own sin (Ezekiel 18:30), except the sinner repents and turns himself. The woe of sinners and sinful men cannot be reasoned or measured by mere human intellect

or by our feeble minds but in strong warnings from God such as:

“Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth” (Zechariah 14:12).

“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb; for the great day of his wrath is come, who shall be able to stand” (Revelation 6:15-17).

The Lord warned that a man is preferred blind, lame or maim, and enter into glory than with his whole body perish in everlasting destruction and banished from the presence of God. Should the sinner ignore this warning? Twice he sounded the warning:

“if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:29-30).

“wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maim, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eyes offend thee,

pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” (Matthew 18:8-9).

Paul reechoes this message thus: ***“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)***. Death is the ultimate end of every sinner; Sin which originates from devil perfectly places the sinner in a position of condemnation and eternal woe.

The life of a sinner is a constant life of fear. And rightly so too. While there are indeed many dreadful things that are attached to his sinful life and trouble his soul such as: the fear of contracting disease (air borne, water borne, cancer, sexually transmitted infections), war, violence and so on. These can only kill his body; he should be more terrified about his eternal misery. He is afraid to die because he is not prepared to meet his Creator. All that the sinner may trust shall fail on the day of his personal accountability to God. His woe, lamentation, agony and regrets will continue throughout eternity. Let him fear God who can kill the body and cast the soul into Hell (Matthew 10:28).

Nothing will be able to save the sinner when he gives account of his sinful life. He will not be able to brag about his wealth, family line, his many cars, or any other achievement he may have obtained in the world. He stands there trembling while the eternal consequence of his sin is being dished out in full measure of the wrath of God. He is set for doom, his soul cast into hell. There is no bail out, no exit, no parole, no second chance, he is forever lost.

The richest sinner in the whole world is a soul-wretch. Although he possesses all the riches of the world, his soul is on its way into perdition. The worth of a soul is valued far above the world and all the things in the world; its pomp, riches, pride, and glory.

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37).

The sinner may acquire the whole world but nothing will be able to save the sinner on the day when he shall stand before the maker of the whole universe. We were told the story of a man called *“the rich man”* who found himself after death in the sinners’ place of eternal woe *“Hell”*. Though he was rich on earth, he could not afford a glass of water to quench his thirst in that place of sorrow. He had rejected God in his life, now he is cut away from God forever, no plea is heard, no prayer can be answered, he was forever damned (Luke 16:19-31). Such is the lot of every sinner that repent not; rich, poor, white, black, Hispanic or Asian. They stand to face the wrath and judgement of God; knowing that they which commit sin are worthy of death (Romans 1:18,32). The sinner is judged by his own conscience; he is imprisoned and bound by his sin, he is a lawful captive of the devil. The sinner is under the control and manipulation of the wicked one who makes the life of the sinner miserable, and none can deliver such sinner except the sinner will cling to the cross. The sinner’s woe continues through eternity if he rejects the cross provision. Should a people not consider this and return to their God? Whatever consolation or hope the sinner may have here on earth cannot measure up for a second of his misery when he is cut away from God into a place where their worm dieth not.

Chapter 3

God's Position

God does not want any sinner to perish, ***“that whosoever believeth him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:15).*** A significant message that shows the stance of God in regards to His benevolence, not duty to sinner. Even though He will not tolerate sin and sinners, yet He still calls for them to be saved.

“As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel” (Ezekiel 33:11).

God cannot be clearer on His position as regarding sinners and His desire to see sinners rescued and not condemned. There are countless instances where He kept on calling and stretching forth His hands of mercy to the sinner to repent. In a place, God in pitiful tone called out, ***“why should you die?” (Ezekiel 18:31).*** In another place, He called out saying come, ***“come now, let us reason together, though your sins may be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).*** Yet in another place He called unto sinners as they that labor and are heavy laden and that He would give them rest (Matthew 11:28).

God, if it were possible to force men will have all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1. Timothy 2:4), but He will not be able to do that without violating the

will of man and staining His integrity as a responsible and just law-giver. Men must choose to either submit to His redemption plan or refuse. God did not stop at sending Jesus Christ to pay the price for the sin of the sinners, He went a step further to send the Holy Ghost to convict men of sin that they may come to the state of repentance and receive the saving grace which is in Christ Jesus.

Our pitiful world is enjoying the longsuffering of a patient and kind God who is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2. Peter 3:9-10). If God has so done all these and He is daily warning men to flee from the wrath to come, we can conclusively say that God cannot be faulted in His attempt to rescue sinners from eternal woe. It is the sinner's responsibility to draw to God while He is willing to draw unto the sinner. I must also submit that God gave man all the instructions that will help him find help; the Bible has been given to men to find God's will, and for sinners to find salvation by faith in Christ.

What more can God do for the sinner to help him? If He could do anything more, He would have without tampering with His divine kingdom's integrity. The sinner must accept God on His terms. As certain men who chose not to look at the serpent of bronze died in the wilderness, so will all men who refuse to look up to the Son of God upon the cross. As it is written:

"He that believeth not (in Christ) is condemned already, because he hath not believe on the name of the only begotten son of God" (John 3:18).

With strong plea, I appeal to sinners on the basis of these laid down truth exposing God's willingness to save and not destroy, that such may readily forsake his sin, believing on Jesus the Son of God – as it is written, ***"for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ) shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).***

Chapter 4

God's Provision

The sinner is helpless and hopeless in himself to overcome sin, though there may be an inward desire in such's heart – he is bound by the chord of his sin (Proverbs 5:22). To look to himself for salvation is to sink the more into the mire of confusion and despondency. The sinner's hope must solely rest on God's provision as his own righteousness is as a filthy rag. He cannot be justified by his own efforts, he on his own is a man of eternal doom.

For God to be just, He must punish sin and every act of disobedience, yet for Him to be a fair judge He must make provision for men to be freed or delivered from sin. In this regard, God is both just and justified, having made provisions for the salvation and deliverance of all men from sin. It is however unfortunate that many people throughout all ages have continually refused it, trampling upon the love of God and with intensity continued the act of wickedness and rebellion on earth.

God's provision, Jesus Christ, was crucified for sinners, and that through the preaching of the cross, sinners can by faith obtain redemption and forgiveness of sin in Him. He was the propitiation for sins, because all have sinned and have come short of the glory of God. The sinner is only justified by God's grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believe in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Since every man is set to face the wrath of God – i.e. punishment for sin and rebellion against God, the sinner must seek an advocate, who is both sinless and worthy to bear the penalty of the sin of man. Job sought for such advocate and mediator between himself and God, one who could plead his case before God but found none – ***“if only there were a mediator between us, someone who can bring us together” (Job 9:33 NLT)***. That advocate is Christ Jesus; for God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8); and also being justified freely by His blood, the sinner is free from the consequential punishment of sin, which is eternal condemnation and death.

Christ came to save sinners from their sins (Matthew 1:21). All the sinners’ hope must rest only in Christ who was crucified for mankind. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanse all sin (1. John 1:7), not by the blood of goats or calves, but by His own blood He obtained eternal redemption for sinners.

There is no other way, no other help for sinners but in Christ Jesus: who is the way, the truth, and the life – the sinner can only gain access to the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ (John 14:6), there can be no other provision.

In this provision is a promise of God’s eternal life, a life that will continue when the soul shall transit into the realm of immortality. On the contrary, the devil’s promise to sinners is to steal, to kill, and to destroy. God’s provision in Christ Jesus is not only to pardon the sinner from sin but also to give him God’s life, which never ends (John 10:10).

The Blood Provision

(The Blood of Jesus Cleanses all sins)

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sins" (1. John 1:7).

If there is anything that gives me great joy on the subject of Christ's atonement as God's provision, it is its applicability and universality to address all sins and iniquities ever committed by man. While a man may attempt to reform his own life by any kind of efforts and discipline, he still cannot overcome the nature of sin in him. He is still a slave to the sinful nature for which Christ died. The death of Christ in atonement deals with this nature of sin – the original nature – the nature which by its existence has caused the sinner to commit several wickedness and to trespass against God in millions of time. Its applicability and availability throughout all age, race and creed makes it more potent, that any sinner however terrible his life is, can be washed from all sins and become a new creature ***(Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new – 2. Corinthians 5:17)***. Christ by the virtue of atonement, through the blood He sheds washes away all sins – the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses all sins. This is a great hope for every sinner who by the virtue of his many transgressions feels that he cannot be accepted by God; I say again; the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses all sins. You can start counting your sins, trespasses, and the most wicked act you have committed against God and man; it is still not a match for the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ. The sinner should logically think about it this way, his own sin is but a minute fraction of the sins of the

whole world, yet the blood of Jesus is sufficient to cleanse the sins of the world.

"On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and impurity." (Zechariah 13:1).

I am so glad to announce to everyone that the flood has been opened to as many that will come for cleansing - it washes all the guilty stains. The blood of Jesus Cleanses all sins.

Chapter 5

Sinners' Appeal

Dear sinner, God is angry with you each day you live (Psalm 7:11), and will one day cast you into Hell (Psalm 9:17). Yet for your sake He made Himself a righteous substitute to pay the penalty and consequences of your sins; through the man Jesus the Son of God (who Himself is God - John 1:1-2). Christ became sin that you may be righteous - He became guilty that you may be free (2. Corinthians 5:21). God is calling you to freedom and deliverance, why are you refusing him? The thought of the end must trouble you my friend, you will not be able to endure in the day of His righteous judgment.

What more shall I say sinner? But that you turn yourself (Ezekiel 18:30) and change the course of thy journey from the path of death to life; for there lies before thee (sinner) death; I repeat death, a terrible pit that swallows its victim to never vomit them again, where they shall forever be banished from the presence of God and tormented with great fury of their own wickedness throughout eternity. The sinner's argument at this point will not be ignorance or a cry of injustice; for here lies before him all the truth about the state of his own soul. He is responsible for his own woe if he ends up before the ***great white throne judgement***, and is finally cast into the lake of fire which burns continually into eternity of eternities.

I am persuaded to tell you sinner the implication of the word "***eternity***", peradventure you will reconsider your current stance and come to *term* with your God while you can now; for it is appointed for you to die once and after which is judgement - of this judgement is the eternal punishment, an unending sorrow and agony that will last

for *billions into billions into countless years* known as eternity – an eternal woe, agony, pain and suffering, and banishment from the Light. You must avoid it.

There lies before you sinner, an old rugged cross, where a man hung bleeding from the many wounds inflicted upon Him; upon His head was a crown made of thorns pierced through His skull, His arms and feet with strong nails hammered in, and on His side a fresh open wound gushing out water and blood. He hangs there pleading with strong tears and agony with you, He is calling you to come and be washed from your sins and filths, and become righteous in the sight of God. All these He had done for the sinners, He suffered and died for sinners in the hands of sinful men. Since His offering and sacrifice about two thousand years ago, many sinners (including I who was once a stinking sinner) have looked upon Him by ***Faith*** and have been saved from the guilt and consequences of sins – they have been made righteous, justified by the blood of His atonement, they obtained peace with God. Many sinners have also rejected Him, choosing the option to face the righteous judgement of the eternal Judge who will not hesitate in enacting the divine justice by sending the rebellious sinners into everlasting darkness.

Will you reject such love, such sacrifice, and such offer? God is not asking the sinner to do any works, for no man is justified by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- The first path the sinner must take is the admission of guilt, and of God's righteousness both in judgement and in His offering a righteous substitute to take the place of the sinner.
- The sinner having done this must repent, and vehemently denounce his sins. With brokenness and a penitent heart must he see how dangerous his sin had led him thus far on the adventure to death, and with all knowledge renounce them.

- The sinner must at this point plead for the blood of Jesus Christ for the cleansing of his sins, acknowledging the power of Christ alone to save him.
- The sinner thus in this state, must put his faith on the Son of God to be saved, he must do nothing to work out this experience of his own accord; but must look upon him whom they pierced. Just as the men of Israel bitten by the fiery serpent looked by faith upon the serpent of bronze hung upon the tree and were healed, so must the sinner look upon Jesus Christ nailed to the cross and be saved (John 3:14).

This work is a supernatural work of grace, not of works lest men will boast and rest their faith in themselves rather than in the finished work of Christ on Calvary's tree (Ephesians 2:8-9). Will the sinner heed this appeal? Such must decide before it is too late.

PART II
THE PREACHER

Chapter 6

The Adulterated Gospel

The global impact of adulteration in food, drugs and cosmetics keeps rising by the day, with death and other health related complications on the rise also. Adulteration continues to pose a great deal of worries to health organizations and government of nations. With legislations from country to country to combat this menace, we can conclusively say that this is a major global issue. While the punishment comes in fines, imprisonments, and even death; depending on the case and country. How worse is the impact of an adulterated gospel?

Considering the gospel – the power of God to save sinners; its adulteration is far more damaging and consequential, because it is eternal. This Paul called ***“another gospel”*** and of men who preached it tagged he ***“accursed”*** – ***“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you that that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8-9).*** One is forced to wonder with great bewilderment and think upon the millions of sinners who sit weekly under such gospel and may have to find out the truth a little too late in death.

“I have seen great wonders on earth, ye one too wonderful for me, gospel being merchandised and the people left to ruin and for doom. The truth is fast fading away from our pulpits and men are made two fold sons of hell.”

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ's selfless sacrifice for sinners and the world, and nothing sounds more beautiful and attractive than the preaching of Him who died for sinners (of His love, mercy, sacrifice, humility and of hope to come), even for a miserable sinner like me - one on a dangerous course to destruction until found by mercy.

The thought of this kind of gospel is too wonderful for me to comprehend, and causes me lots of pains and tears. The pains in my heart know no bound that the preaching of the old rugged cross that brings sinners to the point of new birth is no longer relevant on major pulpits of the world today. David Wilkerson in one of his messages lamented thus; "the gospel has been turned into advertisement as though one advertising toothpaste; come to Jesus and He will give you this and that, He will do this and that for you ..." Is that the gospel that Paul the Apostle preached; is it the gospel Peter preached on the day of Pentecost that brought three thousand souls to Christ; is that the gospel of Wesley, Whitefield, Finney, Ravenhill and of the elders? God have mercy on our ignorance of the gospel, the preacher in his responsibility must not fail to point the sinner to the cross.

I learnt this by mercy as a young preacher. I have always wanted to see men truly born again, I knew many people who come out for our altar calls never made it to Calvary where they can die and be born again. I see this failure in my own ministry, I would preach the full gospel yet the sinner would not respond. Most times I have been forced to go the old method (asking sinners to say the sinners' prayer), yet in me I know the sinner is not truly converted. This troubled me a lot as men showed no sign of repentance or conversion, I was conscious of the fact that if the cross is not presented to the sinner in its reality we may not have them saved. God seeing the desire of my heart for true realities at this crucial point of desperation led me to hear

Bro. Ravenhill talked about "***men as not getting born and the need for the preacher's travailing in birth for souls of sinners***", this was a turning point for me as far my duty to bringing sinners to Christ is concerned; and God is still helping us.

The sinner must be directed to the cross; the cross provision is supernatural. It is costly and highly effective in the salvation of the sinner. Grace is supernatural not superficial, the preacher himself must understand this; that the salvation of a soul is God's sole responsibility, I mean the work of salvation. It is neither in the preacher's work nor the sinner's. I am persuaded to call men to the cross, the idea of ***altar call*** is fine if we tell men what is expected to happen when they come to the altar, i.e. to die. When Isaac got to the altar at mount Moriah he died, yet he was brought again to life. The "***cross call***" may not be a famous terminology in the church, missions, and evangelism, yet it best describes the experience that must happen if the sinner will truly be born again. Paul attested to this experience "***I am crucified with Christ***" (Galatians 2:20), the old man must be crucified for the new man to come into being (Romans 6:4). I know the message of the cross is foolishness to a generation like ours who is on its way to self-destruction; the fact that it is not popular does not mean it is not original, thus must be restored back to the pulpits.

Though the modern gospel has been comprised and many preachers have compromised (because of money, fame, prestige, and immoralities). The Lord speaking to me some years ago about preacher thus, "***I am tired of these compromisers***". This made me cry to God for mercy for my soul. God cannot be faulted; the fault is with us. We must repent or He spews us out of His mouth.

Christ and Christ only must be preached, the preacher must know this; Christ is the central topic, He is the object of attraction, the best examples can be drawn from His life, He is the author and the finisher of the Christians' faith.

Chapter 7

Pearls Before Swine

“Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matthew 7:6).

In my experience both in Africa and Asia, I have seen this great evil, an evil which is beyond me. Preachers casting precious pearls before swine – offering unsaved men the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That sacred and holy blessing that God gives to them who loves Him. No wonder there are many demonic manifestations everywhere and the rise of the occult in the pulpits.

Just as we make it easy for impenitent sinners to drop off at our altars, and say a few ritualistic prayers, we have also offered men cheap manifestation of the Spirit. They are offered human and emotional manifestation of tongues, some men have gone even to the extreme in teaching sinners to speak in tongues and other operations of the spirit. I have seen unsaved men speak in tongues, and being encouraged by men of the altar. Most times I am so grieved in the spirit, that I ask them to shut up – we have offered sinners even that which is sacred and holy. We must repent or be displaced.

During our recently concluded gospel campaign in a city, we worked with young college students who asked us to wait for one of their meetings but we couldn't wait. I was later informed of the tearful experience at the meeting by one of my brothers who was on ground. He told me how the young man that was invited to speak at the meeting was

preaching heresy and twisting the scriptures. The peak of it was him offering the unsaved youth in the meeting the gifts of the Spirit. He called them out and told them that there is something in them and they too can speak in tongues, to which one the young men there, though unsaved yet honest replied, ***“sir, there is nothing inside me”***. How many young people are being deceived by this erroneous doctrine that comes out of hell? That though unsaved they can possess the power of God.

Many preachers have become like Simon the sorcerer who thought they can give the Holy Spirit to whomsoever they please – their heart is not right with God and being in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity (Acts 8:18-24), they want to use the Holy Spirit to achieve the evil desire of their hearts. God forbid the precious gift of God be given to sinners. Such must repent and turn themselves or be ready to face the Holy God who will judge every deeds of men.

Out of a pure and holy life flows rivers of living water – you wonder why the outflow from the life of many is deadness and dryness. God cannot be manipulated, we either yield to Him or turn to the arm of the flesh – the preacher must not forget this truth. Oh that the Lord may suddenly come and cleanse His temple.

It is not in the preacher’s hands to give the gifts of the Spirit; God in His gracious grace gives His Holy Spirit and His gifts unto men who have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ. In my early days in Bombay, young Pentecostal teenagers often come to me and say, ***“brother, I don’t have the Holy Spirit, I cannot speak in tongues. I have been praying for it for so and so number of years, I don’t have it”***. Though unsaved, and with little emphasis placed on salvation by the preacher and the Church, these young men have been told to pray for the Holy Spirit baptism. The preacher is irresponsible if he offers the latter instead of the former. Offer them Christ and God will be gracious to fill them with His Spirit.

The baptism of the Spirit, though one of the greatest experience that can happen to the believer after salvation, is God's sole responsibility to give. Scripture says, ***"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matthew 3:11)***. And on the day of Pentecost, God fulfilled His promise (Acts 2:1-4). When the Holy Ghost came, was there a teacher who taught them how? No! they spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterances. Were they going about preaching to the people about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit? No, they simply preached Christ. In as much as it is expedient to instruct believers of this great provision of grace (the Holy Spirit baptism), we must be careful to instruct them correctly - three full chapters were dedicated to such correct instruction to the Church of Corinth, that the gift of God may not be misused and abused among them. The Apostle never offered this blessing to sinners, why should we? Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed (Act 19:2)? This is to disciples (believers) not a general address. To offer sinners this blessing is a bastardization of Christ's precious gift to His blood washed Church. You wonder why a lot of people in the world have so much made ridicule of the precious gift of tongues and other gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is because we have sold out its counterfeit to many unregenerated souls - we have cast our pearls before swine - now it is being trampled afoot. While I am very careful in handling this subject, I must say the root cause is the ***"cheap grace offer"*** - we have offered men cheap and licentious grace. Most preachers living in defeat have taught the many people in their congregation that absolute freedom from sin is impossible. 'God understands', they say. God forbid this error, for men cannot continue a lifestyle of sin and partake in the gracious endowment of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Grace that gives such blessing teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world (Titus 2:11). The preacher must not fail to offer men Christ; it is the best he can offer sinners. I plead with you, I beg you to please correct this error. I have

seen firsthand its effect and how many who are bound by sin think they are alright. They thought to themselves, ***'but I speak in tongues, so I am alright'***. In recent times when the yardstick to measure spirituality is the exhibition of gifts, many sinners have tagged along and have adjusted to this style. They are dead inside and set for destruction. Shall we then not bring them back?

“No man gives orders to the Holy Spirit” as one elder rightly said, and no man can use Him. Any preacher who is in this error must retrace his steps back to Calvary. The Holy Spirit makes a man pure and holy, any other manifestation other than this is questionable. The earlier mentioned elder again said once, ***“the greatest miracle is that God can take an unholy man, and make him holy, and keep him in an unholy world yet unstained”*** – this can only be attributed to the working of the Spirit of God.

We trust that the Lord will give us the revival we seek. Amen. While we wait, let us correct this error and God will give His blessings to as many hungry souls living right before Him and make them honorable in worship and service towards Him. Amen.

Chapter 8

Cheap Church Advertisement

This you must avoid dear preacher, avoid it as you will avoid hell fire. It is sad that the propaganda in world has taken its full position in the house of God, setting itself upon the biggest of seats among the men of the altar. Strangely it has gained so much root and has given room for false teachers and prophets to deceive many feeble minds (believers and sinners alike). Christ is not a commercial product that needed to be advertised, He must be preached as Him that was crucified for sinners' pardon, and not a shortcut to quick blessings and prosperity. I know the cross message is not popular and unattractive but what about the man that hung upon it? Is He also not attractive?

We have failed to offer men Christ and thus we offer them other things other than Christ, we offer them miracles, healings, prosperity, breakthrough, freedom, and so on, but not Jesus Christ. Our meetings have majorly been highlighted by cheap claims of supernatural experiences not to bring glory to Christ but to our church and her leader. In it we promise men to come to our church and experience the power of God, but not Christ; how wrong we are – for Christ is the wisdom and the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18,24). I therefore challenge us in these great questions: what power of God are we calling men to see if not Christ? Is anything supernatural than sinners coming to the cross, that is to say passing from death to life (John 5:24)?

With our big banners, posters, fliers, online campaigns, radio promotions, and all our church advert methods, have we succeeded in turning the world upside down? I must remind us that certain men, unlearned and illiterate

preached Christ the crucified Lord under the full unction of the Holy Spirit and they turned ***“the world upside down”*** (Acts 17:6).

Our failure to preach Christ is what has led our sad and sorry world into the crisis in which it finds itself, and we share the greater part of the blame. While pornography is ruining our feeble youth, lust for sex all over the world among the young and old, rape at its worst end, abortions claiming its millions yearly, homosexuality and other abnormal sexual behavior getting the great votes of the sick men of a sick world, violence and terrorism at its height, corruption at the topmost level in public and private governance, and the millionth wickedness that men indulge in daily. Shall we then not cry out against this generation and her many sins? Shall we continue to offer men false peace when we ought to cry out sword? God have mercy! Some years ago, I preached with tears about an eight months old baby who was raped to death in India. Months later, I read in the news of the death of a five months old baby who was raped by her cousin, can our world get sicker? Yet, are we so blind to see the need to preach Christ and Him the crucified? What can we offer men who have gone into the peak of wickedness other than the cleansing blood of the dear Lamb of God?

The preacher must repent, sharpen his knees, and separate himself unto His God in calling men to the cross rather than engaging in cheap advertisement and promotion of himself and his church. Let the preacher humble himself for God to lift him up.

Chapter 9

The Modern Ministry of Success

What makes a ministry successful is not in the stately building or the large congregation to fill, but a broken church under an ever increasing conviction of the Holy Spirit over sin and for sanctification. In a time when all things are heads over heels, even in the church; we have joined the world in adhering to her standard metrics of success, that is to say, ***“in how much we possess”***. I am most shocked when I hear the modern preachers cite examples of ungodly men as successful in their sermons. What a shame! Men who are lost without direction to life (eternal life), men who are God’s enemy, and are set for doom on the day of accountability. How can a godless atheist be a model of success for a godly saint whose real home is not here? Are we no longer strangers and pilgrims here? God must purge us from this worldliness. Did not the Lord say that the worth of a man is not truly measured by what he possesses (Luke 12:15)? Running a rat race for jets, cars, buildings, golf shirts, and sports wears; all which will but perish with its use here on earth; Placing lesser value and attention to laying treasures for ourselves in heaven where moth and rust cannot corrupt it.

Are we not like ‘much-rake’ in John Bunyan’s Pilgrims progress, gathering straws, sticks and dust? Can you say this preacher? ***“Oh deliver me from this much-rake”*** and pray the prayer of another foremost preacher? ***“Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the bread of my judgement (Proverbs 30:8)”***.

That prayer according to Bunyan, is so little used that it is almost rusty, '**give me not riches**': is such a scarce prayer that is only prayed by one in ten thousand, even among the preachers. It was said of **Jonathan Edward** in praying with such heaven mindedness, that he cried that the Lord would "**stamp eternity on his eyeballs**" – do you wonder why he brought so many sinners to Christ in the awakening of 1700s?

Have we not become the rich fool gathering into barns and saying to our soul, eat and be well fed? While I am not against God's material blessing upon your ministry; but is that all that matters? And if God has blessed you, is it not for His kingdom's advancement? I marvel at how we have been so deceived into believing that what makes ministry successful is what the minister can show for it. Oh! Who has beguiled us? The young man **Evan Roberts** had one of the most incredible and successful ministry in modern era, yet humble with little or no possession, this man at twenty-six years turned a whole nation upside down for God in the Welsh revival of the 1904. History will never forget the name Evan Roberts, not because of what he possessed but what he accomplished in God. In Basil Miller's biography of **John Wesley**, it was said of this princely preacher thus: "**Born in a home where the scant necessities of life were luxuries, when he left the world for heavenly scenes of labor, he bequeathed it his possessions – two silver spoons, a silver tea pot, a well-worn frock coat and the Methodist church**". This was the man who spearheaded England's greatest spiritual awakening, yet was so heavenly minded that he had little treasure to stock for himself on earth.

I can go on and on to tell of many other men of like passion who lived fulfilled ministerial life and yet were humble enough in stocking their treasure up above. Time will fail me to talk of **George Muller of Bristol**; the man who by praying raised thousands of children in his orphanage at Bristol, **Charles H Spurgeon**; the reputable Baptist preacher notable for his spirit-filled sermons and for converting

sinner; **Amy Carmichael** the Amma (Mother) of many girls rescued from temple prostitution in India; **John Hyde** that great intercessor; **David Brainerd** the prince of missionaries; and many other fathers and mothers of faith. Whether we agree or not, the true riches is theirs and the poverty is ours, no wonder our world is without direction.

Are we better than Paul who preached the gospel at no cost? Yet sowing his life and all that he had into the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ? Is not all the fruit of such hearty service and devotion written all over the pages of the New Testament? God help our blindness.

Whatever we make of the current state of the ministry, we cannot think clearer and better than the Lord of the ministry; and He has something to say to us: ***“thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17).***

Here is the good man’s counsel to the preacher: ***“Buy of me gold tried in fire, that thou mayest be rich, and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thy eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:18).***

On your knees as you plead for help preacher! That you may be a true servant of Jesus Christ in your responsibility to the sinners and to the saints.

Chapter 10

Preaching an Unknown God

This may sound controversial but sadly true, many (preachers) who handle the vessels in the house of the Lord know not the God of the house, they thus handle it with soiled hands. In the apostate church of Shiloh were two vessels of wrath: Hoph'ni and Phineas, who were ministering to the God they knew not. Unfortunately, their enterprise was frustrated in the end. I am forced to say we have become like the *Athenians* whose worship is to an unknown God; but in our case preaching an unknown God – one whom we claim to know.

The knowledge of God produces the fear of God; which is the beginning of wisdom for the preacher (Proverbs 1:7). I am strongly convinced that most men and women of God knew not God. Yes, we talk about the God of the Bible, we have some head knowledge but do we really know him? Have we come into the overwhelming presence of the majesty who is Holy? Have we seen through His eyes of fire, or beheld His sharp two-edged sword-like tongue, or heard His voice that sounds like many waters? A poor knowledge of the person of God has made us trample upon the Holy, calling the common Holy. Does a son not honor his father and the servant fear his master? Do we honor or fear him? In honor and fear as His son and servant, ought we not with strong tears persuade men to leave the path of death and come to the path of life?

“A son honors his father and a servant fears his master, if I am a father where is my honor, and if I am a master, where is my fear ...” (Malachi 1:7).

Has this lack of the knowledge of God not crippled our ministry to sinners in firm denunciation of sin? Is our lack of exploit in converting sinners to the way of life not attributed to our poor knowledge of the divine? Is it not why we fear sinners and sinful men, and are too weak to point out their faults? Only the preacher who know his God can be strong and do great exploits in converting sinners and turning many to righteousness. (Daniel 11:32).

The foundation of the Lord however stands sure and it has this very seal, God knows they that are His own, let every minister that is named after the name of Christ depart from sin. (2 Timothy 2:18) – By implication, it is not enough for the preacher to claim the knowledge of God but that God gives His seal of approval upon such, as God said of Christ ***“this is my beloved son, in whom I well pleased”*** (Matthew 3:17). Such approval is backed by even the testimony of hell. Such men are not only known in Heaven but also in Hell. The demon in response to the seven sons of Sceva affirms of his knowledge of Christ and of Paul as men with God’s approval, ***“Jesus I know, and Paul I know...”*** (Acts 19:15). Do you have such approval dear preacher?

Many months ago, as I returned back to the local church after a short mission to pray alone; in prayer a word came forth so strong and sharp in my heart, ***“I know you not”*** – I understood the meaning of the word, and with strong tears I pled with the Lord for my life, that having preached to others, I myself should not be a castaway. I knew quite alright the word of the Lord, when He said ***many professing preachers will come in that day saying, did we not cast out devils in your name, we even did miracles and preach in your name, but the Lord will say to them, I know you not*** (Matthew 7:21-23). There is a great danger in the preacher's assumption that he knows God, and of God’s satisfaction with him, while in reality God knows him not. The mere fact that you preach from the Bible, cast out a few demons, occasionally perform miracles, and even manifest certain spiritual gifts does not mean you are His own (or

that you know Him). If Korah, Dathan and Abiram had truly known the God of Moses, they and their company would have been careful of conspiring against the man who had God's seal of approval upon his life. They will say **"Lord, Lord!"**, is that not you, named after the name of the Lord yet filled with the works of unrighteousness? The preacher must again take heed to himself on this matter; he must not assume that all is well with him, he must examine himself daily, whether he is still in faith; whether he is still in the will of the Lord for his life; whether God is really pleased with him or not. Beware!

One of the most fascinating event in the life of **John Wesley** that proved to be the most important of all was his assurance of conversion on May 24, 1738 in Aldersgate. Prior to this time, he had been a missionary to Savannah in the colony of Georgia. He was an ordained minister of the church of England, but had not truly come to the saving grace of Christ – until his encounter with the Moravians on his way back to England; their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, he was never converted. John Wesley would have died an unsaved preacher, and of course we would not have heard of him. This is painfully true of many who are preachers today (**many more have died unsaved preacher**), many have not come into the experience and the knowledge of their savior, the more reason why they cannot call men to repent and come into the ark. **"She was forgiven much, so she loved much"** (Luke 7:47) – I bet that it cannot be said to be true for a soul-thirstless preacher.

One major prayer I am persuaded to pray always with Paul is **"that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"** (Philippians 3:10). Moses cried **"shew me now thy way, that I may know thee"** (Exodus 33:13). May I implore us to go back, and seek our God that we may be found of Him. Ought not a people seek their God in true repentance and plead for a fresh start in His vineyard? May we not be void of understanding to act

on this and return to our God. Then shall we offer a sacrifice of righteousness unto our God, leading men to Calvary's mountain to be cleansed and washed from all sins.

Chapter 11

Hypocrisy

The preacher can put on a show, yet within him, he is dry, empty, and naked. Public ministry can be deceptive and can paint an attractive picture about the preacher. He may be seen as a man of honor; denouncing sins and wickedness, but not so true of his private life, his outward performance does not match his secret life – pious in public duty but not so in his home. The preacher must take heed to himself in being honest and truthful about the recess of his own heart. The art of performance is widely seen on the pulpits today, with big vocabularies, spotless grammatical anecdotes, and scriptural references to match, yet with no life within. Such men are showmen, and in the day when God shall judge the secrets of the hearts of men by Christ Jesus, such men will walk naked and many shall see their shame because they kept not their garments (Revelation 16:15).

White washed sepulchers, outwardly clean but inwardly rotten, this deceitfulness must the preacher avoid – it is the spirit of the Pharisees, religious yet wickedness and evil lurks within in their hearts.

In an age when little emphasis is placed on holiness and purity of life (even in the ministry), the preacher who will labor among sinners must be separate from the world unto God, as God has said: ***“Come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” (2. Corinthians 6:17).***

A guilty gutless sin wallowing preacher cannot perform the duty of converting sinners. This holy convocation stems out of a holy life. The channel for this discharge of Calvary’s

grace must be purged by Calvary's blood; it will be impossible in any other way. As one man said, ***"a holy man is an awful weapon in the hands of a Holy God"***, this is more than true in reconciling sinners unto God.

Who among us preachers can ascend into the hills of the Lord and stand (like Moses) in His holy mountains on the case of sinners except he be clean in hands and conscience (pure heart)? The holy men of old knew this; they dare not touch the unclean thing, else they be accursed.

Dear preacher, would you allow us ten minutes into your private life? Is the man on the pulpit the husband and father at home? Little wonder many preachers' wives and children give little or no respect to them. He is a different man at home - *a first class hypocrite* as a dear brother once expressed. Would you like God to show us the picture of the thoughts of your heart? God help us if we don't vomit or faint.

Are we not like the robin bird in Bunyan's classics *"The pilgrim's progress"*, loved by men because of our public appearance, but when by ourselves drink iniquity and swallow sin down like water? Do we talk about prayer and the need to pray for a great harvest, yet with little or no personal time alone with God pleading the sinners' case? Don't we speak good words but act contrariwise as Jesus said? - ***"these people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me"*** (Matthew 15:8). Let us consider this carefully and ponder on it, knowing that we cannot hide from Him who knows the end from the beginning.

Some years ago, I was given grace by God to address some local pastors in Southern India during a meeting held in remembrance of the demise of a brother who was one of the major church-planters in India. The man sponsored local churches; builded new churches and took care of the pastors' welfare. The Holy Ghost knowing the hearts of these men moved me to ask if any of them in their private

prayer ever prayed for the man's family and not even one of them ever did that. They were deeply convicted, yet they talk of praying for the family. Do they take it to heart? God have mercy.

The desire of every preacher should be not to see himself as men does, but as the Lord who knows the thought of men afar off does. A notable preacher who knew this danger, cried to the Lord, ***“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).*** The preacher must allow the Lord to search his heart, his motivations, and secret ambitions that is unknown to men but to God before whom all things are naked and opened.

The preacher must readily purge himself upon the altar of sacrifice daily, holy and acceptable for the master's use, then can such one bring men to the cross of Jesus Christ for the new birth experience. In answering a question on why we do not have genuine revival, that pure soul Ravenhill said, ***“the channel with which revival should come is blocked”***. Yet for God to move in the affairs of men, especially in converting sinners to the way of righteousness, He needs holy men, who He can baptize with His Holy Spirit, and set aflame with the searching truth of ***the word of life***.

Have you not committed this two evils preacher? Have you not forsaken Christ the fountain of living waters? Have you hewn for yourself cisterns (theologies and doctrines), broken cisterns that cannot bring genuine new birth experience in sinners? The onus is upon us, it's either we repent or we fold our hands lazily while men keeps thronging and falling into ageless eternity of woe without God. Whatever it is, God is closely watching and accordingly shall reward every man as his works shall be. God is not handicapped, in His mercy He will raise better substitutes who will do His ***will***, and are true soldiers of the Cross.

Chapter 12

The Preacher's Motivation

In a dirty age when many have made merchandize of the gospel, and many more youngsters are treading the way of greedy Balaam the son of Bosor. It is not too farfetched to see the resulting decay all around us – with sinners made comfortable as long as they pay their tithes and offering, and it does not matter whether they are set for doom or not. I know a church where prostitutes are celebrated, fraudsters and drug-dealers are honored, and the preacher has not a single message in converting them – they pay their tithes and offering quite alright but they are headed for doom.

The preacher's motive in his duty in converting sinners must be purely based on love. Why are you a preacher in the first place? Our love for Christ and the salvation of sinful men must be the primary drive for getting into the ministry, other than being called by God. The noble martyrs in their love for Jesus sealed their testimony with their own blood, as it is written, ***“they loved not their lives unto death” (Revelation 12:11)***. This pure love flows from the fragrance of the love with which Christ loved sinners in dying and laying of His life for sinful men (***greater love hath not man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)***). Shall we not draw from this, even at the cost of our own blood in bringing sinners unto safety? Let us consider this.

The moment the preacher's motivation is not Christ and an unflinching love for Him, everything about his ministry and duty with respect to converting sinners will be wrong. He must not only love Christ, but also cherish His cross, and

daily must pick up his own cross, dying daily to self; the world; and all the pleasures Hell can throw at his face.

How sad it is, that wrong values are being celebrated in the church circle and so called ministry today? The preacher's motivation must be correct, for if the preacher's motivation is fame and prosperity, he will never succeed in the soul-thirsty neglected duty of converting sinners. He will certainly be barren in that regard.

Sinners don't associate with the right values; I mean the truth pertaining the condition of their souls – anywhere they hear it, they gnash their teeth and inwardly desire to cast a stone upon the preacher unless they are overcome by the convicting power of the Holy Ghost. This was true of Stephen the martyr, a faithful witness of Christ and His cross. In John Wesley's days as a preacher, we were told how on many occasions he was stoned and smitten with clubs by angry mobs – why? Because he plainly spoke about the sinners' woe and God's righteousness in Christ Jesus. Dear preacher, have you been attacked or so angry at by your congregants not for embezzling funds or caught in sin, but for passionately addressing sin and sinners? This is a true litmus test of your ministry to sinners as far as converting them to Christ is concerned.

The preacher must die to his own will and ambitions, and follow after the master's footstep down to gethsemane, kneel where his Master once knelt in agony and tears saying ***“not my will Lord, but thy will be done”***. Though we carelessly recite the Lord's prayer asking that God's will be done, yet we block His hands each time He wants to move in His providence, in the affairs of our lives. In this place of surrender, the man dies to praise, to pride, to self, to criticism, and live only unto God. Onward preacher, down to gethsemane, there must thou die for Christ to truly live in thee. It is a place of surrender and of strong tears; the preacher may lose his friends, the confidence of family and congregants but like a prince he will prevail in converting sinners to life.

Our eyesight must be corrected, our vision and motivations checked by the infallible Word of God. Our focus must shift back to that old rugged cross, and our vision laying great treasures in heaven. With a trembling heart at the prospect of eternity and sinners' woe, the preacher's motivation can be corrected.

Chapter 13

The Preacher's Woe

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore, hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and though givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked ways, to save his life, the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand” (Ezekiel 3:17-18, Ezekiel 33:7-8).

Not warning sinners is highly consequential, the preacher must be aware of this. With holy trembling must he perform his duty as a watchman, warning sinners to repent and depart from their sinful ways. God will require the blood of the sinner at the hand of the preacher, if he fails to warn him. Twice in the book of Ezekiel did God give this verdict, and it is clear to me that God meant it when He said:

“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord. Therefore, thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people ye have scattered flock, and have driven them away, and have not visited them: behold I will visit upon you the evil of your doing saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:1-2).

“The pastors have become brutish, and have not sought the Lord, therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall scatter” (Jeremiah 10:21).

Dear preacher friend, do not lose your own soul, remember how that your Lord, the King of the kingdom to come called and instructed you to call men into His domain, tearfully warning them of their wretchedness and doom, and the tendency of them being hopeless throughout eternity. Have you joined the company of men, of which the scripture described as fellows whose god is their bellies and whose end is destruction?

I am alarmed at how preachers carelessly handle the subject of sin and sinful men; ***“they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly saying peace when there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14)***. Yet fellow preacher, you say to men that hate God, ***“ye shall have peace, and unto everyone that walks after the imagination of their own heart, no evil shall come upon you” (Jeremiah 23.17)***, when in reality God said, they shall have no peace (Isaiah 57:21). Do you still call sinners and wicked men to prayer for blessings and not repentance, though they are cursed already? Such preacher must prepare to meet his God on the day of reckoning to give account for the sinners’ souls lost under his watch because of his smooth non-offensive yet compromising gospel.

I have no intention whatsoever to indict any man in this discourse; but to gear you out of lukewarmness and evil that seem to be permeating your heart, probably because you are afraid of men, or not wanting to lose face with your benefactors, or not wanting to lose your congregants. Is it not better to fall out of favor with them on earth than for them to be lost in eternity? It is sadly true of the times in which we live judging from the infallible word of truth, that men would be lovers of themselves and of pleasure; not given to sound doctrine; and turning their ears away from the truth, and turning unto fables. Who with itching ear heap for themselves lusty men as their teachers. We are aware of the rise of false doctrine circulating the pulpits all around the world, yet such men are accursed children; having eyes full of adultery, and cannot cease from sin,

beguiling unstable souls, with a heart exercised with covetous practices, they have forsaken the right way and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

I warn you and I am still warning you weeping, that you please go back to the cross repenting, taking hold of the blood of Christ shed for the cleansing of your soul and for a fresh start with God.

I must warn all men who handle the word of God carelessly, for they are in direct opposition to God, and have placed themselves in the path of God's flaming anger. You are warned!

Chapter 14

The preacher's Duty

The preacher's duty is to persuade sinners and sinful men to turn to God, otherwise they stand a chance of facing the wrath of the eternal Judge. His failure or irresponsibility to point this out, spelling it out clearly will lead to no other thing but a double disaster. One, the sinner is at the greater risk of being lost forever through eternity without the presence of God. Two, the preacher man is in danger of losing his reward and worse still the blood of such sinner(s) hangs upon his neck and shall be required by the infallible Judge.

With plea, strong crying and tears must the preacher warn the sinners. ***Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men.*** Just as Noah, a preacher of righteousness preached for a hundred and twenty years warning the wicked men of his age to repent and of the impending doom that hangs over their souls; he must have used all methods available to persuade them, and with importunity remind men of the danger of falling into the hands of the Holy God if they repent not and turn to God. We must not fail to sound the trumpet and warn men of the impending danger that their current course leads to. Sinners must be called by the name ***sinner*** without mincing words, yet out of pure motivation and love to see their soul saved. Such individuals must be stopped in their tracks before they end in destruction.

The preacher must not assume or presume based on church activities, outward mannerism, and appearance alone that a man is free from sin. I have seen many wonderful things on the pulpit today, I have seen sinful men

lead churches and ministries, though I fear and cry within my soul for such men to be truly converted and be changed by the Almighty God. Thus, the preacher cannot handle the matter of sin superficially, he has no right to preach on any subject when he has not exhausted all that God has to say in dealing with sinners and sinful nature. There is no greater weight upon the neck of the sinner, not his material poverty but his spiritual loss; not his physical sickness but the damnation of his soul; not his troubles but the yoke of sin with its guilt, condemnation, and penalty. Therefore, the preacher must not shy away from treating this subject with fear and trembling, for nothing seem more dangerous than a soul lost forever in a place where its worms dieth not.

On the subject of assumption: let not the preacher think that all is well among his own parishioners. The issue of secret and besetting sin must be addressed; first in his life and in his members'. He must prepare them a bride of Christ without spot or wrinkles, that he may be accepted and his service acceptable unto the Lord of glory on the day of His Holy Judgement. Let us remember He cometh quickly to reward every man according to the works of his hands (Revelation 22:12). I fear the wrath of the King when all men shall stand before the judgement bar of the Lord, so must you dear friends.

The preacher must fearfully obey the Lord (Isaiah 40:8), calling unto men to take their place in the ***Ark of Salvation***; for if we who are redeemed scarcely be saved, what shall be the lot of sinners and sinful men when the day comes that the heavens be set on fire, with all its elements burning with fervent heat? What manner of men then shall we be in the day when God shall judge all the wickedness of the hearts of all men? What shall men say on that day, sinners and preachers alike? We must deal with this truth or be judged by the truth.

Chapter 15

Beyond Preaching

The preacher man is far responsible to sinners and sinful men beyond preaching and addressing matters of sin. He must take another crucial role, he must labor for the souls of sinner as though his life depends on it. The preacher is a laborer and not a supervisor, he is an answer to the desire of the Lord (*Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:37-38)*). He must labor for soul with strong tears and passion until God gives His blessings. Such labor is hard to find today, for many have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness and have left the harvest to fall and rot.

To get a sinful man to be truly converted in the word of Bro. Paul Washer, the preacher must see to it that his knees are bleeding. He must pray ceaselessly for the conversion of sinners; the preacher must recognize this early that the true work of grace comes as answer to the effectual fervency of a praying preacher. It was said of **William Booth** that before he founded "*the salvation army*" his church was known as the "*conversion shop*"; this do sinners attest to, for he was a broken man with strong prayer burden for the sinners. Barren in soul conversion preacher? Try tears!

The preacher must know this truth, that not praying for sinners is a great sin; as in the words of a great saintly preacher and prophet of old Samuel, "*God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to praying for you*" (*1. Samuel 12:22*). This my dear friends is for a backslidden and sin soaked rebellious people called Israel; rejecters of

God's leadership and kingship and have provoked the Lord of Hosts to jealousy.

Dear preacher, join Paul in travail until Christ be formed in the sinner, even as Zion travailed in birth and brought forth her children, and the sinner is born of God.

Knowing the woes and dangers in not warning and praying for sinners, the preacher must make up the hedge and stand in gap (Ezekiel 22:30). He must put himself before the Lord on behalf of the sinners, he must like Moses of old lay hold of God for a people marked for destruction until mercy overturns the judgement of God upon such men. The preacher must stir himself and lay hold of God (Isaiah 64:7). Behold the lamentation in the tone with which God sadly speak of our shabbiness in pleading for the sinner, ***“and he saw that there was no man, and he wondered that there was no intercessor” (Isaiah 59:16)*** – one with strong burden as of his Lord pleading for sinners. I must establish this truth brothers, no sinner is won in preaching if not first won in prayer, our praying must precede our preaching if we must bring sinners from death to life. ***Charles Haddon Spurgeon*** under whose preaching more people were graciously converted than perhaps any pastor over the centuries, it was said that he prayed ceaselessly before preaching that he would not be able to walk to the platform without the help of his deacons, though he never made an altar call.

In a prayerless age when secret intercession for sinners have been neglected (a duty left for a few), and the primary prayer for most people in prayer is everything other than travail in prayer for souls. There is no greater honor, no greater duty, no greater act of heroism displayed than a preacher gaining his brother or sister in prayer and his preaching. Should he not engage the heaven for the souls of men? Let him consider this.

Chapter 16

Preaching Under Unction

In Leonard Ravenhill's Classic "*why revival tarries*", his first address was to the preachers thus "*with all thy getting get unction*".

The preacher's License to preach is the anointing of the Holy Spirit – Jesus Christ told the disciples to tarry until they were endued with power from on high and then go unto all the earth preaching (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8). Before preaching they must tarry to be anointed by the Holy Ghost. Are you surprised that even our Lord and Christ had to be anointed by the Holy Spirit before He began to preach (***How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil: for God was with him (Act 10:38)***)? If this holds for the master, shall it not much more hold firm for the servants?

While Christian education has its place, we however know from experience that this is not what produce a great man in the hand of God. In our desire to acquire Christian knowledge, doctrines, and theology, may I say dear preacher; you must seek unction with your life. A dead sinner can only be awakened under the full unction of the Holy Spirit. Our unctionless sermons, and its many casualties, are they not all written over our congregation, ministries and society? Unctionless preaching is not only dangerous but stressful, it leads to the preacher's frustration and ultimate sliding into human philosophy and psychology; with which many have tried to run the modern church to the sinners' woe and the preacher's doom. The preacher's preaching to win the sinner cannot be with

enticing words of human wisdom but of demonstration of the Spirit and power of God – do you suppose when David Wilkerson went into the hell-holes of New York City to rescue those teenage gang boys and prostitute girls, whose entire life is soaked in violence, alcohol, drugs, sex, and brutal murders, that he went in there with polished English in a sleek suit? He would have died before anything called ***teen Challenge*** could ever exist. But this brother went in the full power of the Holy Ghost; that the Vilest of the Vile sinner ***Nicky Cruz*** became a Christian and an Evangelist preaching and testifying of the love of Christ across the world.

The preacher's struggle in bringing sinners to the cross stems from a lack of unction, he lacks the top quality enablement – since the sinner can never be converted except under the conviction of the Holy Spirit – (***when He is come, he will reprove the world of sin. John 16:8***). It is imperative that the preacher operate under full influence and unction of the divine Spirit. Christ is the true vine and we are the branches, as the branch cannot produce fruit except it abides in the vine (John 15:4), so is the preacher both helpless and hopeless in the work of converting sinners except he does it in full cooperation with the Holy Spirit – he must submit to the Spirit that brings conviction. I believe the lack of unction turns the preacher into formalities instead of sticking his guts to the preaching of the cross until the Holy Ghost comes and breath on it. As a young missionary in Southern India, I desired to see great fruits of hard labor, I kept on going after it, spending hours before the throne of grace, laboring and begging the Lord for the salvation of souls. I sought it with tears and great brokenness, I kept going back to Him for help. He was beyond faithful to us in those days as He opened hearts to the gospel. I must say that there is this temptation in those early days to want to display or show the power of God and not preach Christ, the heathen loves that, but we are responsible to warn and preach Christ to sinners that they may come into the fellowship of the sons of God. Did we

pray for the sick? Yes, we did. Did God heal them? Yes, He did. But that was not our primary message – it was for them to come to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

The preacher must thus seek the anointing or die seeking it. One famous man **John Knox**, who was tired of the tyranny of an evil Queen, a blood thirsty establishment church, and an apostate nation cried out, ***“give me Scotland or I die”***, he sought the divine empowerment and God by him brought such a mighty reformation both to the church and nation. I dare say this in the light of eternity that, ***“the Lord is far more willing to bless the preacher with the anointing of the Holy Spirit than the preacher is willing to receive”***, but he must show a holy desperation to this divine need. Speaking of holy desperation in seeking the anointing of the Holy Spirit, it was said of **William Dumas** the famous South African Baptist preacher that he spent twenty-one days and twenty-one nights in a cave with his bible pleading with God for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. His was such a daring venture, an art of desperation couple with heroism that never went unrewarded, for of a truth he was anointed.

Shall we then not follow after the example of holy men who have blazed the trail in the awesome art of seeking the unction of the Holy Spirit, and brought down power from on high by their importunity and desire for the realities of heaven and ultimately to see the sinners brought to Christ?

Here is the word of the Lord to the preacher: ***“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6)***. Sinners may not yield by our knowledge of the Bible or even sound preaching, but this is very sure, mountains yield to the anointing of the Spirit – even so the vilest of sinners to the word of God preached under the full unction of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 17

Consecration

Consecration is the key to becoming anything in the hands of God. If any man stands in the office of a preacher and is not consecrated unto his God, such can never succeed in the power of God to bring men into the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“If any man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work” (2. Timothy 2:21).

When a man separates himself unto God in holiness, God separates and invades such life with His glory. For the preacher to fully operate in full capacity as an oracle of God, he must draw close to God. The closer he gets to God, the higher his hunger and desire for more sanctification, the more he hates sin and with strong passion war against it in prayer and preaching. God will not deny such desire, as it is written, **“blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).** Also, He promised to pour out water upon him that is thirsty, and flood upon the dry ground (Isaiah 44:3). The preacher who will completely surrender to God in doing His will by calling sinners to safety will surely be met by God in divine sustaining grace for holiness and sanctification.

“The price for consecration is absolute surrender.”

Paul, a man who by far did more exploit for Christ in bringing sinners to the cross, though a late comer, consecrated his whole life to the Lord. He could have become any other thing; he had a great prospect, he was a trained lawyer, one with vast mind and culture, yet laid he down his ambitions, dreams, passions, prospects, and his all at the feet of Jesus Christ. Three lonely years in the desert of Arabia, he separated himself unto God. In bonds and chains, in peril of men and beast, Paul gave his all to his Master. God in turn took hold of his life; made him an effectual soul winner and gave him the greatest revelation known to man, the power of the Cross of Jesus Christ. Caught up to the third heavens, he saw unspeakable things, Paul trusted God and God trusted Paul. Paul was faithful to Christ and Christ never failed to show Himself much more faithful. With Christ, Paul's relationship was of ownership, he was bondservant of Christ – a love slave to God. Towards Christ, Paul had an unflinching love, not moved by demons, terror, and hell; he was love driven, proclaiming the gospel at the peril of his own soul. Greatly used by God, Paul's life was a life of consecration and devotion unto Christ. It was a life of sacrifice,

“But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (2. Corinthians 6:4-10).

God demands our all, not a part of us. If any preacher will truly follow Christ, such must deny himself and pick up his cross daily following the Lord. A tearful experience, yet full of reward and blessings.

God is not a respecter of any man and with Him is no favoritism, to them whose heart rest on Him, He will show himself strong. What God did with ordinary men like **Samuel Morris** and **David Brainerd** is a testament to the amazing grace and power released when a man completely devotes himself to the service of God. When all his life, will, wishes, and desires are all embedded in God – such men, like Paul have been crucified to the world and the world to them, and with God are giants and mighty in bringing down the power of ages to come. They stand tall above sin and Satan, they with God, wrought righteousness: bound and lawful captives of sin loosed they, turning the vilest of sinners into saint. By God they bring men to the knowledge of truth.

Lackest thou anointing and power to bring men to the cross of Jesus Christ? Then thou must search inward if thine all has been given a living sacrifice to be used by the Lord.

Consecration though very scarce in modern theology and rarely emphasized upon in this age; yet, one who will succeed under God in preaching the cross of Jesus Christ must readily give himself to a life sold out to the Lord. The apostles had been with Christ, they had given their all to follow the Lord, they had sat with Him and learnt from Him, and by the Holy Spirit they could proclaim to the sinners to repent and be converted. Such life never lacks the glory of God. Moses a man who so completely soaked himself with God, was full of God, forty days and forty nights was he alone with God, such that God robbed His glory upon him. There is no shortcut to experiencing the divine grace and glory that makes sinners and sinful men quake, other than a life of devotion and consecration to the Holy God. The preacher must not only desire to pay this great price but

must commit his life to it – it is the surest pathway to having power with God.

How great and beautiful it is when a man totally yields and commits himself to God, to do God's bidding whatever it costs, to go wherever He sends and to do as He says. With such is the secret of the Lord, and as an arrow is in the hand of a mighty man, so is such in the hands of the mighty God in bringing men unto salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you still holding something back? That which you will not let Jesus touch? Bring that your Isaac upon the altar of consecration and see if God will not make more out of your life than you can do all by yourself. It is a call to as many who want to see men transformed by the power of Christ in this generation.

May we not be faulty in our service to God.

Consecration Poem

When a man gives all that he has:
his life, love, ambitions, secret desires, longings,
and all his inward attachment to the world.

The man dies:
He died to all his fancy lifestyle, his fat-healthy meals,
and all that makes his life tick before his demise.

The demise of the man is felt by all:
friends will mourn him, they have lost a company;
wife and children will decry his loss, for they have lost a darling.

To the world:
a dear friend departed to the world unknown to man,
a realm of reality where immortal men are made as god on earth.

The man himself attends his own funeral,
he watches closely how the dust cover his feeble flesh,
while he laid helpless, never to live again.

Now a new man is born:
the old man had died with all that men, the world, and the devil offers;
A vessel for the Master's use he becomes.

Chapter 18

Must Suffer Persecution

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2. Timothy 3:12).

In relation to the preacher’s duty – all that will preach godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The validity of this statement is born out of the testimonies of many foremost preachers who ran their race and finished their course on high. Men who through persecution extended the kingdom of God and bought for themselves incorruptible crowns (2. Timothy 4:7-8). One motivation however which the preacher must draw from is in the testimony of one of such men, Paul and his many persecutions, his triumph, and victories through Christ Jesus:

“195 stripes by the Jews, thrice beaten with rod, once stoned and left for death, thrice suffered shipwreck, in perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils of his countrymen, in perils of the heathen, in perils of the city, in perils of the wilderness, in perils of the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness ...” (2. Corinthians 11:23-27).

Let not the preacher expect such apostolic exploit except he be willing to go through such apostolic suffering – as I have often expressed about this generation of preachers, we want the apostolic results, but not in the apostolic way.

Never do we want their sufferings and persecutions, their nakedness and hunger, their shame and beatings, and their many troubles, but we desire the signs and the wonders – we will never get it! Apostolic grace comes with apostolic suffering, are you willing to drink that cup?

The early brothers (Apostles), suffered for preaching Christ, many times they were beaten; which they count for joy to be partakers of the suffering of Christ, many times imprisoned, some stoned to death, yet succeed they in the power of Christ in bringing sinners into the glorious liberty of the Son of God. Are we better than Paul? Have we more vision? Have we more spiritual gifts? Have we more passions? Do we labor more? Did we see Christ more often than he did? Did we suffer more? Whatever the answer may be, God help us that we be not condemned. I once thought if Paul had a modern pen and other resources at his disposal, he would have written more epistles!

If you think becoming a preacher will guarantee you the best life, good comfort and a nice future, then you are not ready to be a preacher of the cross of Jesus Christ. Such men may not have the necessities of life but they fare quite well. One man (John the Baptist) lost his head for preaching the truth, do you think sinners and angry mobs will spare yours? Another man (a prophet of old) had to make a run for his head because a wicked queen had sworn to chop it off his neck for preaching against Idolatry and converting a nation back to God. In ***John Foxe's*** classic of the ***“Christian Martyrs of the World”***, we saw how godly preachers who stood for the cross of Christ were imprisoned; burnt at the stake; fed to wild beasts; A certain Bishop of Toulouse seized for preventing the oracle from speaking was fastened by feet to the tail of a bull and ran through the steps of the temple until his head pops open and his brains fell out, and many other heinous means of punishing Christian and preachers alike. If these holds true, then they which shall truly and passionately preach godly in Christ shall suffer persecutions: a host of attack from the pit of

hell, a raging fury of angry sinners and of course other religion and its leaders – since he is preaching with tears, passion, and anointing, he is a formidable weapon of war in crushing sin and bringing sinners to Christ.

The preacher facing such series of persecution must remember his Lord and Master, whom he called the author and the finisher of his faith; how that Christ suffered persecution in the hands of sinful men, put to death for sinners by sinners, who gave the pre-consolation thus ***“be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)***; though the preacher may face oppositions from men and demons, he must like Paul glory in his infirmities.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised them that love him” (James 1:12).

Knowing this truth and the blessedness attached, the preacher must not shrink, or stop warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come, knowing that the same affliction is wrought in his brethren who are in the world.

Final Thoughts

It takes a holy man to convert a sinner. Such man having separated himself to God in holiness feels the heartbeats of God to save sinners, and gears himself to this great service. He may not be popular or may even be unknown, but he is a powerful threshing instrument in the hands of a Holy God in bringing sinners to safety. The man of God must separate himself to God in holiness to feel the heartbeat of God for sinners.

Holy men are ceaseless soul winners. Having been a partaker of the holy nature of the Holy God, they seem to have God kind of hatred for sin and will do anything to see sin exterminated in the life of sinners. Such men labor in prayer, and preach tirelessly until sinners comes to the place of birth. He seeks no glory, no accolade or applause of men, but the glory of God in bringing sinners to Christ in his own congregation. Any preacher who thinks holiness is not attainable is either ignorant of the word of God or not called - for it is written: ***"as he who has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation" (1. Peter 1:15)***. God who calls the preacher is Holy and He is asking him to simply be. When I see young preachers today running up and down with their superficial spirituality in the exhibiting or showing of certain spiritual gifts (commonly tongues and prophecy) but with a crippled Christian experience; It grieves me and I tell them this truth, ***"the number one evidence that you are ever filled with the Holy Spirit is that you live a holy life"***. How can the spirit in you be clean and you unclean - how can he be holy and you be filthy? God cannot be mocked; we must either repent or He dispose us. On this subject of holiness and separation, God who has not called us unto uncleanness but to holiness will deploy all the resources of heaven to aid the preacher in dealing with sinners. The preacher must thus thoroughly

search his own heart and look inwards, shake off the dust of corruption and filthiness, and must run to the blood of Jesus for purging unto sanctification.

Message to the younger preacher

Sit down and let God be through with you. In a time when everyone seems to be doing something, starting a ministry and up and down goes they, you must sit. ***“The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool” (Psalm 110:1).*** I have found this scripture very interesting and deep; the Lord had to sit, so must you. The younger preacher must sit and learn from God, he must labor in prayer until unction is released from above in recognition of the sinners’ need of salvation. He must take to heart all these lessons and return back to the preaching of the old rugged cross. Let the young men learn from the failure of the elders. He must give himself to the knowledge of God’s dealing with our fathers and with that, rebuild the old ruins and the desolations, returning to the ancient path.

Beyond the doctrinal lines and differences, Christ must be preached. The preacher, if at all have preached Christ correctly will see a fruit of repentance and reformation among his parishioners.

He must beware of worldliness. Although I am not so shocked at the downward spiral journey of many once gospel-centric preachers into Egypt, I must say it is one that weakens my heart. One man Demas took such journey and ruined his life at Thessalonica. Let the young preacher learn from Demas; let him be warned by the fall of Balaam.

The young preacher must beware of seduction, heresy, and doctrines of devils which seem to be all over the place now. Let him search the truth of the word of God, and by

exercising great discernment separate himself from such doctrine.

The scripture is the only true basis and final authority over every matter.

Finally

Let us carefully consider this subject in the light of eternity, and our eyes fastened on the judgement seat of Christ. Let us tremble at the word of God, lest we be damned by the word. We all share a blame in the moral decline of our societies and nations, we must repent and return back to the rock from which we were cut.

The sinner needs no formal or informal method of prayer; at the recognition of his faults and the disposition of his own soul lifts up his hands and cry out to Christ for his own soul - such work is truly gracious and is wrought by the Holy Spirit. Sinners' prayer does not save sinners; it is Jesus Christ that does. The preacher must offer sinners Christ not a ritualistic prayer that amount to nothing - there is no shortcut to salvation of a soul.

Dear preacher, salvation is by faith and faith alone in the finished work of Christ, a product of grace, it cannot be manipulated or manufactured by any human gimmick or method.

I am of the generation that dare to trust the God of the Bible; and of men of similar passion few centuries away from us, men like Paul the Apostle, Charles G. Finney, David Brainerd, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Amy Carmichael, Praying Hyde, Hudson Taylor, Samuel Morris and the list goes on and on - men and women who through faith subdued kingdoms, and brought sinners out of eternal misery into the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

God will do greater works in our time and give us back this generation. Amen.

