

Kisses I Am Not Ashamed Of

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:1 Preached on 12-11-01 Tues.

I want to preach tonight on some kisses I am not ashamed of. I believe that to be truth the Lord is conveying to our hearts in this verse. There is a way, in which a believer can let out his love to Christ, in a public place, and not be ashamed, nor worried about being despised in the eyes of others.

A believer can become so familiar with Christ, that our love and affection for him, can be expressed; as it were with the kisses of our mouth, (and that in public worship) and have no fear of shame or reproof.

The relationship she desires here is that of brother and sister, who nursed from the same mother. It was common in those days for children to be born of the same man, but having different mothers. This was the case with Jacob. He had 13 children by 4 wives. But remember the close relationship between Joseph and Benjamin.

I. The Kiss Of Acknowledgement: (Such a bowing and kissing the back of the hand of one who is a King or a ruler of a large domain) (and me as his steward being subject unto him and dependant)

- A. Acknowledge him as Sovereign: **I Timothy 6:15,16** “Which in his times he shall show, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; ¹⁶Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

- B. Acknowledge him as sustainer: **Hebrews 1:3** “Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

- C. Acknowledge him as savior: **Isaiah 45:23-25** “I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. ²⁴Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. ²⁵In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.”

II. The Kiss Of Approbation: (or approval (his approval rating) **Psalm 2:12** “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry.” Illus. The deaf and dumb man healed: **Mark 7:36,37** “And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published *it*; ³⁷And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.”

- A. I approve of the way he has handled the crisis in my life: **(Every turning point in my life) Illus. Green Valley - Illus. Lisa’s marriage**

- B. I approve of the way he has handled the cash in my life: (He’s taught me to pay debts I make) **Romans 12:11** “not slothful in business.” (He’s teaching me to lay some back) (He’s taught me that financial liberty is more important than things)

- C. I approve of the way he’s handled my children in my life:

III. The Kiss of Affection: (Which is used by friends or relatives when they meet or part)

A. Symbol of relationship:

1. In **Genesis 27:26** Isaac and Jacob “And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.”

2. In **Luke 15:20** Father and Prodigal

B. A symbol of restoration: **Luke 15:20** “And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.”

C. A symbol of regret: (As when kissing those we love goodbye) Illus. Naomi and Orpah in **Ruth 1:14** “And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.”

IV. The Kiss of Adoration: (Or worship)

1. Baal worshippers kissed him:

2. Pagans (such as Catholics) kiss idols in worship:

Luke 7:37,38 “And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, ³⁸And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.”

- A. Acceptance of person: **Ephesians 1:6** “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” (Christ receives sinful men!)

- B. Assurance of his pardon: (He knew she was a sinner) **Ephesians 1:7** “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

- C. Appropriate means of praise:

A Mother's (The Church) Instruction

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:2 Preached on 12-16-01

In the verse we find a most unusual situation. For the bride says here that she would lead Christ into her mother's house, who would then instruct her. It's most common in the scriptures to find the Lord leading his church as a shepherd would lead his flock; or as captain of his army. But here the bride is said to be leading Christ.

The word signifies such a leading, as one would be in triumph, a leading that is joined with respect and honor to the person who is led. The believer leads Christ as a servant would lead his master to dine; or as a man who would lead as a king to a place of honour, after returning from a great victory in battle.

The word house means a place of family gathering; and the word mother means the bond of that family. So the interpretation of the verse is this; because of Christ's great victory over our sin, we led him into the house of God, that we might receive Holy instruction.

Without Christ's presence in the church there will be no instruction, no direction of life, no means of guiding our feet in the night pathway. We might have an agenda, and there may be biblical rhetoric, but no instruction.

It's no wonder people today have a difficult time finding God's will for their life, or peace in their heart. We cannot find the way without him.

Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

I. The Mother Of Instruction: (The Church)

- A. A mother teaches good conduct and behavior: I
Timothy 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest

know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

B. A mother teaches good company: **Proverbs 1:10** “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” Illus. Amnon and Jonadab

C. A mother teaches good commitments: (**Children need to commit themselves to those things that will bring the best in them, and the blessings of Christ**)

1. This can be accomplished by first committing ourselves to Christ: **Psalm 37:4,5** “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.” **Proverbs 3:6** “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths.”

II. The Master Of Instruction: Illus. The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 7:28,29 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: ²⁹For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.”

A. He taught them how to be happy: (The Beatitudes)

1. Blessed is the man spoken 9 times:

B. He taught them how to be Holy: **Matthew 5:20** “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

- C. He taught them how to be helpers: **Matthew 5:42** “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”

III. The Means Of Instruction:

- A. The Spirit: **John 14:26** “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
- B. The Scriptures: **John 5:39** “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” **Illus. Daniel 9:2** “In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.”
- C. Our situations: (Providence)

1. Elijah at the brook: **God will provide**
2. Daniel in the den: **God will protect**
3. David and Bath-Sheba: **God will punish:**
(Chastise) you can't get by with sin.

IV. The Method of Instruction:

- A. Rebuke: **I Timothy 5:20** “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” **Psalms 27:5** “Open rebuke is better than secret love.”

- B. Exhortation: Illus. Paul at Antioch **Acts 13:15** “And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men *and* brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”

- C. Edification: **Jude 20,21** “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

V. The Menace To Instruction:

- A. Dull hearing:

- B. Deceitful heart:

- C. Defeated helpmeet:

A Pilgrim's Resting Place

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:5 Preached on 12-23-01 A.M.

I want to preach this morning on, "A pilgrim's resting place." We see in this verse, the church, who is a pilgrim and a stranger in this land, coming up out of the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved. She's found herself a real place of rest and stability as she makes her way towards heaven's throne. The bride here has discovered a strength that is enabling. Not in herself, but in her beloved.

Psalm 27:1 "The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 73:26 "My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

I believe the great need of the hour is cast all our care upon him; he is able to sustain us, and carry our load and never stumble.

Now I want to look at just a few things about the bride.

I. Her Parting From The Wilderness: (Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness)

A. Between every believer and Canaan there is a wilderness:

1. To be tried: (Illus. Israel 40 yrs.) (Illus. Jesus 40 days and nights) **Both led by the Spirit** **I Peter 4:12,13**
"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
¹³But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers

of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

2. They were tempted: **I Corinthians 10:13**
"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*."
3. They were trained: (**those who were 20 years and younger**) (**For 40 years God taught them how to lean on the Lord**)
 - a. When it comes time for the passage of the Jordan they crossed, from the wilderness to Canaan leaning upon their beloved:
 - b. In the text the bride is ascending up from the wilderness: (**she is coming out of it**)

II. Her Posture As She Journeyed: (Leaning upon her beloved)

- A. He carries her load: **I Peter 5:7** "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
 1. He will sustain you: **Psalm 3:5** "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me." **Psalm 55:22** "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

- a. The whole of your sin: (**He bore my sins and my shame and he made them his very own**)
 - b. The weight of your shame:
 - c. The weariness of her soul: **Illus. Joseph when he sent his brothers for Jacob. Genesis 45:24** “So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.”
1. We get tired in the way, but never of the way:

III. His Promise She Clings To: (I raised thee up under the apple tree) Def. Raised: To open the eyes or enlighten:

- A. Her memory has been stirred: (**Christ says, “If I opened thine eyes and saved thee, I will succour thee now that thou art mine.) (YOU CANNOT DEPEND ON HIM & SELF) II Peter 1:13** “Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;” **Hebrew 2:18** “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (**NO SELF-SUFFICIENCY**)

1. He will not fail thee now:

IV. The Peace She Enjoys: (She shows no signs of anxiety, but calmly leans upon her beloved in patient rest)

- A. His presence pleases her:
- B. His power possesses her:
- C. His peace pacifies her:

In Defence Of The Heart

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:6 Preached on 12-30-01 A.M.

I'm going to disagree with both of my commentators on this verse. For, their interpretation is, that these words are spoken by the bride to Christ. But I would rather believe these to be the words of Christ, and used as a means of safeguarding the heart of the church, to protect her from any and all intruders.

His seal is set on both the heart and the arm. The word means to "close up, to seal, or to make an end". A seal in those days was intended to keep safe that which was within, and to secure it from anything or anyone that would molest it. (Illus. The tomb of Jesus)

A seal was a symbol of power and authority.

Ephesians 1:13,14 "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

II Corinthians 1:21,22 "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; ²²Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

I. The Seal Upon The Arm Defends Us:

- A. From worldliness: (A saved man cannot stray far into the world) **Hebrews 11:15,16** "And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. ¹⁶But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not

ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”

1. He defends me from worldly desires:
II Peter 3:12,13 “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to **his promise**, (**we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise**) look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

2. He defends me from worldly deception: (We look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness)
 - a. The only righteousness to be found today is the righteousness of Christ:

3. He defends me from worldly degradation: (We do not have to be dragged down into the worlds slime) **II Peter 3:14** “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found **of him** in peace, without spot, and blameless.”
 - a. We are to be found **of him** – in **peace**: (Living in peace)

 - b. We are to be found without spot:
Note: The word spot is the same word used in **I Peter 1:19** saying that our Lord was a, “Lamb without blemish and without spot”. Note: We are to be Holy: NOT

DRAGGED DOWN INTO THE
WORLD.

- c. We are to be found without blemish: **(Def) To tarnish as reputation or character) any mark of deformity – reproach or disgrace.**
4. He defends me from worldly depression:
- a. By his daily news report: **Proverbs 25:25** “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so *is* good news from a far country.”
 - b. By his promise of deliverance: **Galatians 1:4** “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:”
 - c. By his purpose for my life: **Ephesians 1:11** “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the **purpose** of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”
5. He defends me from worldly destruction: **Matthew 7:13,14** “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
- a. He is the gate, and the narrow way:
There’s no turning back:
6. He defends me from worldly death:

In Defence Of The Heart (Part II)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:6 Preached on 12-30-01 P.M.

I want to continue our study of this verse tonight, and look at the seal that is upon our heart. Please keep in mind that a seal is a signet of power and authority. It is also a mark of ownership. **I Corinthians 6:19,20** "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

His seal is also a symbol of preservation:

Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Jude 1 "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:"

Def. Preserved:

1. To guard from loss or injury: (By keeping the eye upon)
2. To prevent escaping: (That might trouble those who believe we can take ourselves out of God's hand)
3. A fortress, or full lines of military apparatus:
4. To note a prophecy or fulfill a command:
5. To detain and maintain:

I. His Seal Preserves The Soul: Psalm 116: 6-8 "The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. For thou hast

delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, *and* my feet from falling.” **Psalm 33:18,19** “Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”

A. Preserves from corruption:

B. Preserves from condemnation:

II. His Seal Preserves Our Song: Psalm 40:1-3 “I

waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings. **And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God**: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”

A. He put it, therefore it remains: **Ecclesiastes 3:14**

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him.”

B. It’s a new song: notice **Revelation 5:9** “And they sung a new song,” (**Not another verse or chorus but the same song**)

C. It’s an old song: “saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” **Def. Song: A strolling minstrel (Strolling through life)**

D. Spiritual captivity can rob us of our song: **Psalm 137:1-4** “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that **wasted** us *required of us* mirth, *saying*, Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD’S song in a strange land?”

1. **Def. Wasted: (Caused us to howl)**

III. He Preserves Our Sanctuary: Hebrews 9:1-15

(v-1) “Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.” **(v-11)** “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;” But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;” **(v12)** “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.”

A. Our earthly sanctuary: (the church)

B. Our heavenly sanctuary: **Revelation 21:22** “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”

1. Temple: to dwell
2. Tabernacle: a tent or a habitation
3. Sanctuary: a sacred thing

The Splendor Of Love

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:6 Preached 1-1-02

The word splendor means, great brightness and brilliant luster, as the splendor of the sun. It means a great show of richness, elegance, and magnificence.

This defines very well the love Christ has for his people. His love for us is truly a splendid thing. When Jesus was asked by the lawyer in **Matthew 22:36**, “which is the great commandment of the Law”, Jesus reply was, “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” His love is so splendid and wonderful, that it commends our love in response.

IN **John 21** Peter and the other disciples were so backslidden that they went back to fishing rather than preaching the Gospel. Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?” His love is so strong for his people, “**For love is strong as death,**” and he is such a jealous God, that he is grieved in the Spirit over our disappointments.

Now what makes his love so splendid.

I. Because It Has Conquered Our Sin: Romans 2:4 “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

- A. By turning us: Illus. Paul’s commission: **Acts 26:16-18** “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; ¹⁷Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, ¹⁸To open their eyes, and

to **turn them** from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

- B. By touching us: Illus. The widow’s son at Nain: **Luke 7:13-15** “And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. ¹⁴And he came and touched the bier: **and they that bare him stood still**. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. ¹⁵And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.”

1. **He had four poll-bearers: Sin, Satan, Death, and Hell. (But they stood still (Def. Still – to shut down))**

- C. By training us: **Mark 5:3,4** “(The maniac) Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: ⁴Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him.” **V-15 He was found clothed and in his right mind.**

II. Because It Has Covered Our Sin: Proverbs 10:12

“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”

Song of Solomon 2:4 “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me *was* love.” **Song of**

Solomon 3:9,10 “King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon. ¹⁰He made the pillars thereof *of* silver, the bottom thereof *of* gold, the covering of it *of* purple, the midst thereof being paved *with* love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.”

A. The word pitch, in Genesis 6:14 (The covering for the ark) is practically the same word.

1. By passing over us: **Exodus 12:12,13** “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. ¹³And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

III. Because It Has Condemned Our Sin: Romans 8:3

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: hat the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

- A. Notice the term “God sending his own Son: **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

- B. Def. Condemn: (**To sentence or damn**)

Enduring Love

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:7 Preached on 1-6-02

I want to preach today on enduring love. Love is not an easy subject to speak on. Regardless, if it is the infinite love of God, or the finite love of man. Love seems to be so deep and mysterious, that mortal tongue finds it very difficult to describe and define.

There is an instinctive love, such as a mother has for her children. Then there is an instructive love, where one has to be taught, like the husband, wife relationship. "Husbands love your wives", **Ephesians 5:25** and according to **Titus 2:4**, the older women are to teach the younger women to "love their husbands".

Love, also, has both an object and an objective. The object of Christ's love is sinners, and his objective is, that with cords of kindness he might draw them to himself and then bless them through all eternity.

According to our text the love that Christ and his people have for one another is:

1. Unquenchable: "Many waters cannot quench love": It's like a thirsty man who can't get enough water. The more water he gets, the more he wants. So it is with God's people, the more of his love we get, the more we want. **Song of Solomon 2:5** "Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I *am* sick of love."
2. Unconquerable: "Neither can floods drown it." **Romans 8:35-37** "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for

the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

3. Unpurchaseable: “If a man would give all the substance of his house, it would be utterly contemned.” **BUT, Isaiah 55:1** “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”
Illus. Simon the Sorcerer: **Acts 8:18-20** “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.”

- a. Money cannot buy love: [The poorest of men can both love and be loved]

4. Inextinguishable: [It is like a fire, that water cannot quench and floods cannot drown.] **Luke 24:32 (Illus. The Emmaus Road)** “And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

I. Enemies Of His Love: (Those that tried to quench and drown his love)

- A. Sin: (When his soul was made to be sin for us) or when (He became our sin offering) **Psalms 69:1,2** “Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto *my* soul. I sink in deep mire, where *there is* no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.”

1. **These words may have been spoken in the garden, where his Holy soul was made to be sin: and may have been followed by this verse in Luke 22:42**
“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

- B. Suffering: **Psalm 22:14** “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.”

- C. Scoffers: **Psalm 22:7,8** “All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” **Psalm 18:4** “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.”

- D. Separation: **Psalm 22:1** “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*”

- E. Satan: **Mark 15:32** “Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.”

Flat Chested Baptists Little Sisters

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:8 Preached on 1-20-02

I will not attempt to identify this little sister by interpretation. I've found no satisfactory answer from any of our commentators, as who she might be, so I intend to preach this morning, only by one application. All scripture has only one interpretation, but many applications.

We know from the text, that their little sister has a relationship with both the bride and the bridegroom. The pronoun "we" is used, which indicates that she is related to both. They all have the same bloodline. They are all in the same family.

But there is a problem with their little sister. She has no breasts. She is still a little child and is yet to reach maturity. However, according to the verse she is expected to do so. For the last part of the verse says, "**What shall we do for our little sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?**"

The Lord intends for every child of his to grow to maturity, or as the scripture puts it, "**become a perfect man**", or come to "**the fulness of the stature of Christ**". **Ephesians 4:13** "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ."

Ephesians 2:21 "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord."

1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

II Peter 3:18 “But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

I could preach on those spiritual treasures the Lord uses to mature us; or I could preach on those areas of life that are to be perfected. But today I simply want to mention a few things that give evidence of Christian maturity and I'll let you classify yourself.

I. The Display Of Our Trust In The Lord: Isaiah 26:4

“Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength:”

- A. Trust him for salvation: (Salvation is not just a simple deliverance from sin, but a deliverance of situation) Illus. Jonah:
 - 1. Running from the Lord, looking for a place to hide: but found himself in more trouble than he could get out of: **Jonah 2:9,10** “But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.¹⁰ And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.”

- B. Trust him in the storm: Illus. Peter walking on the water:
 - 1. Peter had gotten himself into a place he had no business being.
 - 2. Jesus commandment in v-22 was for them to go to the other side:
 - 3. If we fail to follow the Lord's leadership in the storm, we will only make matters worse: (**Peter jumped out of the frying pan into the fire**) BUT **Matthew 14:30,31** “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning

to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.
³¹And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his hand, and caught him*, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

C. Trust him when separated from his presence:

Illus. Job

1. Job was having real difficulty finding God in his life
2. His circumstances had him somewhat frustrated: **Job 13:15** "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." **Job 19:26** "And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I **see** God:"
3. If the Lord decided to withhold his presence until the death of Job, he was confident of his presence after:

D. Trust him when being sifted: Illus. Peter

Luke 22:31,32 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to **have you**, that he may sift *you* as wheat: ³²But **I have prayed** for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art **converted, strengthen thy brethren.**"

1. Notice, "to have you": (to sift) (**Satan wanted to make him to where he couldn't hold water (the Spirit) (He was like a sieve: everything went right through him)**)
2. The Lord had prayed for him: (He couldn't fail or fall)
3. When he was converted; or turned from his instability, to a strong faith in Christ, he could strengthen those around him:

Little Sisters (Part II)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:8 Preached on 1-27-02

I want to continue our thought on, "Little Sisters." Please keep in mind their spiritual condition. They have a relationship with Christ, and fellowship with the church: but they are yet lacking in maturity. She is a little sister and she hath no breasts. She is not yet fully grown.

It is my desire to lead you beside still waters and green pastures, therefore I have chosen to preach on the characteristics of maturity rather than rebuke you for childness. Last Sunday I spoke to you on, "Trusting the Lord", as an evidence of growth and maturity. This morning I want to preach on:

I. Thirsting After God: (Surely if we are saved and love the Lord there will be a hunger and a thirst in our soul to possess him and to dwell in his presence)
Psalm 42:1,2 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

1. It is at the water brooks that the hart found refreshing strength for it's tired and weary body: **(Our soul after God)**
2. It was in the water brooks that the hart could escape the pursuing hounds: **(Only in God can we find refuge from the enemies that pursue us)**
3. To the heart those water brooks was the difference between life and death: **(Unless we find Christ, spiritual destruction is sure to come)**

Psalm 63:1 “O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;”

1. The Psalmist regarded God as his personal possession: (**Thou art my God**)
2. His life was being spent in the desert: (Where no water is)
3. What he expected in finding God:
 - a. To see thy power: (**The word means to see God fully**)
 - b. His security, strength, majesty: (Isaiah 6)
 - c. To see his glory: (**The word means (weight) splendor or copiousness: (His desire was to see God in his glorified state)**)
 - d. To render praise: **v-3** “Because thy lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise thee.”
4. The place the Psalmist had first seen that power and glory: **v-2** “To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.” (**The Church**)

I want to mention four things we can experience in thirsting after God.

A. Salvation’s Gift: (Illus. The woman at the well)

John 4:10 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the **gift of God**, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

1. The well she was drinking from was provided by another: **(Jacob)**
2. It hadn't cost her anything: **(The Lord's Gift)**
3. The well had been dug 1800 years earlier and was still providing water: **The Lord's well has never run dry)**
4. Her finding him resulted in the salvation of many others: **John 4:39** "And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did."

B. Sufficient Grace: (Illus. Paul) II Corinthians 12:7-9

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

1. He sought the Lord for the thorn's departure, but it was the Lord's will for it to remain, and Paul to overcome:
2. In Paul's weakness was his strength: **v-9** "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
3. Without Paul's weakness, there would have been no battle; and without a battle we'll never enjoy **victory**:

C. Satisfying Goodness: (Illus. Isaac) He dug again Abraham's wells. **Genesis 26:19** "And Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found there a well of springing water."

1. It took a little work: **(They digged)**
2. Someone will strive against you, desiring water from the well they haven't labored for: **v-20** "And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water *is* ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him." **(Go dig your own well)**
3. Isaac was patient and persistent: **v-21** "And they dug another well, and strove for that also:"
4. In his persistence, he was satisfied with the Lord's goodness: **v-22** "And he removed from thence, and dug another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Little Sisters (Part III)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:8 Preached on 2-3-02 A.M.

In recent weeks I've likened this little sister to those of us in the church, who have yet to reach a place of spiritual maturity. She maintains a relationship both to Christ and the bride, but she is a "little sister", and has no breasts.

A child of God will have a constant and consistent growth in the grace of God. Evidence of that maturity is found in the depth of our faith, our desire for God, and then what I want to consider today; our prayer life.

James 4:2,3 "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts."

If we have not, the problem is not with God.

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

The thought I want to labor on today is...

I. Travailing In Prayer:

1. Any man who is spiritual must have to some degree a prayer life.
2. Travailing in prayer is to remain steadfast in our heart with God, until our request is granted.
 - a. Illus. Jacob: **Genesis 32:26** "And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."

- b. Illus. The widow and the unjust judge: **Luke 18:1** “And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

A. Effectual praying: (To be active, alive, to have an effect upon its purpose.) **James 5:16-18** “Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual** fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. ¹⁷Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed **earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”
(**Look at this prayer**) **I Kings 18:36,37** “And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, and *that I have* done all these things at thy word. ³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.”

- 1. His commitment to prayer time: **v-36** “And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice”

- a. Was regular:

- 2. His consecration in prayer: **v-36** “that Elijah the prophet came near” (**Came near to what?**) **GOD**

- a. He drew nigh to God:

- b. He had been obedient to God: “and *that* I have done all these things at thy word”
- 3. His concept of God: “lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel”
 - a. God of promise: “Lord God of Abraham and Isaac”
 - b. God of power: “and Israel” he used the name Israel rather than Jacob. Jacob, after he wrestled with God was called Israel, because as a prince he had power with God and man.
- 4. His cry to God: (**Notice his intense agony**) “Hear me, O Lord, hear me”
 - a. His purpose: (That the people may know that thou art the Lord God) (That he had turned their heart back to God)
- 5. Then the fire fell:
- 6. Then the rain: The fire must fall before the rain:

B. Earnest praying: (Serious, sober, and solemn) Illus. Hannah in **I Samuel 1**

- 1. Her unbearable grief: **v-10** “And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.” **v-15** “*I am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit:”
- 2. Her unselfish desire: **v-11** “And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine

Little Sisters (Part IV)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:8 Preached on 2-10-02

Today I want to bring our final thought on Little Sisters. Because she has not reached maturity; I have likened her to those in the church who are in need of milk and not strong meat. This little sister is yet a babe in Christ.

In our recent studies we have looked at our faith in Christ; our hunger and desire for him; and our prayer life. Today we're going to deal with our service to Christ; **or our servitude.**

1. Our service to Christ should be pre-eminent in our life because it deals with our eternal state:
I Corinthians 3:9 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building.**"
2. In our service the flesh must be overcome: Illus. The birth of Esau and Jacob: **Genesis 25:23** "And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger."
 - a. The natural man (Esau) first; and the spiritual man (Jacob) second; and the spiritual man must rule over the fleshly:
3. In our service there must be total dedication: **John 12:26** "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour."

4. In our service there must be humility of spirit: Def. Servant: (A slave: frequently then used in a qualified sense subjection or subservience) Def. Deacon: (An attendant or a waiter) **Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

5. Our service must be accomplished for the right motive:
 - a. To glorify Christ: **Galatians 6:14** “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

I. Toiling In Service: Illus. The disciples in Mark 6:48 when they crossed the sea and encountered the storm: “And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.”

- A. The church is not a free ride across, it requires some man-power.
 1. The qualifications: **Exodus 29:1** “And this *is* the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest’s office:”
 - a. Must be converted in the heart: **Exodus 29:4** “And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.”

1. This is not the laver washing, it was accomplished by the priest himself: Moses was doing the washing here who is a type of the deliverer: **Titus 3:4,5** “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
 - a. He was stripped of his earthly garments:
 - b. He was then washed:
 - c. He was then adorned with his priestly apparel: (This was a type of the righteousness of Christ)
- b. He must be clothed in proper apparel: **Exodus 29:5** “And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod: And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.”
 1. Can you imagine an unconverted man clothing himself in this manner:
 2. Proper clothing never seems right to a lost man:

3. I wonder what the Lord would have done to Aaron had he refused to dress right:
4. His clothing looks ridiculous to the lost:
 - a. His apparel was designed to cover his nakedness: **Exodus 28:42** “And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach.”
 - b. His apparel was for glory and beauty: **Exodus 28:40** “And for Aaron’s sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.”
 - c. Must be clean in our life: **Exodus 29:7** “Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour *it* upon his head, and anoint him. ⁸And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them.”

Silver Habitations

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:9 Preached on 2-17-02

In verse nine the bridegroom is giving his answer to the bride in verse eight. What shall we do with this little sister who hath no breasts? The Lord's response, "If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver."

1. Please notice first, that what the Lord begins, he finishes: (From the foundation to the finishing touch)

- a. he never falls short of his task: **Philippians 1:6**
"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:"

2. Please notice secondly, who is doing the building: (We will build upon her) **Psalms 127:1** "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:"

- a. There will be those who labor in vain: Empty professors trying to build a habitation for God by the works of their own hands.

3. Please notice thirdly, the responsibility of man: (If she be a wall)

- a. Not until she becomes a wall, is the silver palace built:
- b. There must be an earnest effort on the part of man: **I Corinthians 3:9** "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building."

I want to mention at least four things there must be in the building of this palace of silver, that represents man in a final state of perfection.

I. The Favor Bestowed: (God's Grace) "We will build"

- A. Has a small beginning: (Don't expect to see much to soon)

- B. Has little beauty while at work: *Illus.* The wall in the beginning: (without the palace) *Illus.* Ben and Angie's home; the purchase, the clearing of the land, and the house in the beginning.

- C. Works humility in it's recipient:
I Corinthians 15:9,10 "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

II. The Foundation Below: (No wall is ever built without first laying a good foundation) **Isaiah 28:16** "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." Def. Stone: The word simply means to build:

A. It's been examined: (A tried stone)

1. No weak points
2. No flaws
3. No cracks

Illus. When examined by Pilate he said, "I find no fault in him"

Illus. The thief on the cross, "But this man hath done nothing amiss"

Illus. Peter, "In his mouth is no guile"

- a. He held up the three Hebrews in the furnace of fire:
- b. He held up Jeremiah when no one listened to his preaching:
- c. He held up David when his friends turned against him: (He will hold you and I up today)

B. It is exquisite: (Of great value) **I Peter 2:7**
"Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious:"

1. It is one of a kind: **I Corinthians 3:11** "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." *Illus.* Goliath's sword: (When David came to Abimelech and asked for bread and a spear or a sword)
I Samuel 21:9 "*There is none like that; give it me.*"

C. It is established: (A sure foundation) (Show to be valid) (Why look for something new)

1. His antiquity:

III. The Faith Blessed: (That wall is built by faith) (The wall is our life)

A. Works by love: **Galatians 5:6** "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any

thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” Def. Worketh: Active

B. Waits by patience: **Hebrews 6:12** “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

C. Wins the promises:

IV. The Finished Product: (Palace of Silver)

A. God’s dwelling place: **Acts 17:24** “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;”

Psalm 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

1. Is redeemed: (Silver) the word literally means money: (Brought without price) (30 pieces of silver) the price of a woman (**Numbers 27**)
2. Is pure:
3. Is luxurious: (A palace)

The Kind Of Church We Need

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:11 Preached on 3-12-02 Tues.

We are now beginning the last stanza in this canticle; we call the Song of Solomon. The bride and her groom are exchanging their final words of love to one another. Let us embrace and cherish these words, as one would the last words of a life long mate; who is speaking for the last time, on this side of the river.

Solomon here is a type of Christ, the vineyard is the church and the keepers are the ministers whom Christ has set over his vineyard as overseers. Please notice, Christ expects his church to be productive.

1. Christ's vineyard (the church) can be either blessed or it can be barren: **Isaiah 5:1,2** "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very **fruitful hill**: ²And he **fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof**, and **planted it** with the choicest vine, and **built a tower** in the midst of it, and also **made a winepress** therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes."
2. Christ's vineyard (the church) can either abound fruitfully or be abandoned by Christ: **Isaiah 5:4,5** "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? ⁵And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: ⁶And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers

and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”

3. The purpose of the church:

- a. It constitutes a dwelling place upon the earth for God: **Ephesians 2:22** “In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”
- b. It is to evangelize the world: **Matthew 28:18,19** “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
- c. It is to instruct people in the way of righteousness: **Mathew 28:20** “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:”
- d. It is to glorify God:
 1. By living Holy:
 2. By worshipping him:
 3. By being salt and light in the world:

THE KIND OF CHURCH WE NEED

I. A Working Church: *Illus. Adam* – The Lord placed Adam in the garden that he might enjoy the fruit thereof. But he was also to dress it, and keep it. **Genesis 2:15** “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”

- A. Must be cooperation: **I Corinthians 12:12** “For as the body is one, and hath many

members,” **v-18** “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”

1. We are not all the eye, the ear, the feet, etc.

B. There may be complication: **I Corinthians 12:15** “If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?”

1. As long as our name remains on the church roll we are part of this body:

C. There should not be confrontations: **I Corinthians 12:25,26** “That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶And whether one member **suffer**, all the members **suffer** with it; or one member be **honoured**, all the members **rejoice** with it.”

Illus. Nehemiah as they built the wall: “For they had a mind to work”

1. Each were assigned their respective places to build, and that’s where they worked:

II. A Willing Church:

A. To give: *Illus.* The church at Corinth: **II Corinthians 8:3** “For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift,”

- B. To gather: **Luke 11:23** “He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.”

- C. To go: **Psalm 126:6** “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.*”

III. A Weeping Church:

IV. A Warning Church:

- A. Warning sinners about hell:

V. A Waiting Church:

A Church (Vineyard) That's Not For Sale

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:12 Preached on 3-17-02 A.M.

We are now singing in the last stanza of Solomon's Song. The bride and the groom are still making lovely music. Prophetically speaking, I believe these verses speak of Christ's ascension back to the right hand of the Father. The words before us are parting words, and are therefore words to be cherished by the church. By application we could say that these are the final words spoken between a man and his bride just before one or the other makes the crossing.

The first portion of the verse is spoken by our Lord, "My vineyard, which is mine, is before me." The rest of the verse is spoken by the church in response to what Christ has just said.

Please notice how he doubles his claim to the church; "**My vineyard which is mine, is before me**". This lends assurance to the bride, that she belongs only to him, and he excludes all others from having any right to her. This confirms that he has purchased his vineyard with a price and is now the "sole proprietor".

Isaiah 27:2-4 "In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. ³I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest *any* hurt it, I will keep it night and day. ⁴Fury is not in me: who would set the briers *and* thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.

And his vineyard is not for sale: *Illus.* Naboth I Kings 21

1. The vineyard was Naboth's inheritance: **v-3** "And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." Def. Inheritance: an estate derived from an ancestor to an heir by succession or in course of law. (Wanted to leave something for his children)

2. The vineyard was a great importance:
 - a. It could not be replaced:
 - b. It could not be bought:
 - c. It could not be used for another purpose:
(Herbs) **v-2** “And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, **that I may have it for a garden of herbs**, (Ahab wanted to destroy the vineyard) because it *is* near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; *or*, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.”
3. This vineyard was worth dying for: **v-13** “Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.” (**The Lord died for his vineyard**)
4. There are some things in the church, that because they have been inherited should be important enough to die for:

I. The Pulpit: (The word id used only once in scripture: in Nehemiah 8:4 “and Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which had been made for the purpose.”

- A. It only being used once in scripture signifies that it belongs to god: (One is the number of God)
- B. It only being used once signifies it has a single purpose:

1. Used for the proclaiming of the Word of God: **v-3** “And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.”
 - a. It brought unity among the people: **v-1** “And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate;”
 - b. It brought understanding to the people: **v-8** “So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.” Def. Sense: To make circumspect, or to give intelligence.

II. The Prayer Alter: *Illus. Jacob Genesis 35:1* “And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and **dwell there**: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.” **Note:** Beth-el, the House of God, cannot be separated from the alter, the place of prayer.

Mathew 21:13 “And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

A. A place of regeneration:

B. A place of repentence: **Genesis 35**

C. A place of revival:

III. Our Praise:

- A. Our songs of praise: (Not for sale) **Psalm 7:17** “I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.” **Psalm 28:7** “The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”

- B. Our sacrifice of praise: **Hebrews 13:15** “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

- C. Our story of praise: **Psalm 78:4** “We will not hide *them* from their children, **showing to** the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.”

IV. Our People:

No Trespassing

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:12 Preached on 3-17-02 P.M.

In the statement before us in Christ asserts his sole ownership of his vineyard. It's not a joint partnership, nor a corporation. He is the owner, the President of the board, and the CEO. The word's "is before me", denote his watch care of his vineyard. His all seeing eye misses nothing. In his wisdom he's aware of every need.

The omniscience of God is a marvelous virtue. He knows us by name, and is acquainted with all our wants and necessities; he knows his own flock, and the state of it. He knows every sheep and lamb, in what condition they are, and what is most suitable for them. He knows his vineyard and every branch that grows on the vine.

Christ will not allow any stranger to trespass on his private property, and disturb the tender branches that are growing on the vine.

Isaiah 27: 2,3 "In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. ³I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest *any* hurt it, I will keep it night and day."

I. He Planted The Vine: Isaiah 5:1,2 "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: ²And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes."

Def. Planted: To strike in; or to fix and make permanent:

Note: Christ's coming to die was not an accident, but was in the sovereign design of God. **Psalm 118:22-24** "The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head

stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes. This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

A. Jesus is the vine: **John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

1. The branch is nourished by the vine: **v-4**
"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." (All that I am, or ever hope to be)
 - a. Our fruit glorifies him: (I see in this the humility of Christ: the fruit on the branches draws the attention of those who look, but the fruit is the result of the vine who has no beauty or comeliness)
2. The branch is nothing without the vine: **v-5**
"I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
 - a. A warning to professors: **v-6** "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned."
 - b. A person is either in Christ and bearing fruit, or he is lost:

II. He Posted The Vineyard: Isaiah 5:2 “and he fenced it” Def. Fenced: To Grub; (He’s grubbed up a perimeter around his vineyard, wide enough that the fire of hell cannot leap across)

- A. Authorized personnel only:
- B. No visitors allowed beyond this point:
- C. Game reserve, pet sheep: no hunting:
- D. Private property; keep out:

Illus. Like Job, the church has a hedge about it that prevents predators from invading it:

1. Sin: There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God, a place where sin cannot molest near to the heart of God:
2. Satan:

III. He Pities The Vineyard: Psalm 103:13 “Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.” **James 5:11** “Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

- A. He understands our frame: **Isaiah 64:8** “But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.”
- B. He is longsuffering:

Life In The Garden

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:13 Preached on 3-31-02

My first look at this verse led me to believe that these are the words of the church, to her beloved Lord, whose dwelling place is in the garden; the local church. **But**, although Christ is in the midst of his church, **through the Spirit**, yet today he himself occupies in his resurrected body, an exalted position at the right hand of God.

The word translated, “thou that dwellest”, is in the feminine gender, and so refers to the bride; and may be rendered, “**O thou inhabitress of the gardens.**” It is you and I who yet dwells in the midst of his garden, the church. Those companions who hearken to our voice are young converts; and Christ hears our voice as we live a holy life and seek his face by prayer.

Isaiah 59:1,2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”

Let me briefly mention two separate events that had their occasion in the garden.

1. It was in a garden that death came to man:
Genesis 2:15-17 “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

2. It was in a garden where life sprung out of death: **John 19:41** “Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.” **Mathew 28:6** “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

He has given us life, placed us in the garden of the church to dress it and keep it. But what kind of life do we have there?

I. A Life That Is Blessed: (The song “I Am Blessed”)

- A. With hearing the Word of God: **Revelation 1:3** “Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.”
- B. With healing for the heart: **Luke 4:18,19** “The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”
- C. With help for the present: **Psalms 46:1** “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” **Isaiah 41:13,14** “For I the LORD thy God will **hold thy right hand**, saying unto thee, **Fear not; I will help thee.** ¹⁴**Fear not**, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

D. With hope for the future: **Isaiah 35:1-4** “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ²It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God. ³Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompense; he will come and save you.”

E. With holiness from the Father: **I Peter 1:16** “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” **Hebrews 12:14** “Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

F. With happiness in the heart: **Psalms 144:15** “Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: *yea*, happy *is that* people, whose God *is* the LORD.”

II. A Life That Is Well Behaved: I Timothy 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
Def. Behave: to overturn; also to return: (How to get right and stay right)

A. Obedient in spirit: **I Samuel 15:22** “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.
²³For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, and

stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.”

B. Observant in heart: **Matthew 28:20 (Our Lord)**

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:” Def. Observe: a watch; to guard from loss or injury by keeping the eye upon:

1. Our fellowship with him: *Illus.* The church at Ephesus: **Revelation 2:4** “Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

a. Their labor was right:

b. They were separated: (They could not bear them which were evil)

c. They were right in doctrine: (They had tried them which said they were apostles and has found them to be liars)

d. **They left their first love, because they lost their fellowship:**

(Observe Our)

2. Our friendship with others: (It is easy to make enemies, but also difficult to make friends) **Proverbs 18:24** “A man *that hath* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.”

- a. It is a terrible thing to be friendless:
Def. Friendly: to spoil; to be broken
in pieces.
 - b. Sometimes those who are friends;
those who we have done good
deeds for will disappoint us: we
must be broken and deny self, as
to not become selfish and lose a
friend: **Proverbs 17:17** “A friend
loveth at all times, and a brother is
born for adversity.”
 - c. Judas betrayed the Lord, and he
yet called him friend:
3. Our faith in the gospel: **Jude 20** “But ye,
beloved, **building up yourselves on your
most holy faith**, praying in the Holy
Ghost,” Note: The failure: **II Peter 1**
- a. Faith
 - b. Virtue
 - c. Knowledge
 - d. Temperance
 - e. Patience
 - f. Godliness
 - g. Brotherly kindness
 - h. Charity

V-8-10 “For if these things be in you, and abound, they
make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in
the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But he that
lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and
hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

¹⁰Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make

your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

- C. Occupied with labor: **Proverbs 24:30-34** “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; ³¹And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. ³²Then I saw, **and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.** ³³*Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.”

1. We can become lazy, both in our physical and spiritual life:

CRUCIFIED: **ROMANS 6:6** “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

III. A Life That Is Bankrupt: Luke 9:23,24 “And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

John 12:24,25 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. ²⁵He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”

- A. Things we must resign: (To give up or quit)

1. Corrupt ways: **Ephesians 4:22-24** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

2. Childish ways: **I Corinthians 13:11** “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

3. Careless ways: **Ephesians 5:15** “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Def. Redeeming: to improve opportunity.

B. Things we must remember: **II Peter 1:13** “Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;”

1. Peter wanted these things to remain steadfast in their minds: **v-15** “Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.”
 - a. Our former state: **Ephesians 2:11,12** “Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time

ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”

- b. Our faithful Savior: **v-13** “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”
- c. Our family situation: **Psalm 128:1-3** “Blessed *is* every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy *shalt* thou *be*, and *it shall be* well with thee. Thy wife *shall be* as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.”

- 1. Notice the responsibility is placed on the man: **v-4** “Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.”

C. Things we must refine: (Improve it)

- 1. Our prayer life: **Luke 11:1** “Lord, teach us to pray,”
 - a. Closet praying: **Matthew 6:6** “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which

seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

1. According to verses 5-7, hypocrites love to be seen and heard.
 - b. Clear praying: (Be specific)
 - c. **Matthew 6:7** “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”
 - d. Continual praying:
I Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing” (Don’t give up your prayer life)
2. Our personal life:
 - a. Around the home:
 - b. On the job: (Be the best employee the company has)
 - c. Out in public:
3. Our potential life: (Those areas of life that has been gifted by the Lord)
 - a. Piano playing:
 - b. Guitar playing:
 - c. Singing:

Our Attitude At His Coming

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 8:14 Preached on 4-8-02

This mornings message will close our study in the Song of Solomon. This bridegroom has spoken his final words in verse thirteen, and has ascended back to the right hand of the Father. He has finished the work he was sent to do. Sin, death, and the grave have all been conquered. Our salvation has been paid for, and the promise of redemption stands sure, in the mind of God.

I believe what we see in verse fourteen is the attitude of the heart, of those who stood gazing into the heavens, as our Lord, by a cloud, was received out of their sight.

Acts 1:10,11 “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**”

The cry of their heart was, “Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.”

As John wrote while exiled on Patmos in **Revelation 22:20** “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

The fact is, he’s coming! But I wonder if our desire for his return is as ardent as the bride’s here in verse fourteen. What will be our attitude and spiritual condition at his coming?

I. Let’s Be Prepared In Our Heart: *Illus.* The ten virgins in Matthew 25

- A. Make sure you are saved: **v-3,4** “They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”
1. Salvation is more than an empty religion: **(Lamps without oil)**
 2. Salvation is possessing Christ: **(Oil of the Holy Spirit)**
- B. Make sure you are serving: **v-5** “While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.” **(Their conditioned varied from nodding in the recliner to fully resting in bed)**
1. *Illus.* The parable of the laborers in the vineyard: **Matthew 20**
 - a. Some labored from early morning:
 - b. Others labored from the third, sixth, ninth, and eleventh hour:
 - c. But when the day closed at the twelfth hour, all were working:
- C. Make sure you are stirred: **v-6-8** “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.”

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

II. Let's Be Purified In Our Life: I John 3:2,3 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall

appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

A. Hope purifies:

1. Because of his appearing: (**When he shall appear**)
2. Because of his appearance: (For we shall see him as he is)
 - a. This phrase means to gaze; with the eyes wide open, as at something remarkable:
 - b. It will be an eye opening experience:
 - c. He is remarkable to look upon:

- Def. {
1. He deserves particular notice:
 2. He excites admiration and wonder:
 - a. To purify, do nothing contrary (knowingly) to the scriptures;
 - b. To purify, do nothing that defiles the conscience:
 - c. To purify, bathe daily in the Word of God:

III. Let Us Be Prayerful In Spirit: Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

- A. The parable of the unjust judge was given as an encouragement to pray as his appearing draws nigh:
- B. Our prayer life, in the last days, reveals the depth of our faith: **v-8** “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

IV. Let Us Be Patient In Waiting: Mark 13: 34-37 “*For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.* ³⁵Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: ³⁶Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

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