

THE UNSPARING GOD

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

God is good. His purposes are all of grace. When God gave Christ, He gave His dearest, best and all. Christ was His supreme gift. Christ was the pledge of all of God's lesser gifts. God loved us. But it was necessary for Him to give Christ and for Christ to come to this earth in order to show us how much God loved us. There was no clear and crowning revelation of how much God loved the sons of men until the Man of Galilee came. We can study the heavens and see the majesty of God. We can study nature and see the laws of God. We can study history and see the justice of God. We can study Christ and see the love of God. The condescending, compassionate, and crucified Christ shows the love of God.

Our text tells us that God "spared not His Own Son." Concerning this fact, let us consider: --

I. The Meaning Of It To The Father.

In the expression "spared not" we have an allusion to, if not a distinct quotation from, the narrative in Genesis, of Abraham's offering up of Isaac. He "spared not His Own Son" means that He withheld Him not from us. This certainly challenges our best thought. It is an arresting statement. He was the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. Salvation was: --

- (1) Purposed in the mind of God.
- (2) Prompted by the love of God.
- (3) Prophesied by the prophets of God.
- (4) Perfected by the Son of God.
- (5) Proclaimed through the Spirit of God.
- (6) Possessed by the children of God.

The eternal purpose of God became a historic verity when God sent forth His Son into the world. The gift was more than a gift; it was a delivering up to earth, to the society of sinners, with the knowledge that He who was thus surrendered would meet with misunderstanding and misrepresentation, would be maligned and insulted, rejected and persecuted, cruelly abused, and unjustly slain. He did not spare Him, that is, He did not withhold Him; He was not unwilling to part with Him. Remember that Christ was: --

- (1) His Son.
- (2) His own Son.
This points to a community of nature, to a uniqueness and singleness of relation, to a closeness of intimacy to which no other is a parallel. And so we have to estimate the measure of the surrender by the tenderness of the bond.
- (3) His dear Son.
He was the Son of His love.
- (4) His only Son.

When Jesus came there was a real sense of loss in the heart of the Father. There was a great sense of bereavement also. When Christ was bleeding on the cross the throbbing sympathy of the Father was entering the agony of that experience. The greatest sacrifice ever made was the one that God made when He "spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all." God was in Christ "reconciling the world unto Himself?" Of the loss and sorrow which God the Father had only parents who have lost a child can have the faintest conception.

A certain mother prayed and begged God to save her boy. As a result of her prayers, the

boy was convicted of sin, converted, and saved. Presently, he was called to be a missionary. The knowledge of this fact was quite a surprise to the mother. She said that she was happy that he had been saved, and was glad that God had counted him worthy of such a place of service in His Kingdom, and to know that her boy was willing to answer the divine call, but with tears staining her face she said that she never knew before how much it cost God to give us His Son. She had some degree of comprehension of what it meant to God the Father when "He spared not His Own Son."

II. The Meaning Of It To The Son.

1. God delivered up His Son.
2. Christ delivered up Himself.
3. Judas delivered up the Master.

He was not spared: —

(1) In His birth.

He was not born to the purple. His mother was a peasant maiden. He was born in a stable. They were the helpless subjects of a foreign power. He might have been born in Rome, but He was not. Why not? Because He came to found an empire of which Rome could never be the symbol.

(2) In His life.

Few, if any, are the sufferings incident to human life that Jesus was exempted from. He was not even spared the endurance of poverty. Into poverty He was born, in poverty He lived, and in poverty He died. He was poorer than the foxes and the birds.

He was not spared of temptation. He was in all points tempted like as we are. He was tempted to distrust God, tempted to presumption, and tempted to worldliness.

He also had to endure ingratitude.

(3) In His death.

He was spared nothing that could have made His sufferings terrible.

- a. The shame of the cross.
- b. The sharpness of pain.
- c. The shadow of the tomb.

However, Jesus did not want to be spared. He willingly gave Himself up. He did that "FOR US." This gift was intended for all, not just a few select persons. It was for you and me. God help us to feel it and appreciate it. He was guiltless and we were guilty. He was sinless and we were sinful. He was worthy and we were unworthy. He was righteous and we were unrighteous. He was the best and we were the poorest. He became what we were in order that we might become what He is, namely, a child of God.

III. The Meaning Of It To Us.

"How shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?" After the gift of Jesus Christ, every other gift is comparatively a small matter. God having given us Christ, we cannot imagine Him unwilling to bestow any favour that would really be a favour.

1. The greater gift implies the lesser gifts.
2. The purpose of the greater gift cannot be attained without the bestowment of the lesser.
3. Everything is included and possessed in Christ when we receive Him.

All things are ours in Christ. All things necessary to our salvation, to the purification of our souls, to the safety of our spirits amid infinite besetments, to the fulness of our joy, to our present and everlasting triumph, all are guaranteed in Him. Observe the fact that it says "With Him," not without Him. It may be that, without Christ, God will in His providence give us many good things. He may give us health, possessions, worldly comfort and prosperity. But the best gifts, like His grace, forgiveness, and life eternal, He gives only with Christ, only to those who in faith and gratitude accept Him.

Among the things which He gives are : ———

1. The Holy Spirit.

We would not have the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit except for the finished work of Christ on the cross. The Holy Spirit says, "I want more of you."

2. The mastery of circumstances.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." This applies to the Christian only. The reality of it can be known by the Christian only. Life may be seemingly tumbling in on you. The trouble with us is that we are looking at things from the reverse side. We cannot see them from heaven's side. They look altogether from that side. He gives His best to and for us.

3. The assurance of a life of eternal bliss.

Secure forever in His love and His presence.