

A Sweetheart Love For Jesus Christ

I believe that Christ died for me because it is incredible. I believe that he rose from the dead because it is impossible. I believe that Christ died for me because it is incredible. I believe that he rose from the dead because it is impossible. Is there any hope for us today to recapture such daring faith? If we can't, we're in for some bad times. I want to exhort a little while tonight. Couldn't hold our crowd, people taking a bath. That's the sign of the days in which we're living. Most churches now do not dare to attempt to reach anybody during the week. Many more have gone now to three day evangelistic efforts, we're hanging on for dear life. We're finding out that we can get truth and still be dead. We're finding out that we can have fine methods and they won't work. I think for my own heart that we ought to do one of two things, we ought to close up our church doors or we ought to set our hearts hotly after a recovery of this incredible gospel that talks about something that is just out of this world, that God was manifest in the flesh. And that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. I think the only hope for this preacher and the people to whom I minister is that (if it) pleased God, I shall yet live to see the day when my old heart will leap within me as it did when that good news, impossible, incredible news was made real to my spirit.

Never forget Dr. Hamm, after Mr. Graham came on the scene, in the days of Dr. Hamm's descent, that mighty man of God had almost been put on the shelf and it seems that he could rejoice in and get comfort out of nothing except the ministry of young brother Graham. In the early days of Graham's ministry, (he) made a journey to see the old gentleman under who's preaching he's been brought to Christ and he asked the old preacher, so mightily used in other days by God to give him one word of counsel and brother Hamm said "Billy, never lose your sweetheart love for Jesus Christ." I think maybe that's what's the matter with us, "never lose your sweetheart love for Jesus Christ. I had the privilege of sitting under the teaching of Dr. W.T. Connor, Dr. Connor was a non emotional man, phlegmatic, brilliant devoted to the gospel of Jesus Christ. And he used to come into the classroom at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, call the roll, have somebody lead in prayer and then time after time after time for three years I sat under his teaching, he'd throw the lesson away, he never brought any books to the classroom with him except the Hebrew and Greek Bible and he'd say "young gentlemen I want to read my favorite passage of Scripture again" and he'd read from Matthew chapter 13 about a fella that found a treasure and went and bought the field so he could have the treasure, about the merchant who discovered the pearl of great price and went and sold all he had and bought it. And then Dr. Connor, unemotional as he was would begin to cry and he'd say "young gentlemen, if my class in systematic theology fails to send some of you youngsters out with something you just can't keep from telling, something you just can't keep from telling he said "it will all fail. Oh, if we could believe that Christ died for sinners. If we could believe that he rose from the dead, that he's the living Lord and The Lord of life. I think I have earned the right to speak about the terrible terrible danger of coming to think that truth unbaptized in tears and the Holy Ghost will get the job done. It just won't do it. I can remember the time in my ministry when the brethren thought that if they became premillenarians they'd get this world to Christ but something happened. My contacts with people who've changed their doctrine to where they say they believe in sovereign grace and I think I've earned the right to speak on this because I sat at the feet of Dr. Connor and he taught them to me and I've never preached anything else.

But I want to exhort you a little tonight from my own experience and the Word of God and the heart cry of the man whom God used to expound the Gospel the apostle Paul and call my own heart back and yours to a sweetheart love for Jesus Christ until we just can't keep from telling what a wonderful savior is Jesus my Lord. Incredible that he died for sinners. The great work my Lord Jesus did on the cross is not something to be argued about, not something you develop your theory about, it's something to cause you to fall down in wonder that Christ should die for sinners. But I don't know what a day is gonna bring forth, I don't know if God's through with America or not, I don't know, I'm not that kind of a prophet. But under God I want to have truth if I can get it that'll make me not always

have to give excuses for following in the train of Paul. Paul said he was a pattern, God appointed him as a human pattern for all who shall hereafter believe. I want to preach the same Christ, the same Jesus, and witness the same Jesus he did. But I don't want to do it if I can do it without the heartache and the heartbreak that he had. I believe that whatever the morrow brings forth, we're not worthy of the name Christian unless with active faith whatever the results, this world will go to hell over our breaking hearts. And I believe the hardest battle any human being will ever fight is to have a tender heart. A heart that cares. My God, young preachers don't think you got any truth right and call it doctrine you learned from Paul till you can pray like he did "my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that might be saved" Don't think you've got it right and don't try to cram it down anybody else unless you can say with him "I say the truth in Christ, I'm not lying and when I thus speak my conscience (that God given monitor it's not native to men it's a gift of God) when I say the truth in Christ that I'm gonna say in just a minute Paul said my conscience don't say you're lying, you're just being religious now, no my conscience also bears me witness in the Holy Ghost that I have great heaviness. That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. Now we're reaping what we've been sowing the last six years we've had revival meetings and the first three nights all the Christians got their hearts burdened and then after the meeting was over they went back to just cold hearts for the next meeting when the apostle Paul had something on his mind and his heart that bore heavily all the time. God knows I wish I could get to where I could sit down beside him and just have a little of what he got. He got continual sorrow, something dogging him, God sent him to be a light to the gentiles and told him for the most part in his ministry to turn his back on his own kinfolk. And he spent his life trying to answer an unanswerable question and in the 9th through the 11th chapters of Romans you can hear him sobbing as he's trying to unravel under the inspiration we believe of the Holy Ghost why it is he's running around all over the country side trying to get the gentiles to bow to king Jesus when his own people haven't. And I think the gentiles when he preached to them talked to him like they do us and say "if what you got will make hair grow on your head how come you're bald headed" and they were saying to Paul "what do you mean coming here and knocking on my door and bothering me and making me miss my favorite television programs, interfering with my private life trying to talk to me about your Jesus! When your own Jewish race to whom God gave the fathers and the glory and the covenants and the adoption and the law and the promises and the service of God and they turned their backs they don't want none of your Jesus. I tell you brother, preaching to others with an ache in his heart because that little insignificant nation that God picked up out of a sea of great nations and made them His people OH! Paul spent his life (spent his life) agonizing over his Jewish people, his kinsmen after the flesh, so greatly blessed of God who had so rejected Christ. That's what matters to me Paul said people so greatly blessed, they've rejected The Messiah and he said "I'll tell ya how it bothers me, it bothers me so much that if it were possible" and get your theology professors out, call him maybe he can straighten this out for you Monday it's too deep for me, I don't have but the vaguest idea of what on earth (God) Paul is talking about here but he says "I could wish that I myself were damned, anathematized accursed from Christ separated from Christ, cut off from Christ for my brethren my kinsmen according to the flesh. If we never win another soul to Christ, for God's sake lets get an aching, breaking heart. Let's be done with "doctrinizers", lets be done with professionalism, lets be done with pharisees and lets just come back and drink at the water trough they that sow in tears shall reap in joy, ain't nobody else is going to. It's still so that he that goeth and reapeth bearing precious seed, the only kind of folks God promises shall doubtless come bearing rejoicing bringing their sheaves with them. Oh, for a borrowed passion.

The apostle Paul wasn't a much better man than I am, there's not that much difference in men, he couldn't preach much better than I can, there's not that much difference in men, he couldn't pray much better than I can, there's not that much difference in men, I'll tell you the difference. He learned something, he learned that Paul and Rolfe Barnard don't give a hoot whether a Jew or a gentile is

brought into the family of God, he learned that the only way to have what we used to call a passion for men is to borrow that passion from the one because he had such a passion. Though he were rich became poor for our sake. You mean to tell me you can mutilate or cut up, or command or work up yourself to what I'm talking about? You'll have to borrow this from Jesus Christ, you'll have to get it from Jesus Christ. I believe that Christ died for me because it is incredible, if we could believe that, I believe we could have some of his passion. I believe that God raised him from the dead cause that's just impossible. Read the popular theologians of the day "Why that's just silly" I believe that God raised him, raised Jesus from the dead that just can't happen, that's impossible. Read the latest from the latest pop theologians today, bow your heads in shame with me that you are living in the generation when for a little time brilliant young theologians in leading institutions trying to put their finger on the pulse of the times could come up and get a hearing for a while with the God is dead theology, they could never get a hearing at all if the evidence weren't in that this generation of preachers and teachers believed the truths of The Bible in their heads but have never believed them in their hearts. Explain a man who'd go around with a sob in his heart night and day for old stinking, covetous, brother if you know Jews they, somebody said "God can save them but that's all He can do for them". They are the most hateful people that God ever had to put up with and Paul was one of them and he had a moan and a groan and an ache in his heart. God took the kingdom away from them and gave it to another and all these years blindness in part has been their portion and Paul was sound in his theology but he didn't become a Calvinist and sit down and say well "they deserve what they got" he said "no I've got a burden for them, I've got a continual heaviness, sorrow of heart. I could wish that I'd be separated from Christ for my brethren". God give us some of that. I got to face you Sunday morning crowd and we just as well come to the mourners bench, not you, but all that gang that'll show up, didn't used to be that way. Oh God, I got to try to preach to em, if any of us got any warm hearts by the time that gang gets in in the morning icicles are hanging from all of these lamps. Oh God, if I lose everything else I am not fit to preach to anybody, I am not fit to knock on anybody's door, I am not fit to argue anything with anybody in the spiritual realm unless I got some of this aching heart some of this yearning for men. Brothers and sisters, we're not selling insurance. We're no trying to prove a point. We're trying to lift up hands as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and plead with men and women to be reconciled to God. God give us a passion, we'll have to get it from Christ.

Years since I went to Boston Massachusetts, if you've never managed to duck in there you got nice things in the store fronts. I went to a church that they made me put on a cocktail coat and everything (I didn't have one went and bought one) I just had to wear that on Sunday mourning (I don't know why) they were the most courteous, clean, orthodox, fundamental, separated bunch I ever got into and after the third night I said to the pastor "Brother pastor, I believe if it's alright with you, I'll preach if you want me to tomorrow night and then I believe I'll close my part of the meeting" Well he was just utterly amazed and he said "oh you couldn't do that" and I said "We don't have kindred spirits, you haven't done a thing I've asked you to do (you and your people), And I don't know what to do, we're not getting anywhere, everything I say seems to go against your grain, God's not the author of confusion, I've been in so many scraps I ain't looking for another one you know but I guess we'll have to." But he said "Oh pray some more about it" my wife and I she was with me we went on to where we were being entertained, little while here came the pastor and the deacons (they were good men) and they said "we just got to talk with ya said why it would just give our church a bad name if a preacher left us." And I said "well brethren I don't want to be contrary but it looks to me like things are getting worse the longer I stay" and they said "well brother Barnard, you'll just tell us what you want to do, you'll promise not to leave us why, we'll do it." And I said "I don't believe I can trade with ya there" I said "I've not been trying to get you to do anything cause I say it's so I've been trying to tell you this is God's way. You never make a visit, I haven't seen a tear since I've been here, nobody's come around and said I'm burdened for Bill Smith or Suzie Jones everything I ask you to do you say your not

accustomed to doing it here. And I said (we just) It's too late now, I don't want you just do something for my sake for the reputation of your church you see." And they said "Under God preacher, the pastor led and said we've been wrong, tell us again what God wants and by the grace of God we'll reverse and we'll seek to do it." Well I told them the simple story that the service begins after the meeting ends and that the place to witness is out yonder not in a nice comfortable church building and that the whole Bible was saturated with the word g-o GO! Not send somebody else but God's people to go and to go with the precious truth and to go saturated in tears and to go with the anointing of The Spirit and the promise of His accompaniment and I said "you've refused to do it, you've told me you've never done it and you wouldn't know how if you started." They said "by the grace of God if you'll help us we'll learn." Well that bunch of Yankees just went crazy and the next day they almost combed the city of Boston. That's a Unitarian and a Christian-science hotbed and they went in places that no Christian possibly would go and I led them. We went into saloons we went into every place we could get in the door and we just acted the fool and in Boston, that if you put down an atomic bomb they'd never wink an eye they're so nice and pious and occupied in religion it created a little stir. And that night under God, that house was packed out. Folks that never had even been invited to a church service where so started when they were they came out to see what on God's earth was going on. And in that service that night, as soon as we stood and started to sing a little 16 year old girl came running down she was a roman catholic girl and she'd never been in a Gospel service in her life and I don't think she understood a thing on God's earth of what was going on in her head. But she understood something in that which makes us tick, this thing here, us. And she just flung herself down on that carpet and it likely scared everybody to death and my wife came and dealt with her. And of course I don't know but I think God came to that little girl. That was Thursday night and she wasn't back Friday night and Saturday night she wasn't back. And I said to the preacher "Do you know where that little girl lives, I have a strange feeling about her" and he said "I do to, I am sorry to tell you Brother Barnard, it's so new to us anything like that ever happened nobody thought to even ask her where she lives and we don't know where she is but he said I promise you if she's not back in the service in the morning we gonna comb this town till we find her I want to find out what happened to her." But Sunday morning came and the little girl was present and she sat way back, my wife noticed her and she went and sat down by her and I preached that morning on hell, the sinners long home.

I remember that couple had been coming every other night during that meeting, 176 miles from Springfield Massachusetts and I noticed the young couple in the service every other night and one night I got acquainted with them and I said "I'm sorta puzzled why you're here every other night and they said we live in Springfield, it's 176 miles and said we both work public works and said we get off and run home and change clothes and grab a sandwich and drive like mad said it's 176 miles but we just can't do it physically every night." And I thought it was cause I was such a deep preacher and I kept talking with them and they said "we never even heard a man say the word much less hear a man preach on hell in our lives and we've come to hear it."

And that little girl sat there and I preached for about 20 minutes and she began to weep and then she quit weeping and began to cry and you could almost hear her body tearing apart all over that audience. My wife put her arm around her, pretty soon they got up and broke up my big sermon and they stood in that fashionable Boston church full of icicles of orthodoxy without tears and The Holy Ghost and I had her give her testimony. If I live to be a million years I'll never forget her testimony. Her face had great scars on it, I had my wife turn her dress down in the back, it was just beaten pulp, she had just been beat to nearly one inch of her life and she stood there and told how Thursday night she ran all the way home and she ran in the front room and and daddy (Italian daddy and Italian mother) and brother and 2 sisters were there and she went in and told them that she went down to the baptist and that Jesus Christ came into her heart and she was just so glad (she was so glad). Her daddy stood up and said young lady, what did you say? And she repeated it. If you do not think this is happening you go into the great centers of America now where people cluster together according to

race from the old country where the word of the father is law. And the Father went and got his black snake whip and made that little 16 year old girl stand up and she said he whipped me until I fell in a faint unconscious on the floor and she said I don't know how long I laid there but I was awakened by a sense of pain and I opened my eyes just as my brother stood there kicking me and when he got through my sisters came and both of them stood on each side of me and both of them spat in my face and my mother came and cursed me and my father came and commanded me to stand up and then he told me to go to my room and he locked me in, kept the key on the outside. And as he was letting me in he said young lady if you ever make such a blasphemous statement as that again I'll kill ya so help me God. She said I stayed in that room with my beaten body all Thursday night by Friday the wounds were causing fever and beginning to fester till I was burning up, I stayed all day Friday, Friday night my father unlocked the door and gave me a piece of bread and a glass of water and locked the door. Saturday morning I was screaming in pain and I crouched like an animal and when my daddy unlocked that door I was waiting for him as the knob turned a little bit at the proper time I turned it quickly and pulled it and he came rushing in and fell and as he fell I ran out the door and got out of the house and escaped. Said I spent all day Saturday in an empty boxcar down at the railroad yard and Saturday night after it was dark I summoned up my courage I was hungry and thirsty and feverish and screaming with pain and I went to a drugstore and the man knew me and he dressed my wounds a little bit and I slept in that car and said this morning, not knowing what to do, afraid to go back home, if I did my daddy would kill me not knowing where to turn she said I know what I'll do, I'll go there where the Jesus people are and they'll help me and said I came this morning hoping somebody would help me and then I began to listen to the preacher and then I forgot myself and all I could think about was my daddy who whipped me, my mother who cursed me, my sisters who spat on me and my brother who kicked me and then she lifted up her arms like this and then she broke the hearts of that aristocratic Boston church and in her piercing voice she said OH MEN AND WOMEN OF JESUS PLEASE HELP ME PRAY FOR MY DADDY, he's going to the hell you heard about this morning, please help me pray for my mother and my sisters and my brother. She said I forgot everything else except that those dear ones were going to hell. Oh my soul, my soul my soul is there any way we can forget our aches and pains. I closed that meeting on Sunday night and I was to open in New York City the next night. The pastor called them up in NY City and said the preacher can't get there till Tuesday we got important business and Monday night they got up and gonna have baptizing and the pastor said I'll entertain a motion to ask brother Barnard our visiting preacher to act for this church there's several people here tonight I want him to have the honor of baptizing. I went down into the baptismal pool and lifted up my hands and took the hand of that little 16 year old girl and then I took the hand of her mother and her father and her two sisters and her brother and I brought them all down in the pool together and had the joy of putting them in the water in the likeness of the death and resurrection of my Lord and I saw what men who really cared could do (what men who really cared could do).

Ladies and gentlemen lets don't do on without this please lets don't go on without it, borrow it from King Jesus (borrow it from King Jesus). We're got incredible news without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, without controversy he ascended to glory. There's a man in glory faithfully representing us God call us to such faithfulness as we've never know, let us stand.

*I can hear my savior calling, I can hear my savior calling, I can hear my savior calling
Take thy cross and follow, follow Me*

*Where he leads me I will follow, Where he leads me I will follow, Where he leads me I will follow I'll
go with him, with Him all the way*

I wish I could put my arm around you and you could put your arm around me, share this burden,

make a covenant tonight I believe that your pastor would say that I have tried to stand for truth such as I've been able to understand it, I've tried to. For many years I was known as the only evangelist in America who believed in the sovereignty of God in salvation. I've gone through hell for that truth but it's no good if I haven't got what Paul had. I stormed and screamed at God shutting us up. People are not attending places of divine service to hear about God now. If they're going to be reached, they're gonna have to be reached by God's method of the people, right down where you work, your next door neighbor. But if all you got is just the truth that won't get it done it's got to be bathed in prayer. I wish I knew how for my own heart it's been a battle, controversy breeds bitterness and I pray God don't ever let me get that way I don't want to be. I don't know what to ask of you tonight under God I don't except for you to do business with God, His passion has got to be borrowed, you'll never have it yourself. You feel anything you want to say I wish you'd come here and say it, if you got anything you want to do I wish you'd come here and do it, you got any request you want to make I wish you'd come and make it.

Testimony of church member:

I was saved about 10 years ago, some of you here know it but I feel impressed to say this tonight being brother Barnard asked if anybody would say anything. About seven years before I was saved somebody talked me into going to church on mother's day and I went and seven years to my knowledge after that I never did go back. I was asked a number of times to go, I was weeped over and entreated with to go but I never did go, I wouldn't go. I was under conviction the last time I was in the church. But one night in a home a man personally dealt with me about my soul and the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't believe that I would have ever gone inside of a church building in a meeting I just don't believe that. There's only one way a lot of people will ever be born again and that is if we go out into the homes and witness to them. I thank God that if I am a Christian tonight it's because somebody was concerned enough to come and tell me about the Lord Jesus Christ and a number of families were concerned enough to pray for me and get concerned cause some of my family was concerned

It's been a battle for truth in our day and its gonna still be a battle, the Bible talks about speaking the truth in love. Many years ago a preacher got in his car and drove 150 miles to my house, I'd never seen him and he'd never seen me. I was preaching over the radio in Forth Worth Texas 36 or 37 years ago 35, he came knocked on my door told me his name and say can I come in? And he came in and said "I've driven 150 miles to say that I believe that you've learned The Gospel, preach it with tears." And he turned and walked out got in his car and went home. Preach it with tears.

I went to hear Dr. Truit preach one time in Amarillo Texas I was a neighboring young pastor in Borger Texas. My church said you go and we'll pay the bill, we want you to hear the great preacher. I got there the day service, I got in late and after the service was dismissed, no fewer than 500 people shook my hand and asked me if I knew The Lord. They didn't know who I was they wanted to find out, find out if I was right with The Lord. I can remember when us Baptist you know, we saw somebody we didn't know and got the chance we'd get acquainted with them and ask them is it well with their soul. You think there's any truth in The Bible that'd be against that? I don't, do you? No.

Down in a certain city in Tennessee there's a preacher who's in his eighties now still pretty strong, for over 50 years he has tried to preach a God who's really God without apology. He has maintained a radio broadcast ever since they've had radios in that section. Hes known all over that section as a man who believes that salvation is a gift of God, it's in His hands, that the only thing a poor old sinner can do is reach out hungry starving hands to receive bread. I held a meeting for him and most of the time I'd preach and all the time we'd talk to offer an invitation he'd sob like his heart would break. That's good Calvinism folks, that's what I want, don't you? We're gonna tarry just another minute. Anybody

else got a word to say, a request to make, confession to make? Anybody like to go in a room and pray? Anybody want to make this night the night you begin to seek The Lord? If you do, you come on.

I'd like us to continue just a little bit in prayer this lady that came is one that's been dealt with and witnessed to. I tell you I want us to go to God in prayer for the salvation of a soul that God would work real repentance in her heart. And then as we pray I trust that you'd pray that God will cause you to go out, that He'll just thrust you out to get somebody and bring them to this service and witness to them. I want this church to get to the place that we'll make ourselves available to every person who visits and inquire in regard to the welfare of their souls. I want us to get hot after men, speak to them about Christ, not just to get decisions, we could get a lot of decisions out of the buses, boys and girls that are coming but get real concern, Bible concern about the welfare of men and the welfare of women.