

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

By Rev. G. Grant Verdoold
8 December, 2019

TEXT:

“1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.” Isaiah 61: 1 - 3 (KJV)

INTRODUCTION:

HE is the pathway to freedom, the pathway to peace, the pathway of assurance, and the pathway to the future. “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This *is* the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.” Isaiah 30: 21

“To appoint unto them” (Isaiah 61: 3) This is truly a word of strong hope and consolation. If GOD appoints me a portion, who can deprive me of it? If HE appoints my comfort, who is it that could stand in the way of it? If GOD appoints it, then we shall surely have it!! “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4: 6, “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” Genesis 1: 3

HOOK: A Word of Music

Our text today, Isaiah 61: 1 - 3, is a whole world of music for the soul this morning.

Here is a table of grace for each one of us today!

For HE, the Holy One of Israel, the King of Kings in the midst of Zion, calls out to HIS people. HE gives as well as appoints!! The rich comforts of the Gospel are given by the Holy Spirit, at the command of Jesus Christ, to every mourner in the time when he/she needs them! They are given!! HE alone can give the comfort, the hope, and the grace, for HE is the GOD of all comfort. “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,” 2 Corinthians 1: 3

Our ever gracious and Almighty LORD knows how to comfort HIS children. For HE, the Royal Monarch of our hearts, appoints and gives freely to HIS children beauty for ashes! What a divine exchange! Beauty for ashes!!

The ashes that men and women put upon their heads in the East in that time of sorrow made a grim tiara in their hair, and upon their brows. But our LORD promises to put all these ashes away and to substitute them with a diadem of beauty that would put Queen Elizabeth’s royal crown to shame!

A gracious and unchanging GOD sheds on HIS people a great unfolding of gracious loveliness! What a life HE gives! Take it now! Yes, take it now!! Christ is yours at this very hour!

Jesus changes us from a withered tree into a strong oak standing by rivers of pure water! How beautiful!

Your name is written on the palms of HIS hands! “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of *My hands*; Your walls *are* continually before Me.” Isaiah 49: 16

HIS love never changes! “**37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8: 37-39

HIS power never diminishes! “Truly my soul silently *waits* for God; From Him *comes* my salvation.” Psalms 62: 1, “With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy *endures* forever;” Psalms 136: 12, “*God is* wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened *himself* against Him and prospered?” Job 9: 4

HIS grace never fails! “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4: 16, “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2 Corinthians 12: 9, “But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4: 6

HIS truth is as firm as granite rock! “Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” Joshua 21: 45, “For the word of the Lord *is* right, and all His work *is done* in truth.” Psalms 33: 4

HIS faithfulness is like a great mountain! “God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1: 9

The Eternal GOD is your refuge today, and underneath are HIS everlasting arms! “The eternal God *is your* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, ‘Destroy!’” Deuteronomy 33: 27

HE fails not! In fact, HIS great enterprise of mercy NEVER fails! “Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.” Psalms 136: 26

Come friends and seek HIM today as the wise men did! Start with their question, “saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”” Matthew 2:2. Let that question fester in your heart. Seek HIM and you will find HIM! “And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29: 13

Seek the Saviour, HIS Anointed One for HE is worth seeking! HIS worth is above rubies! “For wisdom *is* better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.” Proverbs 8: 11

Seek HIM and HE will give you beauty for ashes! (Isaiah 61: 3). Are there any takers today? GOD’s trade-in program is amazing! What a wonderful Saviour!!!

Book 1: Our LORD and HIS Preaching

Before we go any further, I want to talk about our LORD and HIS preaching.

Our LORD’s anointing was amazing!

Our LORD’s three-fold office was that of prophet, priest and King, and HE was anointed for each office! As one old Puritan said, “GOD had only one Son, and GOD made Him a preacher of HIM!” It was HIS business to preach The Word of GOD and preach HE did! In fact, HE was always preaching!

“What?”, many might say, “Did HE not work miracles?”. Yes, friend, HE did, but each of HIS miracles were sermons! They, each one of them, were acted discourses full of instruction!

HE preached when HE was on the mountain. “1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” Matthew 17: 1 & 2, “1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:” Matthew 5: 1 & 2. HE preached when HE sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house. “Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat.” Luke 7: 36.

All HIS actions were significant! HE preached by HIS every movement! HE preached, even when HE did not speak! Brethren, HIS silence was as eloquent as HIS Word. “Be still and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalm 46:10

HE preached when HE gave, and HE preached when HE received! He was preaching a sermon when HE lent HIS feet to the woman that she might wash them with her tears, “and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil.” Luke 7: 38

HE preached when HE broke the loaves and fed 5,000! “40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. 41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave *them* to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among *them* all. 42 So they all ate and were filled. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.” Mark 6: 40 - 43. No-one there went hungry, physically or spiritually! Is that not amazing? Is that not beautiful?

HE preached when HE was patient before Pilate, for there HE witnessed a confession to stir the ages, that is The Truth! “Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.” John 18: 38

HE preached from the cross, with HIS hands and feet nailed! “Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots. Luke 23: 34. They could not contain HIS heart or HIS passion or stop the Jubilee of HIS life! For on that cross, with all its shame and gore, HE preached the most awesome discourse of justice, of love, of mercy, of vengeance and great grace, of death and of life that was ever preached in all this world of woe!!

HE was always preaching! HE was always heralding! HE was always proclaiming liberty to the captives! (Isaiah 61: 1) Freedom, Oh, glorious freedom!!

With all HIS heart and soul, HE preached! In fact, HE prayed that HE might obtain strength to preach! HE wept in secret, that HE might even more bring the discourse of hope to the fallen hearts and speak the words of life that wipe men’s tears away!

HE was always ready, in season, and out of season! “Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

2 Timothy 4: 2

In boats, on a hillside, or on the streets, HE preached! In the synagogue and in the temple, HE heralded a Jubilee of Grace for anyone, for any heart that would hear and accept HIS Word!

For preaching GOD’s Word still today, 2,000 years later, preaching The Word pleases GOD! “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

1 Corinthians 1: 21

Book 2: WHO gives this Word?

Let us now focus on Who gives this Word.

This is a wonderful Word because it comes from a wonderful GOD! "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6

It is a Word to mourners in Zion meant for comfort and consolation, BUT who gives this wonderful Word?

Brethren, it comes from The One who said, "The Spirit of The LORD GOD is on ME. HE has sent ME to bind up the broken-hearted" (Isaiah 61: 1)

What a wonderful LORD we have!

If HE declares HE will comfort us, then we can rest assured that we shall be comforted!

The nations may convulse and shake their fists, but The King of Righteousness scatters all gloom! For HE, King Jesus, is the consolation of Israel! "" Luke 2: 25. HE, Himself comes for the uplifting of HIS downcast people! HE can, and will, for HIS presence is always light and peace "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." Luke 1: 14. HE is always grace and truth! "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1: 14

Who is this Highly Anointed One who comes to comfort mourners? Who is this One who is described as a preacher?

Our text says, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek" (Isaiah 61: 1)

Friends, remember, the Babe in the manger was a friend of sinners! "And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" "" Matthew 9: 11, "18 John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." "" Matthew 11: 18 & 19. HE came to seek and save the lost "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

Remember what kind of a preacher Jesus was! No other man ever spoke like HIM!! "The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"" John 7: 46

HE was gentleness itself! HIS speech did not fall like hail showers! It dropped like the gentle, warm spring rains on every heart and soul that gathered to hear HIM! Like showers upon newly mown grass, HE scattered refreshment and revival everywhere HIS words were heard!

The widow at the gates of Nain dried her eyes when HE spoke, "11 Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. 12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother." Luke 7: 11 -15, and Jairus no longer mourned for HIS daughter. "39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." 40 And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying. 41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement." Mark 5: 39 - 42,

Mary Magdalene gave up weeping “11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept, she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).” John 20: 11 & 16, and Thomas ceased from doubting! “25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing.” 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”” John 20: 25 - 28. Heavy hearts leaped for joy, and dim eyes sparkled with delight!

In addition to being a preacher HE is described as a physician. Beautiful! “HE has sent ME to bind up the broken-hearted” (Isaiah 61: 1).

Friends, some hearts need more than words! The wounds of these hearts are deep, not mere cuts in the flesh, they are the deep wounds of the soul!

But, Jesus of Nazareth is more than competent to meet this need. HE is called Jehovah Rophi, meaning, “I am The LORD that heals you”. “and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you.”” Exodus 15: 26.

HE is the great physician of men’s and women’s souls!

Isaiah 53: 5 says, “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

HE, Himself, took on our infirmities and bore our sicknesses, for HE is able! HE is able, for HE is the joy of the whole earth! HE comes to comfort you today, and does not only preach with HIS voice, but He binds up the wounds of our souls!

Jesus is a liberator!! Oh, what a glorious word! “to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;” (Isaiah 61:1)

There were many downcast souls in the Israel of old, persons who had become bankrupt and who had lost their estates and fell still deeper into debt so that they were obligated to sell their children into slavery and become slaves themselves! Can you imagine the sting of guilt, shame and anguish, having to sell your children into slavery! Their yoke was heavy!

But then the 50th year came around, and oh what sweet music blared throughout the land. Freedom! Freedom! Joy! Joy for all! Yes, Joy, for HE publishes a Royal Jubilee for bankrupt and enslaved sinners! HE breaks the chains of vice and sin and gives us the freedom of truth!

HE is a herald of good news! “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Isaiah 61: 2). A Royal Jubilee!

GOD, our Emmanuel, GOD with Us, has taken upon Himself human flesh. The glorious, infinite GOD of wonders who inhabited eternity, came from heaven, became an infant, lived among us as a man, and then died for us. The Incarnate GOD is, Himself, the excellent pledge of benevolence!

HIS news is good! It is always good news with Jesus! HE is the envoy from heaven that heralds good news and freedom to our hearts!!

Book 3: To Whom is it Given?

Now that we know Who gives this news, we need to know to whom it is spoken?

Well, it is spoken to those in Zion! Ever think of that? They are in Zion, The LORD’s kingdom! They are The LORD’s people, yet they mourn! Brethren, fallen human nature would mourn forever, except GOD’s grace changes it!

The mourning could have been a lamentation over past sin. Sinned and sorry, in a terrible plight. Jesus who bore our sorrow also bore the wrath on a cross for us. HIS grace takes the load of guilt away. HIS blood was shed for the remission of our sins! "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26: 28, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1: 9,

All of our sin, every sin of yours and mine, is blotted out. Oh, glorious day! To be forgiven!

The mourning could have been a lamentation over our imperfections, maybe longing to be more than what we are. Mourning over not attaining the standard that we have set for ourselves. We see our spots and failures and wish we could wash them away with our tears.

But our LORD is amazing with HIS infinity of perfections, majestic in HIS purity, says, "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11: 28. HE says to us, "This is where you start.". HE calls, ""Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1: 18.

We are blessed because of the greatness of our GOD! With Jesus there is always the great exchange of beauty for ashes!!

Took: Beauty for Ashes, A Diadem of Beauty

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes" (Isaiah 61: 3).

What a divine exchange! What a hope divine! What incredible mercy of our GOD!

Come, mourning souls! Here it is! Come gladly this morning! Come to HIM! Here is the comfort appointed for you! It is the mandate of King Jesus, both to appoint, and to give! Bless HIS Holy Name forever!

"To appoint unto them" (Isaiah 61: 2), this is a word of strong consolation, for you and for me! Jesus will always wrap you in a garment of praise for the spirit of despair! What robes of splendor these are! HE gives us the garment of praise!

Friend take it now! Jesus Christ will cover you, even at this hour, with the garment of praise!

What an exchange! A garment of praise for the spirit of despair! Yes! Accept it today and display to others that GOD has done great things for you! Amen!

Our anointed LORD, King of Kings, is Herald of good things! "2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked." Isaiah 11: 2 & 4, "The humble also shall increase *their* joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 29: 19. "For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you." Isaiah 30: 19

Additional Meditations from Isaiah 61: 1-3

- The spirit of The LORD who hovered over the watery deep was upon our gracious LORD.
- Heaven's Herald, the Monarch with the greatest manifest!

HE came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. "But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."" Matthew 15: 24. Yes! HE came to seek and to find!

- Where are you in this great enterprise? Has HE found you?
- HE came in fullness and was fully inaugurated by HIS Father. The fullness of HIS way, the fullness of HIS truth, and the fullness of HIS life were blessed by The Father.

- Faith = Life! HE demonstrated Faith by HIS life!
- Hope = Words! HE gave us hope with HIS gracious words!
- Love = Actions! HE loved with HIS wonderful actions!
- The Emmanuel, on an enterprise of mercy, heralded a new day. No wonder wise men rushed to see HIM! No wonder the shepherds adored HIM in absolute wonder!
- With HIS first cry out of the womb, HE heralded a new day! That cry signaled to earth and heaven that a Royal Jubilee was in place!! Do you hear it? How will you respond?
- Jesus, so wonderful, so amazing, so divine, that HE, the Royal King of heaven would proclaim it to HIS death!
- In HIS death HE heralded it! In HIS resurrection HE also heralded it! And in HIS rapture, HE will continue to herald it! And the faithful hearts throughout eternity will be rewarded.
- Christ, our emancipator, is up to every Challenge, every dilemma of mankind! Better than any psychologist or psychoanalyst!
- The SON of Righteousness is always ready to make us free!

My friend come to Christ today! Give HIM your life and you will become an Oak of Righteousness shouting the great things HE has done for you!

POST NOTES:

Spirit:

“² The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight *is* in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.” Isaiah 11: 2-5, “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” Isaiah 42:1, “As for Me,” says the Lord, “this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore.”” Isaiah 59: 21. “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” Matthew 3: 16, “³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” John 1: 32-33. “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.” John 3: 34

Anointed:

“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” Psalms 2: 6, “You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions” Psalms 45: 7, “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.” Daniel 9: 24, “He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).” John 1: 41. “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10: 38, “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” Hebrews 1: 9

To Preach:

“And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.” Isaiah 53: 9, “But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.” Psalm 22: 6. “The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.” Psalm 25: 9, “The humble shall see *this and* be glad; And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.” Psalm 69: 32, “Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward *is* with the Lord, And my work with my God.’” Isaiah 49: 4, “³ “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.” Matthew 5: 3-5, 11, “Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.” Luke 7: 22

To Bind:

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57: 15, “For all those *things* My hand has made, and all those *things* exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this *one* will I look: On *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” Isaiah 66: 2, “The Lord *is* near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34: 18, “The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.” Psalm 51: 17, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147: 3, “Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.” Hosea 6: 1, “Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,” 2 Corinthians 7: 6

To Proclaim:

The proclaiming of perfect liberty to the bound, “To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.” Isaiah 42: 7, “That You may say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth,’ To those who *are* in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ “They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures *shall be* on all desolate heights.” Isaiah 49: 9, “²⁴ Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered? ²⁵ But, thus says the Lord: “Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your

children.” Isaiah 49: 24, 25, “To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death,” Psalm 102: 20, “*This is* the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people who *were* at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them:” Jeremiah 34: 8, “¹¹ “As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare *That* I will restore double to you.” Zechariah 9: 11-12 “³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8: 32 - 36, “to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” Acts 26: 18, “¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Romans 6: 16-22, “²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7: 23-25, “²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.” 2 Timothy 2: 25-26