



REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

STEADFAST AND IMMOVEABLE

By Pastor Brian De Jong

When the storms of life batter believers, as sorrows multiply and hope seems all but gone, it is essential to remain steadfast and immovable in the truth. In the past weeks Christians in our community have been beset with affliction. Car accidents and fires have destroyed property and taken lives. Believing families have been shattered by their circumstances and a cloud of grief lies heavy upon the area.

Facing hard realities can be emotionally challenging, even if we did not know the persons involved. Putting ourselves in their place, we sense the brokenness that comes through tragedy. If we allow ourselves, it is easy to weep with those who weep. Bearing their burdens in love can prove heavy indeed.

Knowing that life in a fallen world is like this, we try to cope. Adam and Eve's sinful choice has led to a world wracked with pain, death and decay. Often the problems are nobody's fault in particular, but just the painful consequences of our first parents' decision to eat the forbidden fruit. Surely Adam and Eve felt deep regret and sorrow when they discovered that their son Cain had cruelly murdered his brother Abel. In one moment they lost both of their sons – one to death, the other to perpetual banishment. And why? Because Eve took the fruit, and ate, and gave to her husband Adam, and he also ate.

Maintaining our emotional equilibrium, we can't deny the sadness of much

of life. Having a Pollyanna attitude just won't do – everything is not good and happy and wonderful in such a world. At the same time, we dare not surrender to hopelessness and despair. We remind



ourselves that God is in control, and that He works all things together for the good of His people, and the glory of His name. So despondency is not an option either.

So how does one walk the tightrope and keep one's balance? 1 Corinthians 15:58 offers a helpful prescription: ⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain*

in the Lord. First, always remember that we are part of a loving spiritual family. God our Father has saved us by grace and adopted us as His children. He does not forsake His beloved children! So too, Christ is our elder brother who loved us enough to lay down his life upon the cross for our salvation. He rose for us, and ever lives to make intercession for us. Both the Father and the Son have sent their Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and Helper.

Second, remember in the midst of trials and tribulations your duty to be steadfast and immovable. God does not want you to waver in unbelief, but to follow Abraham's example of growing strong in faith. He calls you to stand firm, to be steady on your feet. Don't allow yourself to be moved from your strong confidence in His goodness and kindness.

Although circumstances may tempt

Volume 11, Issue 2

February 2016

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Article</i>	1
<i>The Bruised Reed by Richard Sibbes</i>	2-5
<i>Taco Supper/Game Night</i>	6
<i>Front Page Concluded</i>	6
<i>February Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Book Review from Carla De Master</i>	7
<i>February Calendar</i>	8
<i>Social Fellowship Activities</i>	9
<i>2016 Hospitality Committees</i>	10
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	11
<i>Spurgeon Corner</i>	12
<i>Joint Service</i>	12

Mnemonics...

- *Taco Supper/Game Night, 5th*
- *Joint Service, 14th*
- *Men's Retreat, 19th-20th*

Continued on page 6...

Christ Will Not Break the Bruised Reed

By Richard Sibbes

In pursuing his calling, Christ will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, in which more is meant than what is spoken, for not only will he not break or quench them, but he will cherish those with whom he deals in this way.

CHRIST'S DEALINGS WITH THE BRUISED REED

Physicians, though they put their patients to much pain, will not destroy their nature, but raise it up by degrees. Surgeons will lance and cut, but not dismember. A mother who has a sick and self-willed child will not therefore push it away. Will there be more mercy in the stream than there is in the spring from which it flows? Shall we think there is more mercy in ourselves than in God, who plants the affection of mercy in us?

But for further declaration of Christ's mercy to all bruised reeds, consider the comfortable relationships he has taken upon himself of husband, shepherd, and brother, which he will discharge to the utmost. Shall others fulfill what he calls them to by his grace, and shall he not also fulfill what he has been called to, the one who, out of his love, has taken upon himself these relationships, so thoroughly founded upon his Father's assignment, and his own voluntary undertaking? Consider the names he has borrowed from the mildest creatures, such as lamb and hen, to show his tender care. Consider his very name Jesus, a Savior, which was given to him by God himself. Consider that his office corresponds to his name, which is that he should "bind up the broken hearted" (Isa. 61:1). At his baptism the Holy Ghost rested on him in the shape of a dove, to show that he should be dove-like, a gentle Mediator.

See the gracious way he executes his offices. As a prophet, he came with blessing in his mouth, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3), and invited those to come to him whose hearts most suggested exceptions against themselves, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden" (Matt. 11:28). How his heart yearned when he saw the people "as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36)! He

never turned away anyone who came to him, though some went away by their own choice. He came to die as a priest for his enemies. In the days of his flesh he dictated a form of prayer to his disciples, and put petitions unto God into their mouths, and put his Spirit in their hearts to intercede. He shed tears for those who shed his blood; and now he makes intercession in heaven for weak Christians, standing between them

"Christ will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax."

and God's anger. He is a meek king; he will admit mourners into his presence, a king of poor and afflicted persons. Just as he has beams of majesty, so he has a heart of mercy and compassion. He is the prince of peace (Isa. 9:6). Why was he tempted, except that he might "comfort those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:18)? What mercy may we not expect from so gracious a Mediator (1Tim. 2:5) who took our nature upon himself so that he might be gracious? He is a physician who is good at healing all diseases, especially at binding up a broken heart. He died so that he might heal our souls with a plaster of

his own blood, and save us by that death which we caused ourselves, by our own sins. And does he not have the same heart in heaven? "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" cried the Head in heaven, when the foot on earth was trodden on (Acts 9:4). His advancement has not made him forget his own flesh. Though it has freed him from passion, yet it has not freed him from compassion towards us. The lion of the tribe of Judah will only tear in pieces those who "will not have him rule over them" (Luke 19:14). He will not show his strength against those who prostrate themselves before him.

FOR OURSELVES

1. What should we learn from this, but to "come boldly to the throne of grace" (Heb. 4:16) in all our grievances? Shall our sins discourage us when he appears there only for sinners? Are you bruised? Be of good comfort, he calls you. Do not conceal your wounds, open everything before him and do not take Satan's counsel. Go to Christ, although trembling, as the poor woman who said, "If I may only touch his garment" (Matt. 9:21). We shall be healed and have a gracious answer. Go boldly to God in our flesh; he is

flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone for this reason: so that we might go boldly to him. Never fear to go to God, since we have such a Mediator with him; he is not only our friend but our brother and husband. Well might the angel proclaim from heaven, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10). Well might the apostle stir us up to "rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4). Paul was well-advised upon what grounds he did it. Peace and joy are two main fruits of Christ's kingdom. Let the world be as it will, if we cannot rejoice in the world, yet we may rejoice in the Lord. His presence makes any condition comfortable. "Do not be afraid," he says to his disciples when they were afraid, as if they had seen a ghost, "It is I" (Matt. 14:27), as if there were no cause of fear wherever he was present.

2. Let this support us when we feel ourselves bruised. Christ's way is first to wound, and then to heal. No sound, whole soul will ever enter into heaven. When in temptation, think "Christ was tempted for me; my graces and comforts will be according to my trials. If Christ is so merciful as not to break me, then I will not break myself by despair, nor will I yield myself to the roaring lion, Satan, to break me in pieces."

3. See the contrary disposition of Christ on the one hand and Satan and his instruments on the other. Satan sets upon us when we are weakest, as Simeon and Levi set upon the Shechemites, "when they were sore" (Gen. 34:25); but Christ will repair in us all the breaches which sin and Satan have made. He "binds up the broken hearted" (Isa. 61:1). As a mother is tenderest to the most diseased and weakest child, so does Christ most mercifully incline to the weakest. Likewise he puts an instinct into the weakest things to rely upon something stronger than themselves for support. The vine rests itself upon the elm, and the weakest creatures often have the strongest shelters. The consciousness of the church's weakness makes her willing to lean on her beloved, and to hide herself under his wing.

WHO ARE THE BRUISED REEDS?

But how shall we know whether we are such as may expect mercy?

Answer: (1) Bruised here does not mean those who are brought low only by crosses, but those who, by crosses, are brought to see their sin, which bruises most of all. When conscience is under the guilt of sin,

then every judgment brings a report of God's anger to the soul, and all lesser troubles run into this great trouble of conscience because of sin. Just as all corrupt fluids run to the diseased and bruised part of the body, and just as every creditor falls upon the debtor when he has been arrested, so when conscience is awakened, all former sins and present crosses join together to make the bruise more painful. Now, he that is thus bruised will be content with nothing but mercy from the one who has bruised him. He has wounded, and he must heal (Hos. 6:1). The Lord who has bruised me deservedly for my sins must bind up my heart again. (2)

**"Christ's way
is first to
wound, and
then to
heal."**

Again, a man truly bruised judges sin to be the greatest evil, and the favor of God the greatest good. (3) He would rather hear of mercy than of a kingdom. (4) He has poor opinions of himself, and thinks that he is not worth the earth he treads on. (5) He is not critical towards others, as if at home, but is full of sympathy and compassion to those who are under God's hand. (6) He thinks that those who walk in the comforts of God's Spirit are the happiest men in the world. (7) He trembles at the Word of God (Isa. 66:2), and honors the very feet of those blessed instruments that bring peace to him (Rom. 10:15). (8) He is more taken up with the inward exercises of a broken heart than with formality, and yet is careful to use all sanctified means to convey comfort.

But how shall we come to this state of mind?

Answer: First, we must conceive of bruising either as a state into which God brings us, or as a duty to be performed by us. Both are meant here. We must join with God in bruising ourselves. When he humbles us, let us humble ourselves, and not stand out against him, for then he will redouble his strokes. Let us justify Christ in all his chastisements, knowing that all his dealing towards us is to cause us to return into our own hearts. His work in bruising tends to our work in bruising ourselves. Let us lament our own perversity, and say: "Lord, what a heart I have that needs all this, so that none of this could be spared!" We must lay siege to the hardness of our own hearts, and aggravate sin all we can. We must look on Christ who was bruised for us, look on him whom we have pierced with our sins. But all directions will not prevail, unless God

The Bruised Reed Continued

by his Spirit convinces us deeply, setting our sins before us, and driving us to a standstill. Then we will cry out for mercy. Conviction will breed contrition, and this leads to humiliation. Therefore desire that God would bring a clear and a strong light into all the corners of our souls, and accompany it with a spirit of power to lay our hearts low.

A fixed measure of bruising of ourselves cannot be prescribed, but it must be enough (1) that we may prize Christ above all, and see that a Savior must be had; and (2) that we reform what is amiss, even though to the extent of cutting off our right hand, or pulling out our right eye. There is a dangerous disparaging of the work of humiliation; some do it as a pretence for their casual dealing with their own hearts, so that Christ will not break the bruised reed; but such men must know that every sudden terror and short grief is not what makes us bruised reeds. It is not a little “bowing down our heads like a bulrush” (Isa. 58:5), but working our hearts to such a grief as will make sin more odious to us than punishment, until we offer a “holy violence” against it. Otherwise, favoring ourselves, we will make work for God to bruise us, and for sharp repentance afterwards. It is dangerous, I confess, in some cases, with some sensitive souls, to press this bruising too much and too long, because they may die under the wound and burden before they are raised up again. Therefore it is good in mixed assemblies to mingle comfort that every soul may have its due portion. But if we have this for a foundation truth, that there is more mercy in Christ than sin in us, there can be no danger in dealing with it thoroughly. It is better to go bruised to heaven than sound to hell. Therefore let us not release ourselves too soon, nor pull off the plaster before the cure is worked, but keep ourselves under this work till sin is the sourest, and Christ is the sweetest, of all things. And when God’s hand is upon us in any way, it is good to divert our sorrow for other things to the root of it all, which is sin. Let our grief run most in that channel, so that just as sin bred our grief, so grief may consume our sin.

But are we not bruised unless we grieve more for sin than we do for punishment?

Answer: Sometimes our grief from outward

grievances may lie heavier upon the soul than grief from God’s displeasure because, in such cases, the grief works upon the whole man, both outward and inward; it has nothing to support it, but a little spark of faith. This faith, by reason of the violent impression of the grievance, is suspended in its exercises. This is most felt in sudden distresses which come upon the soul as a torrent or land flood, and especially in bodily sicknesses which, by reason of the sympathy between the soul and the body, work upon the soul in such a way as to hinder not only the spiritual, but often the natural acts. Therefore, James wishes us to pray ourselves in our affliction, but in case of sickness to “send for the elders” (James 5:14). These elders may, as those in the Gospels did, offer up to

“It is better to go bruised to heaven than sound to hell.”

God in their prayers the sick person who is unable to present his own case. God will respond to such a plea to be freed from the sharpness and bitterness of the grievance, as he did with David (Psa. 6). The Lord knows our frame; he remembers that we are but dust (Psa. 103:14), and that our strength is not the strength of steel.

This is a branch of his faithfulness to us as his creatures, for which he is called “a faithful Creator” (1Pet. 4:19). “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able” (1Cor. 10:13). There were certain commandments

which the Jews called the hedges of the law. So as to fence men off from cruelty, God commanded that they should not take the mother with the young, nor “boil a kid in his mother’s milk” (Exod. 23:19), nor “muzzle the mouth of the ox” (1Cor. 9:9). Does God take care of beasts, and not of his more noble creature? And therefore we ought to judge charitably of the complaints of God’s people which are wrung from them in such cases. Job was esteemed by God to be a patient man, notwithstanding those passionate complaints. Faith overborne for the present will gain ground again; and grief for sin, although it comes short of grief for misery in terms of violence, yet it goes beyond it in constancy, just as a running stream fed by a spring holds out, when a sudden swelling brook fails.

For the conclusion of this point, and our encouragement to a thorough work of bruising, and pa-

The Bruised Reed Concluded

tience under God's bruising of us, let all know that none are fitter for comfort than those that think themselves furthest off. Men, for the most part, are not lost enough in their own feeling for a Savior. A holy despair in ourselves is the ground of true hope. In God the fatherless find mercy (Hos. 14:3). If men were more fatherless, they would feel more God's fatherly affection from heaven, for the God who dwells in the highest heavens dwells likewise in the lowest soul (Isa. 57:15). Christ's sheep are weak sheep, and lacking in something or other; he therefore applies himself to the needs of every sheep. He seeks what was lost, and brings again what was driven away, and binds up what was broken, and strengthens the weak (Ezek. 34:16). His tenderest care is over the weakest. The lambs he carries in his bosom (Isa. 40:11). He says to Peter, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15). He was most familiar and open to troubled souls. How careful he was that Peter and the rest of the apostles should not be too dejected after his resurrection! "Go your way, tell his disciples and Peter" (Mark 16:7). Christ knew that the guilt of their unkindness in leaving of him had dejected their spirits. How gently he endured the unbelief of Thomas, and stooped so far to his weakness, as to allow him to thrust his hand into his side.

Sibbes, Richard, The Bruised Reed, Chapter 2, Christ Will Not Break the Bruised Reed



Taco Supper and Game Night

The taco supper and game night will be held on February 5th at 6:30 p.m. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for a taco ingredient and a dessert.



Front Page Concluded...

you to doubt God, you cannot allow your circumstances to trump God's commands. God's word is sure and certain, your circumstances are changeable and uncertain. Remain steady in your assurance of God's truthfulness.

Thirdly, stay busy in the Lord's work. When you are always abounding in the Lord's work, you will have less time for unwholesome introspection and unprofitable reflection. People with nothing to do can easily sink into the quicksand of discouragement and depression. Because they tend to focus inward, their troubles grow larger than life. By remaining engaged in loving God and serving others, we can sidestep the pitfalls of idleness.

Finally, keep bringing to your mind this thought: "My toil is not in vain in the Lord!" One day our

Lord will return, and he will judge the living and the dead. He will ask men to give an account of what they've done with the talents lent to them. If you have been a good and faithful servant, taking your master's talents and producing more talents, you will be rewarded. Thus laboring in God's vineyard is not an exercise in futility. God will reward you for your steadfastness – especially in the face of hard situations and discouraging circumstances!



Book Review

By Carla De Master

Book: The Minor Prophets, Volume I, by James Montgomery Boice; Hoseah-Jonah

James Montgomery Boice is wide read in history, literature and philosophy and brings to his commentaries applications that are concise and to the point. I appreciate these facts, as they help me understand history, literature and philosophy at the same time as I am learning about the chapters from God's Word.

Because Boice clearly introduces his volume in the Preface, I will take from it to give this book review. The Minor Prophets highlight the character of God as few other books do. First, His sovereignty is throughout the books. Nothing happens that is not the result of His direct determination. God is in charge of history. The second great attribute of God is His holiness. No matter where sin was found (in pagan countries or Israel) God's holiness called for deep and pervasive repentance. Without that, judgement falls. Third, the prophets speak of God's love.

His love is compatible with justice! Sin is destructive. God judges sin in order to turn people back from sin to Himself.

Boice also understands contemporary society. We need these emphases today! God's Sovereignty, His Holiness, and His Love help us to see our need for repentance and the need of our nation for repentance. Many nations and people have risen and fallen by their response to God. For example, Nineveh was the largest, strongest city ever built. It was also the most evil city. Horrible things were done to people (describes in the commentary). Through Jonah, God had a revival there; but through Obadiah, God told of the coming destruction that forever annihilated the city, never to be found again. God takes sin seriously.

Trust in God was found in these prophets and in their message. Encourage your trust in God by reading this book.



Grace OPC

February 2016

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 P.M.	4	5 Taco Supper /Game Night 6:30 PM	6
7	8	9 Session Meeting	10 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 P.M.	11	12	13
14 Meadowview Manor, 3:00 P.M. Joint Service at Bethel, Oostburg, 6:00 P.M.	15	16	17 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 PM	18	19 Men's Retreat at Green Lake Conference Center	20 Men's Retreat at Green Lake Conference Center
21	22	23	24 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM	25	26	27 Men's Leadership Breakfast, 7:00 A.M.
28	29					

Social Fellowship Activities 2016

Reflections

February 19-20	Men's Retreat	Men
February 25 or 26 (tentative)	Emily Bridal Shower	Ladies Group
February 27, 2016	Men's Breakfast	Pastor Brian
March 13, 2016	Fellowship Lunch	Ladies Group
March 26, 2016	Men's Breakfast	Pastor Brian
April 1, 2016	Worldview Movie Night	Pastor Brian
April 17, 2016	Spring Hospitality Sunday	Pastor Brian
April 30, 2016	Men's Breakfast	Pastor Brian
May 22, 2016	Fellowship Lunch / Malawi Farewell	Ladies Group
June 11, 2016 (tentatively)	Emile Bridal Shower	Ladies Group
June 20, 2016	VBS?	Deb Arndt
June 23, 2016	Mini Golf	Jeff / Josh
July 4, 2016	Golf – Sunset Hills	Jeff / Josh
July 8, 2016	Timber Rattlers Baseball Game	James and Susan
July 17, 2016	Fellowship Supper	Ladies Group
July 29, 2016	Ice Cream Social / or New Event TBD	Grace De Jong
August 18, 2016	Church Picnic	Ladies Group
August 23, 2016	Alyssa Bridal Shower	Ladies Group
August 27, 2016	Corn Roast at Nyhof's	Rodney and Samantha
September 8-10, 2016	Church Campout at Kohler-Andrae	Pastor Brian
September 30, 2016	Worldview Movie Night	Pastor Brian
October 1, 2016	Ladies Presbyterial (Joliet, IL)	Ladies
October 9, 2016	Fall Hospitality Sunday	Pastor Brian
October 29-30, 2016	Reformation Conference	Ladies Group
November 12, 2016	Harvest Home	Ladies Group
November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving Football Game	Josh / Steve
December 4, 2016	Fellowship Brunch	Ladies Group
December 29, 2016	Bowling / Pizza / Game night	Pastor Brian
January 15, 2017	Fellowship Lunch (soup and salad)	Ladies Group
January 21, 2017	Sunburst Tubing	Jason and Emily
February 3, 2017	Taco / Game night	Grace De Jong

2016 Hospitality Committees

*Samantha Nyhof

*Grace DeJong

Sandy Kaiser

Carla DeMaster

Megan Boss

Toni Barthels

Marge Halbach

Heidi Mamazzsa

Stephanie Arndt

*Sara TenPas

*Lynn Jensema

Liz TenPas

Anna TenPas

Sue Lorenz

Moni Doro

Emile Doro

Wendy Froh

Gracie Froh

Ellen McNeese

*Arenda Onnink

*Debbie Boss

Emily Boss

Bev Koehler

Susan Bingham

DeLou De Jong

Lynn Baatz

Sandy Baatz

Jan Nyenhuis

Jennifer Malangwasira

Chimwemwe Malangwasira

*Audrey Voskuil

*Tammy Voskuil

Gail Buyze

Shary De Troye

Gail Moody

Rachel Taggart

Deborah Arndt

Margaret Adam

Phyllis Nyhof

Deborah Arndt

Becca Taggart

Sue Gross

*Denotes Co-Chair Ladies

Blueberry French Toast Roll-ups

...with Cream Cheese Dipping Sauce

- ★ 16-20 slices sandwich bread
- ★ 1/2 cup blueberry jam (or raspberry, cherry, any kind works)
- ★ 4 large eggs
- ★ 1/2 cup milk
- ★ 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- ★ 2 Tbsp. flour
- ★ 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- ★ 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- ★ 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- ★ 1/3 cup white sugar
- ★ 1 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Stack bread into stacks of 4 slices, then trim crusts from bread. Working with one piece of bread at a time, use a rolling pin to flatten bread to about 1/2 its original size. Evenly spread 1 tsp.-1 Tbsp. blueberry jam just onto one half of the bread. Roll bread to opposite end and set aside, seam side down. Repeat with remaining slices of bread.

2. With a whisk, mix together eggs, milk, vanilla, flour, baking powder and nutmeg until well blended. Pour into a bowl and dip roll ups into egg mixture, allowing to rest several seconds to absorb liquid. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray and lay the roll-ups on the pan. Bake in preheated oven 9 minutes, then remove from oven. Brush tops lightly with melted butter then rotate roll-ups to opposite side and brush lightly with melted butter (bottoms should now be upright). Return to oven to bake 8 - 12 minutes longer until cooked through.

3. In a small bowl whisk together granulated sugar and cinnamon. Once french toast roll ups are cool enough to handle, immediately dip and roll in cinnamon sugar mixture to evenly coat. Serve warm with cream cheese dipping sauce.

Dipping Sauce Recipe:

- ★ 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ★ 3 oz. butter, softened
- ★ 1 cup powdered sugar
- ★ 1 1/2-2 Tbsp. milk
- ★ 1/2 tsp. vanilla

In a mixing bowl, using an electric hand mixer, whip together cream cheese and butter until smooth and fluffy. Add in powdered sugar, milk and vanilla and whip until well blended and fluffy. Store in refrigerator.



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email: graceopc@tds.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Spurgeon Corner

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”
(Luke 2:20)

What was the subject of their praise? They *praised God for what they had heard*—for the good tidings of great joy that a Saviour was born unto them. Let us copy them; let us also raise a song of thanksgiving that we have heard of Jesus and his salvation. They also *praised God for what they had seen*. There is the sweetest music—what we have experienced, what we have felt within, what we have made our own—“the things which we have made touching the King.” It is not enough to *hear* about Jesus: mere hearing may tune the harp, but the fingers of living faith must create the music. If you have seen Jesus with the God-giving sight of faith, suffer no cobwebs to linger among the harp strings, but loud to the praise of sovereign grace, awake your psaltery and harp. One point for which they praised God was *the agreement between what they had heard and what they had seen*. Observe the last sentence—“As it was told unto them.” Have you not found the gospel to be in yourselves just what the Bible said it would be? Jesus said he would give you rest—have you not enjoyed the sweetest peace in him? He said you should have joy, and comfort, and life through believing in him—have you not received all these? Are not his ways ways of pleasantness, and his paths paths of peace? Surely you can say with the queen of Sheba, “The half has not been told me.” I have found Christ more sweet than his servants ever said he was. I looked upon his likeness as they painted it, but it was a mere daub compared with himself; for the King in his beauty outshines all imaginable loveliness. Surely what we have “*seen*” keeps pace with, nay, far exceeds, what we have “*heard*.” Let us, then, glorify and praise God for a Saviour so precious, and so satisfying.

Evening, January 28th, by C. H. Spurgeon

Joint Service

The annual joint service will be held Sunday evening, February 14th at Bethel in Oostburg. If you would like to be part of the combined choir, they will rehearse on February 7th at 2:00 p.m.

