

Windows of Witness
(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

All Quotations from - New Park Street (Vol 1) and Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit (Vol 34)

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892), known by many as “The Prince of Preachers”, is one of the most quoted preachers of history among the present day church. Saved at the age of 15, Spurgeon began preaching shortly thereafter. At age 19 he became the Pastor of New Park Street Chapel, the largest Baptist congregation in London at the time. He often preached in various venues to audiences numbering over 10,000. As the church congregation grew, they met in other buildings, until 1861, when they moved permanently to the newly constructed Metropolitan Tabernacle (where Spurgeon pastored until his death). Throughout his ministry, Spurgeon viewed it his “chief assignment to point sinners to the atoning death of Christ.” His collection of sermons, preserved from New Park Street and the Metropolitan Tabernacle, are evidence that his messages consistently magnified the hope of the gospel. A hope anchored in the finished work of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Spurgeon believed and preached that the resurrection of Christ is “the cornerstone of Christian doctrine...the keystone of the arch of Christianity...without it the whole fabric of the gospel would fall to the ground. He died for our sins, and...He was raised again for our justification; that is for our clearance. As the cross paid the debt, resurrection took the bond, and rent it in pieces; and now there is nothing standing in the records of eternity against any soul that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. His rising from the dead has made us clear from every charge. ‘Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemmeth? It is Christ that died, yes, rather that is risen again.’ That rising again has cleared us from all the sins that can ever be laid to our charge.” (*Metropolitan - May, 1897*)

It was Spurgeon’s belief in this gospel message that propelled him to live out his life for God. Christ was not just Spurgeon’s message, but Christ was his life. In his farewell message on June 7, 1891 Spurgeon concluded with these words, “It is heaven to serve Jesus...He is always to be found in the thickest part of the battle. When the wind blows cold He always takes the bleak side of the hill. The heaviest end of the cross lies ever on His shoulders. If He bids us carry a burden, He carries it also. These forty years and more have I served Him, blessed be His name! and I have had nothing but love from Him. I would be glad to continue yet another forty years in the same dear service here below if so it pleased Him.”

I love the phrase from Spurgeon - “It is heaven to serve Jesus.” In reading it I was reminded of the old song by Charles Butler (1898) - ***Where Jesus Is 'Tis Heaven***. The Chorus says, “O hallelujah, yes, 'tis Heav'n, 'Tis Heav'n to know my sins are forgiv'n, On land or sea, what matters where? Where Jesus is, 'tis Heaven there.” What a joy it is to serve Jesus Christ our Lord, and thereby enjoy heaven on our way to heaven.

~ Pastor Tim Hodge