

Free in Christ

by George Verwer

The sermon calls believers to prioritize Christ above worldly concerns and to embrace the freedom and victory found in Him.

Duration: 50:07

Scripture: Psalm 51:17, Matthew 6:33, John 14:15, 2 Timothy 2:5, James 4:8, 1 John 2:3-4

Topics: "Christian Living", "Materialism"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of living a life of love, as expressed in the epistle of John. He mentions the limited time available to convey his message and expresses gratitude for a tape library that allows people to listen to sermons repeatedly. The speaker shares the impact of a sermon by Billy Graham in his own life and encourages the audience to strive to live like Jesus. He also addresses the issue of materialism in the church and the negative perception it creates among non-believers. The sermon concludes with a reminder to be committed to God and to walk as Jesus walked, as stated in 1 John 3:18.

Transcript

I'm just going to have the testimony of one brother who I've lived with for ten months. Because I've lived with him for ten months, I know that what will come from him will not be just words. Because I must confess that I'm someone who has been confused over the battle of words in years gone by, and have met many who talked and few who walked.

But I've lived very close to this brother, practically on top of him, the past nine months as we've just stuck together, as is our policy not to work individually. But rather follow what we see in the scripture and working two by two, at least. And so I'd like George Miley to come and to bring a word of testimony as to what God did in his life over this past year or two.

He was in seminary in America, wouldn't like me to say it, but about to graduate number one in his higher, in his whole class. He had everything he wanted in the normal, nice, acceptable way of doing things, and then God moved in. I'd like him to tell you a few words about it.

George Miley. Well, as George said, I'm sure there are many here who could share with you things that are even more vital than what God did in my life. But I will just say that a year ago today, I was finishing up another year in training for the mission field.

I was in theological school, and the Lord had been striving with my heart over a period of many months. And I guess we can sum it all up by saying that although I was preparing for the mission field, and although I was looked upon by my contemporaries and others as being pretty far along spiritually, the thing that God was speaking to my heart about was the fact that I was still in the world. I was born again, and I committed my life to Christ.

But if I really examined my heart, I had to admit that the thing that I really wanted most in life was the praise of man. And the very thing that I was striving for, and the thing that consumed most of my time, and the thing that determined the decisions that I made was what other people were thinking, and a desire to attain the status and the acceptability that come in so many ways, in so many subtle but accepted ways in our evangelical world today. Well, I don't know exactly what it was that started me around and turned me around, but I do remember hearing someone say one time that we have a lot of people in these days who know a lot about the Pauline epistles, and we have hundreds of books written on the subject, and we have many competent men who can expound the Bible, but where are the Apostle Pauls? And I had studied Hebrew and Greek, I had learned how to preach a three-point message, I had learned how to diagram the epistles in the Greek, but where were the Apostle Pauls? Where was the Apostle Paul in my life? Where was that thing in my life that gloried in tribulation? Where was that thing in my life that longed to suffer for Christ? Where was that job in my life that would not allow me to sleep because millions and millions and millions of people were going into eternal hell without ever hearing of Christ? And so the Lord began to work and showed me that the greatest thing that can happen to anyone really is not to achieve the top in the evangelical world, but the greatest thing that can happen to anyone is to come to that point when Jesus Christ is really first.

That point when everything else goes and nothing is left but Christ. So by the grace of God, I ended up on that plane that came over from America. And if there's only one thing that I can say today, it's this.

That if this group is like most groups in our churches today, there are many people here who are still in bondage. The Lord Jesus Christ said, If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. But there are many people in our churches today who are not free.

They're born again. They know what it's like to fellowship with Christ. But the things of this world have slowly, subtly, but surely enslaved them.

Their spirits are restless. Their souls long for that which they've tasted of, but have never really come into the fullness of. And the thing that tears at my heart today is that by the grace of God, many of us might come to that point when nothing means anything but Jesus Christ.

And the will of God is our breath and our life and the only cry of our hearts. Heavenly Father, we thank and praise Thee for this opportunity to look into Your Word. We know every opportunity to look into Your Word is something that millions around the world have never had.

And we pray that You would bring it to pass according to Your grace. We thank Thee, Lord Jesus. We give Thee praise and glory.

Speak, O Lord. Help us to forget the speaker. Forget the foreign accent.

Forget, perhaps, things in his personality, O God, that are hindrance. And get in the way of what You want to say. And enable us to look into Your Word.

In Jesus' name, amen. I'd like you to open your Bible to the Epistle of John, 1 John, chapter 2. 1 John, chapter 2. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whosoever keepeth his word in him, merely is the love of God perfected. Hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith, he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk even as he ought.

Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye have heard from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you, because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

He that saith, he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes.

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one.

I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lusts of the flesh, and the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. What a passage of Scripture this is. There are not many I have ever met that are willing to literally live according to the first epistle of John.

Some years ago I began to study this epistle, and to read it over and over again, and the more I read it, the more convinced that I was far from it. This revolution of love that is expressed in page after page, in verse after verse, of this epistle of the beloved John, is a message that not many want to take seriously in our day. I want us to look at these verses.

We haven't got very much time, and I can't begin to express what's on my heart in just a half an hour, or even an hour. And that's why I praise God for Brother Alec Brackett and his tape library that's here in full force. And if God in any way has spoken to your heart through these messages, you can get another dozen of them after the meeting, or at least a few, and he'll send you the other dozen when you get home.

And you can listen to them again and again and again. The sermon that probably has made the most impact on my own life is a sermon given by Billy Graham in 1957 in the Urbana Convention, and I've

listened to it more than 15 times. And every time I listen to it, I go down again.

Because it seems that when God does speak through a man or through a message, the wise thing is to get more, that God might continue to speak. And I know every time I listen to the men of God who have made an impact on my life, such as Billy Graham, Alan Redpath, and a few others, it's hard. It's hard on the flesh.

And when I was at Moody Bible Institute and they had a study flow of these kind of speakers, well, I didn't breathe easy very much. And I just couldn't understand how so many of the students seemed to be able to listen to it without any effect on their lives. I just never could understand that.

I'll never forget having lunch once with Mr. Redpath in Chicago. And I told him, I said, you know, when I go to one of your morning meetings there in Moody Church, I can't come back anymore the rest of the day. I said, you hit me so hard in the morning.

I get so challenged, so stirred, so broken, that the only thing I can do the rest of the day is pray and go out and try to lead men by His Spirit to Jesus Christ. I can't come back and sit through another meeting and hear it all over again and be condemned some more. So it is when we hear the Word and God challenges our heart.

If we don't go out and put it into practice and obey it, then we come back again. It's to our own condemnation. And soon sermons no longer edify us.

They only condemn us and drive us deeper and deeper into discouragement. That's where some of us are in the evangelical church today. And one of the most deadly things we can do is not respond to the light that God has given us.

That's why I believe it's very dangerous to go around judging others. And if you go back to your church now or back to some of your friends and you start judging, you better be very careful. Because they haven't had, perhaps, I don't know, the light that you have had even this weekend.

And it could be that that person who seems so inferior to you might be way beyond you as far as God's concerned. Because they're living up to the light they have more than you are living up to the light you have. That's why to me Bible school students are really in trouble.

Really in trouble. And I tell you before you go through Bible college, you better count the cost because you're going to get a lot of light. And if you don't come out as a flaming brand for God, you're going to face it at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ.

Those of you who have been on OM, you've heard the messages, you've heard the tapes, you've read the books, you've seen God work. And now you've slowed down a little bit. You're marching time a little bit, so to speak.

You better be careful. And from the epistle of 1 John we receive a great beam of light. May we respond to it this afternoon.

We see how God addresses us here through this epistle with the words, My little children, my little children. We all like to think we're growing up, don't we? We all like to feel we're mature. And we're all going to get our couple of years of Bible training and then we're going to go off as mature missionaries and

accomplish great things for God.

And it doesn't quite work that way. May God give us the grace, all of us, young and old, to walk all the days of our life with a childlike, teachable, humble, broken spirit. This is what's pleasing unto God.

Not how many tracts you can give out. Not how many OM crusades you can go on. Not how many sermons you can preach.

But do you have a broken and a contrite spirit? But the word of God says, I will draw nigh unto him who prays with a loud voice. No. I will draw nigh unto him who gives out literature.

No. I will draw nigh unto him who... No, no, no. I will draw nigh unto him who has a broken spirit and a contrite heart, or a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

And this is what we see again and again in the word of God. And so we address my little children. These things write unto you that ye sin not.

This is God's plan for us. God's plan is a victorious life. And we see this written through this whole chapter in the word of God.

Again and again you'll notice it. Notice where he says a word to the young men. Verse 14.

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Can you say that? You are strong? Of course. In the Lord, Paul writing to Timothy said, Be strong.

How? In the grace. That's in Christ Jesus. If you're strong in yourself, you're surely weak as far as his grace is concerned.

You know, we can produce so much of a duplication of the Christian life through our own temperament. For instance, if you're an extrovert, a person who's very outgoing, then to give out literature, to bang on doors, and to engage in certain phases of Christian activity will not be very hard for you. And so you'll be able to very easily produce a carbon copy of this in the flesh without any help from the Lord or his grace.

I know because I've done it. But if you're an extrovert, it's going to be another thing to learn what it is to be quiet, to learn what it is to pray in silence, to learn what it is to be meek and humble and lowly of heart, and all those things, especially patience, long-suffering, forbearance. That's going to be another story.

And so the tendency and the strategy of the devil will be to push you along the line of least resistance. So he'll make you or allow you to become a salad in the flesh, and you'll get very, very busy, and you'll do this and you'll do that, you'll go here and go there, and you'll be first one to line up for Operation Mobilization. But you'll never come out a mature man of God because you've allowed Satan to simply take the road of least resistance in terms of your temperament.

You're going to face God for that. That's what he wants to do to that extrovert, to that outgoing person, to that young man who opens his mouth too much, and whose mouth sometimes runs faster than his brain, is to slow him down and break him down and humble him and crush him until he knows what it is to be meek and mild and lowly of heart. He'll still use that zeal, but it'll be tempered off.

It'll be balanced off through the Holy Spirit to become a mature man in fullness of stature. On the other hand, if you're more of an introvert, you're quiet. The thought of going to the door is almost repulsive to you.

You're sure that's not your calling. You'd better read the New Testament. You're sure your ministry is somewhere else.

And so you soon take the line of resistance, least resistance, according to your temperament, and you'll find a nice quiet job where you won't have these other things, and where your shy and your mild temperament will be able to work. Now, let me insert here, generally God does call us into something that we are most equipped for in terms of our temperament. He doesn't just crush our natural temperament, but he wants to balance it.

You know, the man who probably taught me more about door-to-door, or at least one of the men, he wrote one of his master's degree theses on door-to-door, is an introvert from the word go. Shy, quiet, and yet he's probably knocked on more doors for Jesus Christ than any of us here. He learned how to preach in the open air through memorizing phrases in Spanish.

In three years, he was speaking fluent Spanish. He ended up my professor of Spanish at Moody Bible Institute. And yet he was an introvert, he was shy, he was quiet.

And I believe this is God's plan for victory. To balance out our temperament, and might we learn it. That we might be strong in the grace, not in human strength, not according to human ability, but strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, as it says here.

And the word of God abideth in you. We'll get back to that later. And you have overcome the wicked one.

There it is, victory. You have overcome the wicked one. In verse 13, the same thing.

I write unto you young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. Is there such a thing as a victorious life? If not, what are these words doing here? In this one chapter? Let us go on now. Let me get back to the beginning of the chapter.

Because we could spend the next two days on the first three words, my little children. There's a whole stream of verses come running into my mind, so you'll have to forgive me sometime. I don't always get through the passage.

Let us go on. My little children, these things write unto you that ye sin not. There's God's picture for victory.

And we've seen it again in verse 13 and 14. But he doesn't leave us there. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

You know, there's my only hope. My only hope. Because I'm a sinner.

I'm still a sinner. And I still sin. And some people perhaps believe that they don't sin.

They must have a very fine definition of sin. But I can't say that. In fact, I read in John, if any man say he doesn't sin, he deceiveth himself.

You know, I believe with all my heart God doesn't want me to sin. I believe with all my heart there is a way of victory. But if I do fall, even if it be for a moment, even if it be in the mind, what does it say? There's an advocate.

I've got an advocate. You've got one too, if you know Jesus Christ. If you sin, you have that advocate.

In John 1.9, we confess our sin. He's faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Now you say, well this is so basic.

My, we've heard this so long. I know you've heard it a long time. That's the pity.

Because I find young people everywhere burdened by sins of last year, of two years ago, of one week ago. I find them allowing themselves to be discouraged and defeated by sin, by mistakes, by things that happened years ago. And all the time I receive letters.

I counsel with people. And they ask me, well do you think God can really forgive that? I believe with all my heart that when we repent and the precious blood of Jesus Christ covers that sin, it's gone. It's gone, gone, gone, gone, gone.

Do you believe that? If you don't, you call my Savior a liar. If you say that you've repented of sin and you've confessed it and the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed it and you keep bringing it back, you're calling Jesus a liar and that isn't very good either. I heard one man of God once say that if that sin comes up again, though you've forsaken it, and there's a difference between real repentance and what I call cheap repentance, you've truly forsaken it and you believe God for his cleansing, but somehow through some subtle strategy of Satan you trip again.

I believe as far as God's concerned, that's the first time you've ever done it in the sight of God. That's right. And I know 98% of the people I've ever met have some sort of besetting sin, something that keeps tripping them, keeps getting them.

Now I want to tell you if that goes under the blood this afternoon and it comes up again tomorrow, that's the first time it's ever come in the sight of God. Why don't we come to reality, face up to what we are, and stop trying to pretend, and believe God to cleanse those false motivations, those wrong desires, those actions, whatever it might be, and really believe it with all of our heart. Yes, we have an advocate.

We had an advocate. We had a little problem in Bombay some time ago. That was an illegal matter.

And oh how we praised God. He brought to our rescue an advocate, a lawyer. He was British, he was the chief magistrate of Bombay for 20 years.

And he took on our little case free of charge. Not a penny. You know this is a wonderful thing.

The Lord Jesus Christ comes to your rescue without any charge. It'll only cost you your sin, that's all. We have an advocate with the Father.

And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And right there we could bring in an evangelistic challenge and take the next three hours. But we'll have to wait to another year.

Sins, the whole world. God's soul of the world, he gave his only begotten Son. Whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

There's a lot of people trying to find out whether I'm a Calvinist or an Arminian. It's amazing. This little controversy that we keep beating our brains out about.

I had a group of pastors at a luncheon here in London a few years ago, about 110 of them. I was speaking to them, and then I gave them an opportunity for questions. And one very bold man got up, he said, Are you a Calvinist? And I could tell that he was.

And I said, Brother, I'm a Calvinized Arminian. I believe with all my heart in the sovereignty of God, probably more than most, as far as I see it from the Bible. I've never read Calvin's Institutes yet.

I believe in the sovereignty of God with all my heart. But I also believe that God has given you and I a free will. You were created in his image.

And to be created in his image, you had to have a will and a freedom to act. There's too many people going around blaming God for that which he should not be blamed for. I believe God so loved the whole world.

I believe that whosoever believes shall be saved. And that says whosoever, and that's what I believe, despite any other arguments that might be involved. I admit, I can't get it all together, I can't understand it all.

I understand enough to thrust me out to the ends of the earth to reach men for Jesus Christ. I can't get it all together, I can't understand it all. I understand enough to thrust me out to the ends of the earth to reach men for Jesus Christ.

Look at that next verse. And hereby we know that we know him if we make a decision for Christ. Evangelical Bible, 1967 edition.

Is that what you read? Not what I read here. This is a good old King James Bible. And it says in my Bible, Hereby we know that we know him if we keep his commandments.

Wait a minute, wait a minute, you're saved by law? No, but if you're saved, you live according to the rules. 2 Timothy chapter 2. And God has given us rules in the game. And if you're running around breaking all the rules, you better check and see if you're in the game.

I'm convinced that we're saved by grace, but I'm convinced that when we save, we move. We work. There's action, there's reality.

And this idea that a man makes a decision for Christ, goes out of the meeting and there's no difference in his life, no change, no revolution, and he's saved. I just don't believe it. And some years later, they finally discover that his life is all a mess.

And somebody comes up and says he's lost his salvation. He's not lost his salvation, he never had any salvation to lose. When a man believes on Jesus Christ and is truly converted, a spiritual revolution begins.

Everything might not be changed at once. The seed is planted, the potential is planted, the babe is born, and then things will happen. And if nothing has happened since the day you were born again, you better go back and see if you really were born again.

And if there's someone here today that hasn't got that assurance, because you've never seen anything in your life, we'd ask you to let us talk with you after this meeting, because it's serious. And every year we get one or two, even though they could write a nice testimony on the application or on the questionnaire for OM, we always get one or two that get out in Europe and they get face up with the battle and they discover they're not born again. Because it's one thing to write a testimony, it's another thing to have one.

I truly am. And I'm convinced there are many today who have made decisions for Christ of some type, merely in the head, like the devil who also believes and even trembles, but who have never experienced God's saving grace and God's in-working power. And I'm also convinced in our day we have many people running around looking for some kind of second or third blessing, they still haven't got their first, they haven't been born again yet.

Back to the Bible should be the cry of our hearts. We know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar.

I can hardly believe that that's in the Bible. It's so harsh. He that saith, I know Him, like so many today, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar.

And the truth is not in Him. That scares me, that verse. Some time ago, Billy Graham went up into the mountains.

That's what he said. And he got down on his knees, and he asked God to search his heart to see if he was truly saved, and truly his child, and truly born again, and not one of those who, according to Matthew, said, Lord, Lord, but never got into the kingdom. Now, Billy Graham, from time to time, does a little heart searching about his spiritual experience.

It seems to me it wouldn't hurt some of us to make sure. May God grip us with these powerful verses. But whosoever keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.

Hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith, He abideth in Him, ought himself also so to walk even as He walked. There's the life of victory, isn't it? Even as He walked.

This is the challenge, to walk as He walked. Do you know, men in the secular world, many times are more impressed with this message we preach, especially concerning materialism, than Christians. And again, yesterday afternoon, as I was witnessing to a man on a park bench, I had the same thing I've had again and again.

A man just literally blasted the church leaders of this nation, on the basis of the huge salary they're getting, comparing it with the salary that the man who just comes into the church is getting, and compared to the situation, and just making a lot of general comparison. And he wasn't a Christian, basically because of materialism in the church, and the fact that he doesn't see any difference in the church, and in the local business, and other people who are just trying to make a pack of money. And again and again, I've faced this, wherever I've gone, with people in the world.

They just don't see where we're different. They just don't see it. Yet we read verses like this.

We're to walk even as He walked. And I told them about the young people I knew. I said, I know a group of young people.

I said, they're sick of Christendom. Some of you have perhaps read Kierkegaard's *Attack on Christendom*. A vicious book.

This founder of modern existentialism wrote this vicious attack on Christendom. The book terrifically built my faith in Christ. Diminished a lot of my faith in Christendom, but I didn't have much anyway when I was reading it.

But if only these men on the park benches would see Christ instead of Christendom. If they'd only see a few people who are literally walking as He walked. We've got many who try to talk as He talked.

But few who are to walk as He walked. Because talking is easy and walking is hard. And we walk the easy road and we know it.

And when I described to this man how some people I knew were living. When I described to him as humbly as I could. And that's not easy because what I know about humility.

Well, that subject is just confusion for me. That's all I can say. When I read Andrew Murray's book on humility it was just confusing.

I didn't know which way I was going. So I just had to repent that I didn't have that either. Trust that somehow by God's grace He will do something in my life.

You know as I gave that testimony. Boy, that man didn't have a word to say. He ended up buying a piece of gospel literature that before he wouldn't even touch.

He ended up spoken to by the Spirit of God. And we found it. We found it everywhere.

The world will not listen any longer to us. Britain will not listen any longer to us. But they will watch us.

And they are watching us. And they're waiting to see if a man in the 20th century will live like Jesus. I believe it can take place.

I believe it can. And if I didn't believe that this little work of O.M. could help some young people come into this reality. I would quit tomorrow despite ships, millions of pieces of literature, continents, crusades.

I would quit tomorrow because I'm just not interested in a spiritual Ferris wheel. Or a spiritual merry-go-round. It has got to be this way.

We must at any cost learn this victory. Learn to walk as He walked. Not in words.

Not in prayer. Or in hymn. But in deed and in truth.

John 3.18. First John 3.18. It'll be a long road. It'll be a hard road. I spent about five hours the other day with Dr. Francis Schaeffer of LaBrie Fellowship.

We were walking around Hyde Park. This man who has probably one of the keenest minds in the 20th century. Who can answer the question of any atheist, any agnostic, any skeptic.

Even when he was in Britain, I couldn't give you the name. But he was meeting with one or two of the top intellects in this nation. And he's got the answer.

Because he believes the Bible is the Word of God. Fully inspired by God. And though he studied all the related subjects.

Those he knows, philosophy and sociology and almost anything. From the arts to what have you. He believes the Bible has the answer.

He believes the Bible is the truth. And as we were speaking together, he mentioned something to me I'll never forget. As we were speaking about our culture.

And how our culture has seeped into us. Despite the fact whether we want it or not. He said all of us to one degree or another are brainwashed by the philosophy of modern man.

That's right. He even admitted it in his own life. And how today, it's almost impossible for us to respond to a message.

For example, on the subject of hell. The way Jonathan Edwards would respond. Or the way our ancestors would respond.

The fear of God and broken hearts. And this kind of religious experience and religious reality is hard to find in our day. Why? Because through our culture and through the bombardment of the philosophies of modern man.

And modern manipulation by man. We no longer are able to do it. We've been manipulated.

We've been brainwashed. And that's why I believe it will take generally 10 to 20 years. To get a man out of our culture.

Out of this brainwashing to the point where God wants. I'm not out yet. I got a long way to go.

I see things. Shock me in my own life. The tendency to be so naturalistic.

The tendency to unbelief. So many tendencies. I was speaking to one of our Oxford students down in Turkey.

And he's only discovered now that he's there in Istanbul trying to do God's work. That during those years at Oxford, whether he wanted it or not, he was brainwashed. To one degree.

You wonder why we say we need spiritual revolution. Do you wonder why we say that each one of us must come and begin to walk with Jesus and allow him to knock down and to divide and to discipline and to destroy dozens of things in our lives, in our personalities, in our ways, in our thinking. In all of us.

There's no shortcut. There's no shortcut. Walk even as he walked.

Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you. But in all commandments which ye have from the beginning, the old commandment which is the word which ye have heard from the beginning, again a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you, because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth. True light now shineth.

I'm going to skip my comments in order to go through at least reading the passage before we close. And he that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. Our brother Sylvester has been on our team.

An American Negro has been giving his testimony in some of the meetings. And he will tell you how he went to a Bible college in America where he met young students who were planning to go to Africa to be missionaries. And they were talking about love, singing about love, praying about love.

But they never knew any love for him. He was a Negro. And young Sylvester who is with us today was that far from joining a racist mob, a revolution, an ape.

He was about to turn his back on Jesus Christ and become an enemy of all missions in all Christianity like millions of Negroes have. Instead, fortunately by the grace of God, he met a few who had experienced this revolution of love in his college who could care less whether he was Negro or Chinese or whatever his color or creed was. And who loved him for what he was, a human being created in the image of God, an individual loved by God, an individual whom Jesus Christ died for.

It was through that love and that reality that he was brought from a revolution or a near revolution of hate into a revolution of love. And I praise God that one out of every three people in OM is a non-white because we live in a non-white world. And God loves the non-white as much as the white.

And he sent Christ to die for them. And when we go around as some people do in the states, although believe me, even in the southern part of the states there are true believers who love Christ and who love Negroes, don't get a completely wrong idea of the situation. But when there is a man, and it's happening here too, I saw that on a park fence the other day, the bitterness there is here in this country against the colored people.

It's unbelievable, I've seen it here as much as I've seen it in Tennessee in the southern part of the USA. This is man? This is man? And it's creeping into the churches? And we find this situation. A man who says, I love God.

He worships God. He doesn't like this particular brother because of his creed, his color, his background, and there's a feeling in his heart against him. Look, that feeling in your heart against him.

You try to tone that down. You try to call it personality conflict. You got all kinds of names for it.

You know what God calls it, huh? Hate! Steady. Don't let hate ever come in your heart for more than a few seconds. Repent of it.

Turn from it. Flee from it. Because these words, when we think of it, should scare us.

Hateth his brother is in darkness even until now. There are going to be many surprises in heaven, beloved. Many surprises in heaven.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. Isn't that something? Then we have this passage. I won't comment on it.

I'll just read it. He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whether he goeth. Because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

And I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven. For his name's sake, praise God. There's that ray of grace again.

I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. There's that victory.

I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. There's that fellowship, that communion. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Then these powerful words, love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Young person, what are you going to do with those verses? I don't want to offend anyone here, but some of you girls, you know it, you're worldly. You're worldly. You copy the world's dress.

You copy the world's way. You stand in front of the show window downtown London, and you're no different than the girl who just came out of the Burlesque House and stands there too. And although you would never smoke, you would never go in the cinema, and you might never do this, you're worldly.

The number one problem among evangelical girls and evangelical fellows today, do you know what it is? It's in the area of morals. That's right. Do you know what's common knowledge among evangelical fellows? That the average evangelical girl will not go to the cinema, and she'll never smoke, and she probably won't dance, but you get her in a lonely place on a lonely night, and you'll discover that she can neck quite well.

And this is known around the world. It was known at the college I went to, and most of the evangelical girls all had a rotten testimony because of it. And nobody wants to talk about it today, except these men who get up and claim that they're religious leaders, and tell us there's nothing wrong with relationships before marriage.

What a lie of the devil. What an abomination of abominations. I praise God that he has given us a word on this subject, and if I've offended some, I do not care, because God has called me to speak, and he has called us to flee every form of impurity, to flee all worldliness.

And this is not to be old-fashioned, it's not to be Victorian, and we know that in many ways back then it was no different than today when things were done in secret, and all the rest. And this is not what we're calling people to do. We're calling people into a revolution of love, where if doing one thing offends a brother, they'll never do it again.

And it's love, it's a positive action, a positive revolution of love that causes women to become modest, not a set of rules. And it's a positive revolution of love that causes a young man to be self-controlled, and a gentleman in the true sense of the word. Today we've rebelled against God's moral code, the same way Solomon did, do you think it's any different? The same way Gomorrah did, the same way Tyre and Sidon did, the same way that Rome did, the same way that the Greeks did, cannot we learn from history? Can we be so foolish not to learn from history that which has happened year after year? Young woman, young man, turn from every form of worldliness, of status-seeking, of impurity, of worldly ways, and follow Christ into this battle.

It's the only way, and I speak as someone whose mind was completely taken over by the power of darkness, through peddling pornographic literature, and through having a mind that committed every sin in the book, although only by His grace, because I was saved young, I never fell into deep adultery and immorality. Yet I meet young people today, you wouldn't believe it, I talk to a young man from Bible college, you can't believe it, but during his time in Bible college, he was in sexual sin every weekend. Nobody will speak.

We're blind. We're duped. Edward R. Murrow said to America's people, we're doped, we're doped.

And I say, let us follow these words. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Now, this isn't just for the young people, because I was speaking to one of the authors of one of these books recently, telling him about the moral danger among young people, and you know what he said? The moral problems are five times as severe among those over 40. I could never talk in public. That what I know to be a fact.

Yes, there is a way of victory. There is a way of purity, even in this age. And there are a few who want it at any cost.

There are a few who, though they're weak, and though they're frail, and though they're learners, who want this victory, who want this reality, who want this purity, at any cost. And if you're one of those, we invite you. Unite with us in prayer or in action, and let us believe God to make it real.

For Jesus' sake, for where sin doth abound our day, grace, grace, doth more abound. I believe we're seeing that in the 20th century. Let us pray.

God knows your heart. His Holy Spirit has pricked you. Remember what he says.

You have an advocate with a father. Jesus Christ, the righteous. Moral sin.

Impurity in the mind. Love for the world. Worldly ways.

Copying the fashions, the styles, the folly of the world. Repent. Ask God to cleanse it away.

Believe him for the victory. Young man, I write unto you, because ye have overcome the wicked one. Heavenly Father, I can only come, thy precious claw, cross I cling, thy blood I claim, thy grace I ask, that I might know more of this which I've talked about.

More and more, O God, that as we go across to the continent again this year, it might be as soldiers of Christ. It might be with the love of Christ constraining us. It might be as true soldiers enrolled in this revolution of love, captivated by the Christ of God, gripped by the reality of the Word, and not as just a group of young people on a Christian holiday.

We ask, O God, to make it real, that we would know and experience the cleansing of thy precious blood and never be the same again from this day on, and that we might grow in grace and in knowledge of thee, and that our temperaments would be balanced out, and that we'd know maturity in reality like never before. Granted, God, we're hungry, and you promised those who are hungry and thirst after righteousness would be filled. Fill us, O God, this afternoon with your Holy Spirit, with your reality, your love, that truly we might know what it is to walk even as he walked.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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