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Sermon Notes

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We've Not Yet Entered Our Rest

Hebrews 4:9-11

What would you think of a traveler who had to drive from California to New York to be with his extended family in a family reunion; but who, somewhere in Colorado came across a rest stop with the most spectacular vista he'd ever seen. And this traveler liked the rest stop so much, he decided to move in there. It had a very nice washroom, vending machines with all his favorite snacks and soft drinks, and of course, a spectacular view. He slept in his car, greeted all the friendly people who stopped by for a ten-minute visit, and was very happy there. What would you think if this former traveler's family called him on the cell phone the day he was supposed to arrive and asked, "Where are you?" And he told them, "I have found the most beautiful place to live and I decided to stay here." "What?! We're all here waiting for you... where are you?" And this former traveler answered, "I'm living at a spectacular **rest stop** in Glenwood Canyon on Interstate 70." "A **REST STOP!!!** Are you crazy? We were all expecting you this afternoon..." "I know, I know," he answers, "but you really should see the view here... it's so restful!"

Do you think that there would be anything that strange settler could do to persuade his family that he wasn't anything less than crazy for settling down at a rest stop, even one as beautiful as the one in Glenwood Canyon in 1700??

Or what about a man who, during WWII escaped from a Nazi prison of war camp in central Germany, with three fellow POWs; they travel all night, exhausted beyond all reckoning, traveling through the mountains of Bavaria seeking to cross the border into Switzerland; hiding during the day in caves or under bushes; terrified as they hear the shouts of German soldiers down the valley searching for them; after three days without food, they find a small abandoned ski chalet and break in; they are thrilled to find some comfortable bunks and some canned vegetables; they open the cans, and eat; the first food they have had in days; they take turns keeping watch in case one of the German patrols should happen upon their hiding place, and they all get a few hours of fitful sleep; but then when the time comes to push on, one of them says, "I like it here, I think I'll stay." His buddies look at him dumbfounded... "Stay??!! The German patrols could check this place any hour now... they'll catch you for sure!" "No... I'll be okay... I like it here; besides, I'm tired of the journey."

Friends, God in His wisdom has set each one of us on a journey home to an incredibly joyful family reunion. The journey is a long and challenging one, but the final resting place and family reunion with believers from all over the world will be infinitely joyful;

along the way, God in His wisdom gives us just enough refreshment and renewal to keep us going—like rest stops on an Interstate; but He does not mean for any of us to SETTLE DOWN here in our hearts and minds... but to think of ourselves as ALIENS AND STRANGERS who are just passing through.

And again, dear friends, God in His love has rescued us from Satan's dark kingdom and is bringing us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son... in one sense He has already rescued us, but in another very real sense, our perilous journey across miles and miles of enemy territory is far from over; He gives us waystations of rest and renewal in order to allow us to keep going until we are in safety, but He does not intend that we settle in to anything in this world...

We are to consider ourselves as JUST PASSING THROUGH, ALIENS and STRANGERS in Satan's dark world.

BUT sadly, too many of us settle in here in our minds, thinking the earthly blessings we enjoy here and which refresh us are meant to last forever: they include the blessings of beloved family members, Christian friends, godly pastors and disciplers; also the blessings of possessions—homes, vehicles, clothing, hobbies, food, drink, etc. None of these things is meant to last forever... but when some of them get taken—particularly loved ones—we are tempted to rail out against God and question His love for us.

I fear that many American Christians yearn for a rest that God does not will for them to have... Hebrews 4:9 speaks of a rest that is YET TO COME:

Hebrews 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God

God lavishes restful blessings on us to renew us for our journey... and we are tempted to settle in and live for those blessings and not for the two infinite journeys set before us: 1) internal journey of sanctification (growth in Christ); 2) external journey of evangelism and discipleship; these journeys are arduous and painful, so we'd rather settle into one of God's sweet rest stops and live comfortably.

Richard Baxter: In 1650, one of the greatest pastors of the English Puritan movement, Richard Baxter, published an extended treatise on one verse of the Bible: Hebrews 4:9. He had suffered from a severe illness, and wrote this book on heavenly meditation as an act of praise to God for healing him. The general bent of the book was the need for Christians to understand that we have not yet entered our final heavenly rest, and that we should labor to do so... The volume is 672 pages long!!! I have sought merely to capture one aspect of his thought.

I. We Have Not Yet Entered God's Rest

A. Last Week: In One Sense, Already Entered God's Rest through Christ

B. Burden of this Passage... and of the Book: We Have Not Yet Entered God's Rest

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

1. Note: the Sabbath-rest STILL REMAINS for the people of God
2. The essence of this rest is resting from our own work just as God did from His
3. Verse 11 is the ABSOLUTE CLINCHER for my point: "Let us LABOR...: the KJV says "to enter that rest"... there is a LABOR still ahead of us, and we must do that labor
4. There is a race to be run, and we MUST RUN IT right to the end

Hebrews 12:1 ... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

C. Goals of this Sermon

- 1. To make clear the labors of the Christian life that await us**
- 2. To warn and exhort members of FBC to run our laborious race for the rest of our lives... to drop with joyful exhaustion at the finish line**
- 3. To strengthen FBC members with sweet meditations of our heavenly rest**

II. How Must We Labor From Now Till Death?

A. Labor in the Basic Calling of the Christian Life: Faith in Christ

1. The central "work" of God is clear

*John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"
²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."*

- a. This is very much the whole point of the Book of Hebrews

Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ² For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

- b. We must continue to believe in Christ for the rest of our lives, or we will fall short of entering God's heavenly rest

- c. This ongoing work of faith God's work in our hearts...
 - d. But it is also presented as our own work as well, for we must guard our faith and continue to believe...
2. AND we must LABOR in the same for other brothers and sisters in Christ, as we've already seen

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

- a. It is a LABOR to keep watch over one another in brotherly love
- b. It is a LABOR to wrestle in prayer for a drifting brother in Christ
- c. It is a LABOR to visit the sick and encourage them in their faith, lest they be discouraged
- d. We are called on to a life of LABOR over our own hearts and over those of our brothers and sisters in Christ in this central issue of the Christian life: ONGOING FAITH IN CHRIST for the salvation of our souls

In heaven, all such labors will end!! We will be done with faith, having exchanged it for the reality in Christ; our brothers and sisters, the elect, will have made it through as well... no longer a need to strive for your own faith or for theirs... the CONSUMMATION will be upon us

B. Labor in Self-Denial and Taking Up Our Cross

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

- 1. The overwhelming BENT of your natural self—your FLESH—is away from Christ and toward selfish indulgence
- 2. To fight self every single day is EXHAUSTING

In heaven, our nature will be radically transformed and we will instantly be transformed to love everything God loves with a perfect love... the daily battle with our flesh will be OVER FOREVER

C. Labor to be Holy and Against Sin

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

1. Sanctification is a bitter fight every step of the way
2. We must LABOR every single day to fight sin and put it to death
3. We must LABOR every single day to love God with all our hearts, to delight in Him alone and to feed our hearts on His pleasures
4. Temptation is a violent assault on your soul... it attacks you in the night, it assaults you in the day; it allures you and entices you and seizes you with a brazen face and says "Come with me and I will give you delight!"
Temptation is a wicked magnetic attraction to forsake Jesus for some idol or other... we must LABOR—open spiritual warfare—to battle sin like this
5. And if we have sinned, we must LABOR to cleanse our souls: Confession and repentance for sin is a LABOR of souls that we must do now daily, but which we will never do again once we enter God's rest

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

6. So also is MOURNING for sin... a LABOR of the heart that is bitter and painful, but necessary to keep us from adding sin to sin, to keep us from becoming ensnared in wicked habit patterns that will prove impossible to break

James 4:9-10 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

BUT HOW DELIGHTFUL will heaven be, where these labors against sin will be done forever; no more laboring to be holy—you WILL BE holy, as perfectly holy as Jesus Himself; no more guarding against temptation, that coiling slithering serpent; all temptations will be weeded out of Christ's world and we will walk in complete bliss and happiness, free from all temptations; no need to put sin to death anymore—it will be DEAD, dead forever!! No need to labor on your heart to love God more than you do—your love for God will be perfected in every way, for you will see God as He really is, and your redeemed heart will pour forth abundant praise; no more need for confession of sin, for all that will be past; you will have endured Judgment Day and all questioning of your life will be over with; no more mourning for sin, for God will have wiped every tear from our eyes and there will be no more mourning or crying or pain; all time for regret and for learning our lessons from past failures will forever be gone!!

D. Labor Against Bitter Spiritual Enemies

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called

1. The Christian life is one of warfare... and our enemies are supernaturally powerful to destroy our souls

2. Satan

- a. A powerful archangel, with an intellect that towers as far above yours as a mighty tidal wave towers over a cringing toddler... he has arranged his wicked kingdom with demonic powers that surround us at every moment with deceptions and lies and assaults and accusations and alluring masquerades... Luther said it best of Satan, "Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing"... and yet, the Lord commands us to LABOR against Satan

Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Dear friends, this is the EXHAUSTING labor we must fight... we MUST labor every day to fight this wicked foe by standing against the temptations and accusations and doubts and lies with which he assaults us daily; and we are not permitted to grow weary and give up, for then he will devour us like the roaring lion he is.

3. The world

- a. This is the brilliant and wicked system of enticements Satan has set up to trap our souls and do us spiritual violence

1 John 2:16 ... the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life

- b. These are the dangerous thorns and weeds that might surround the seed of God in your heart and crowd it out, making it unfruitful

Mark 4:18-19 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- c. It is exhausting LABOR to fight against worldliness, but it is to this that God has called us
- d. To cease this labor is to become WORLDLY ourselves, to see the fire of God's work in our hearts extinguished by idols
- e. Along with this is the opposition of people who HATE God and the things of God, who set up the temptations that pull you to lust; and who also mock and ridicule Christians or become enraged and persecute them, depending on what country they live in; in communist countries, they imprison and murder Christians; in Muslim countries, they attack them

and murder them; in post-Christian European countries, they make laws against them and oppose them and mock them

These three bitter enemies of our souls—the devil, the world, and the flesh—oppose us EVERY SINGLE DAY...

HEAVEN: How sweet will it be in heaven when all of them will be gone! Satan will be thrown in the lake of fire, along with every one of his rebellious demons and rebellious human servants; everyone who causes sin and all those who do evil will be weeded out of Christ's Kingdom, and will be thrown in the Lake of Fire. Your own nature, as I have already mentioned, will be transformed forever, and your own wandering heart will trouble you no more. You will breathe the sweet, clear air of the New Heaven and New Earth, completely free from all enemies; you will have entered God's rest, and you will find perfect peace; your enemies will lie dead on the ground and you will trample them down to dwell in a perfect world free from all opposition.

E. Labor on Heart Attitudes We Need NOW... but WON'T NEED in Heaven

1. Faith and hope

- a. Faith is for invisible things; hope is for future things, and we must LABOR to develop our faith and hope now... but in heaven we will see Christ face to face and will need our faith and hope NO LONGER

2. LONGING and Waiting patiently for the promises of God

- a. Hebrews 11 praises those who looked forward to the promises of God and waited patiently for them, NOT RECEIVING any of them yet; in fact, these heroes of the faith died without receiving any of the promises
- b. Such is an admirable state of the heart now, and we should LABOR to develop it within us, because in this world we need it
- c. The delights of entering God's rest are immeasurable and only partially described in Scripture; we have a sense of the immense beauty that is waiting for us in heaven... but we must WAIT PATIENTLY for God to fulfill them; and this longing amounts to a kind of HOMESICKNESS that makes our time here on earth so LABORIOUS

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- d. BUT in heaven, we will no longer be waiting patiently for the things promised, but will have all of them

3. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- a. Now we groan inwardly, waiting for our perfection... yearning to be like Jesus in perfect righteousness and holiness
 - b. We also hunger and thirst to live with the brothers and sisters in Christ in perfect righteousness as well
 - c. This HUNGERING and THIRSTING is a reasonable burden for us now, and we must LABOR under it...
 - d. BUT IN HEAVEN... there will be no hungering and thirsting for righteousness any longer; rather we will be living in a place that Peter calls ***“the home of righteousness.”***
4. Watchfulness over the wanderings and drifting of your heart

ESV 1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

We can never be perfectly at ease in this world; we can never say of a single sin pattern, “I know that sin will never trouble me again! I have so studied and prayed and received godly instruction and have so vigorously rejected gossip that I know confidently that I will never gossip again!” Oh, really??? There is not a single sin that has ever trouble you in the past that you can say confidently that it will never trouble you again. NO!!!! You must be constantly watchful against it the rest of your life.

5. Mourning over sin

- a. We have already mentioned grieving over sin—especially our own sin... it is absolutely appropriate for a sinning Christian to shed copious tears over their own SHAMEFULNESS in sin; to lament it bitterly, though that Christian knows he/she is complexly forgiven
- b. So also we can shed tears for the sins of others—of wandering brothers and sisters in Christ; of the general wickedness of the world

Psalm 119:136 Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.

Ezekiel 9:4 and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

- c. So we also must grieve over the lost

Romans 9:2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

- d. So we also grieve with other Christians who are going through grief

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

The Christian life is one of spiritual grieving... a mental state that is COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE and healthy here on earth, and in which we LABOR... but it will have no place in heaven

6. Perseverance

- a. We need perseverance now, because the journey marked out before us is LONG and arduous

Hebrews 12:1 let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

- b. An old-time word for this is “long-suffering”... waiting patiently in distress
- c. BUT we will NOT need this mental attribute in heaven... all hard times will be finished and there will be nothing to SUFFER at all, whether long or short

7. Humility to accept correction

Psalm 141:5 Let a righteous man strike me-- it is a kindness; let him rebuke me-- it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.

8. Fear and trembling

Philippians 2:12 continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling

F. Labor in Spiritual Disciplines and Graces

1. God has ordained that we be fed by means of Scripture and prayer
2. Scripture intake is LABOR
 - a. You MUST read the Bible day after day, feeding on the nourishment of the word... if you don't, your faith will wither and die
 - b. So many of our people here are committed to reading through the Bible in a year; others are also memorizing Philippians or other books of the Bible... this is HARD LABOR
 - c. So also pastors and teachers of the word must LABOR in the word, doing exegesis, and Greek or Hebrew grammar work or word studies; we read commentaries, work on sermons or Bible lessons; write good Christian books; all of this is LABOR in the word
 - d. In heaven, we will not need the BIBLE!!!! The days of reading line after line, precept upon precept, a word here, a word there will be over... we

will SEE GOD FACE TO FACE, and truth incarnate—Jesus Christ—will be standing right in front of us... no longer a need for the books

Hebrews 8:11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

3. Prayer is LABOR

- a. Jesus spoke of the persistent widow, and her example of badgering the unrighteous judge day after day; so we have to wait and wait and wait for God to answer prayers... George Mueller prayed EVERY DAY for over FIFTY YEARS for a lost relative
- b. prayer is LABOR... sometimes likened to WRESTLING (as Epaphras did for the Colossians in Colossians 4:12)
- c. In heaven, the laborious aspect of prayer will be over forever

4. Other means of grace are merely temporary

- a. The Lord's Supper is temporary and a substitute for seeing Christ's face and sitting with Him at table
- b. in heaven, we put symbolic things aside for the reality itself

G. Labor Under Discipline for Sin

1. Now, when we sin, we are disciplined PAINFULLY by the Lord

Hebrews 12:6-7 the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

2. The rod of God's fatherly chastisement you will feel across your back when you need it, when you willfully sin and refuse to repent, He will take you out to the divine woodshed
3. This is a PAIN and a LABOR which we must undergo now while we are still in danger... God does it so that we may share in His holiness
4. In heaven, there will be longer any death, mourning, crying, or pain... not even the pain of God's loving chastisements... we will be done with that pain forever, but now we must bear it patiently and learn from it

H. Labor in Ministry to Other Christians

1. God has created each of us for a lifetime of good works... and in these we are called on to LABOR DILIGENTLY

2. Paul spoke often of his incredibly hard work on behalf of other Christians

*Colossians 1:28 - 2:1 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ **To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.** ^{2:1} *I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.**

3. All of us have spiritual gifts with which we serve each other

- a. If your gift is teaching the word, you should LABOR in it to serve your brothers and sisters
- b. If your gift is administration, you should LABOR in it to serve your brothers and sisters
- c. If your gift is service, you should LABOR in it to serve your brothers and sisters
- d. If your gift is wise counsel, you will LABOR to counsel a brother or sister concerning their struggles in marriage, or with habitual sin

In HEAVEN, however, the church will be perfect; spiritual gifts and ministries will no longer be needed!!!

I. Labor in Mission to the World

1. Many of God's elect have not yet come to faith in Christ
2. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO REST!!!! There is awesome and overpowering labor to do to bring those lost people to Christ
3. It will take immense suffering and labor to bring the elect in the Muslim world to faith in Christ... it will be the cost of martyrdom in many cases to save the elect from Iran and Indonesia and the Sudan to faith in Christ
4. These LABORS will be wrenching and sorrowful; the missionaries on the field laboring to establish Christ's Kingdom there know for a fact that they have not yet entered God's rest, because they have to labor in such vicious and trying circumstances... weeping for dead brothers and sisters, fearing their own arrest and torture, laboring in preaching and persuading; wrestling in prayer
5. Now, I want to labor for you who are hearing me, that I can BEG YOU, and PLEAD with you to COME TO CHRIST... I want to beg you to do it while there is time

J. Labor in Painful Trials

1. God has ordained painful trials for all of us in this world

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

There is your labor in trials... a labor to keep believing

2. This is how we know that we are not in heaven yet! We must LABOR under those trials

- a. The parents of a terminally ill child have to LABOR on their own hearts to keep trusting in God and loving God and not murmuring against God or questioning God even when their hearts are BREAKING and they want to cry out against their trial with every fiber of their being saying “WHY O GOD????!!! Will you not heal my son?? Will you not come to our rescue here, O God... we are drowning in a sea of temptation to question your wisdom!! HELP US, O God!!!”
- b. The friends of incarcerated house church pastors in China cry aloud to God who can move His little finger and open the prison gates and release their precious friend from suffering... but still he languishes in prison
- c. The single person keeps waiting for God to answer their prayers for a spouse... a godly husband... a loving wife... but still the prayer goes unanswered
- d. The childless couple keeps hoping month after month for a different result with the EPT; but still they wait, hopeful sometimes, fearful other times... coming again to God with the same request again and again: “O God, give us a child!! A little baby to hold”... they must LABOR on their hearts to keep trusting Jesus and not give into Satan’s dark whispers that God really doesn’t care

BUT in heaven, all these trials will end... each one of them was measured out carefully by God, and every tear they cried He caught in His bottle of remembrance... but now every tear has been forever wiped away and nothing will be left but joy

They will have entered into God’s rest, and peace will flood their souls and they will swim forever in an ocean of joy, gazing at the infinite beauty of His majesty, and all their trials will have disappeared like the scaffolding that is removed when the majestic building is completed.

III. The Delights of Heaven: Resting from Our Work as God Did

Hebrews 4:10 anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

- A. I have already laid out for you in each of these ten categories how sweet it will be to rest from our works as God did from His; this rest will be perfect and eternal!!!
- B. In the meantime, we have all these labors to do... and God's Spirit will be mighty in each of us to do them!!! The truly elect WILL run the race with endurance
RIGHT TO THE END
- C. And when you do, you will lay aside the burdens God put on you and step into His heavenly rest... and there you will dwell in heavenly peace forever.

IV. Heavenly Meditation

A. Richard Baxter's 2 ½ hour meditation on the heavenly rest

Baxter was so good at heavenly meditation that it seemed like there was nothing in this world that held any attraction for him... like when Moses came down off the mountain of fellowship with God, his face shone with the glory of God. So it was with Baxter.

At the end of *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Baxter gives an extended example of heavenly meditation FOR THE UNSKILLFUL!!!... it is 30 pages long, and I read part of it aloud... one page took 4:11, so the whole thing, read at a reasonable pace would amount to 2 ½ hours of heavenly meditation.

Listen to a portion of it as you prepare for the Lord's Supper:

Though your eyes have never seen your Lord, yet you have heard his voice, received his benefits, and lived in his heart. He taught you to know yourself and him; he opened to you that first window, through which you saw into heaven. Have you forgotten since your heart was careless, and he awakened it; hard, and he softened it; stubborn, and he made it yield; at peace, and he troubled it; whole, and he broke it; and broken, till he healed it again? Have you forgotten the times when he found you in tears; when he heard your secret sighs and groans, and left all to come and comfort you; when he took you, as it were, in his arms, and asked you, 'Poor soul, what troubles you? Do you weep, when I have wept so much? Cheer up! Your wounds are saving, and not deadly; I'm the one who wounded you, I who mean you no harm; though I drained off some of your blood, I will not drain off your life.' I remember his voice. How gently did he take me up in his arms! How carefully did he dress my wounds! I think I hear him still saying to me, 'Poor sinner, though you have dealt unkindly with me, and cast me off, yet I will never do

that to you. Though you have trivialized me and all my mercies, yet they and myself are all yours. What would you have that I can give you? And what do you lack, that I cannot give you? If anything I possess will give you pleasure, you shall have it. Would you have forgiveness? I freely forgive you all your debts. Would you have grace and peace? You shall have both. Would you have myself? Behold I am yours, your Friend, your Lord, your Brother, Husband and Head. Wouldst you have the Father? I will bring you to him, and you shall have him, in and by me.' These were his sweet words to me!

"After all, when I was doubtful of his love, I still remember his overcoming arguments: 'Have I done so much, sinner, to prove my love, and yet do you doubt? Have I offered you myself and love so long, and yet do you question my willingness to be yours? At what dearer rate should I tell you that I love you? Wilt you not believe my bitter passion on the cross proceeded from love? Have I made myself in the Gospel a lion to yours enemies and a lamb to you, and do you now overlook my lamb-like nature? Had I been willing to let you perish, why would I have done and suffered so much for you? Why would I need to follow you with such patience and urgency? Why do you tell me of your wants; have I not enough for me and you? or of your unworthiness; for if you were yourself worthy, what would you do with my worthiness? Did I ever invite or save the worthy and righteous? or is there any such person upon earth? Have you nothing? are you lost and miserable, helpless and forlorn? Do you believe I am an all-sufficient Savior, and would you have me? Here, I am yours: take me; if you are willing, I am; and neither sin nor Satan shall break the bond.'

These, O these, were the blessed words which his Spirit from his Gospel spoke unto me, till he made me cast myself at his feet, and cry out, 'My Savior, and my Lord, you have broken, you have revived my heart!!