



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you April 2022 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This month, our theme is "Circumcision of heart and Christian perfection in Love and Holiness"

Jewish physical circumcision is the external sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham to bless him and his descendants. It is the evidence of individual Israelite's subscription to the covenant and the attestation of his commitment to fulfill the entire covenant's obligation, which principally is obedience to all the commandments of God.

Over time, Israel's incessant infidelity and failure revealed that standing perfect in the will of God and obedience to all His commandments requires much more than that which any man by human effort can do on his own without divine assistance. God needed to work in our hearts to be able to work through us.

Circumcision of heart is the experience that we need to eliminate all that negates, hinders and opposes perfection of God's love in our hearts. He then fills us with His own kind of love, which makes godliness and holiness of life a reality. This experience, otherwise called circumcision of Christ, purity of heart, heart's purging or cleansing, holiness or sanctification make us see and love God

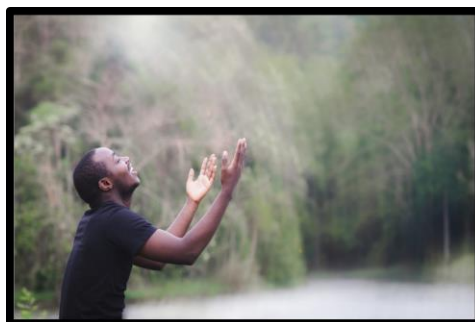
It implants into us the mind of Christ and the vision of God. We are able to love what God loves and hate what God hates. It sustains us in unbroken and enduring relationship with God on earth and in eternity. This experience is an important prerequisite for entry into heaven and living with Christ eternally because "... without holiness, no man shall see the Lord" Hebrews 12:14.

The necessity, importance, benefit and profitability of this experience on earth and in eternity is the focus of this edition of Watchman's Trumpet. My prayer as you read is that its content will lead you into the depth, wealth and riches of sanctification and by so doing you will profitably serve God here on earth and make Heaven at last. Welcome!

TRUE AND ACCEPTABLE CIRCUMCISION

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" Colossians 2:11

Our text revealed that there are two types of circumcision, one performed by human hands and the second performed by Christ.



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It described the greater benefit and blessings that comes from the circumcision of Christ. The lessons in this reference are the focus of our message today as we consider these three subtopics:

1. Divine mandate on Jewish circumcision
2. The goal of biblical circumcision
3. The necessity and surpassing benefit of spiritual circumcision

1. Divine mandate on Jewish circumcision

"This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised;

and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant". **Genesis 17:10-14**

And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **Leviticus 1:3**

Our text's reference to circumcision made by human hands refer to the rites of circumcision which God mandated Abraham and by extension all Israelites in all generations to have. Performed as a ritual of removing a male child or adult's foreskin (prepuce), it was an external sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis 12 to bless him and his descendants. It was the evidence of individual Israelite's subscription to the covenant, the expression of their faith in it and affirmation or attestation of their commitment to fulfil its obligation which is whole-hearted devotion to God and obedience to all His commandments.

Punishment of physical death on earth and eternal damnation hangs on the head of anyone born as an Israelite who is not circumcised Genesis 17:14. Thus and over time, physical circumcision or circumcision of the flesh became a symbol of Jewish identity, distinction, separation and peculiarity required for participation in Passover and entitling them to enjoy special political and religious favours from God Ezekiel 44:9.

2. The goal of Biblical circumcision

"And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live" **Deuteronomy 30:6.**

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that

inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" **Romans 2:28-29.**

Operationally, the word "circumcision" means "cutting off" or "cutting away". Even to the Jews, circumcision was more than a physical symbol. It was meant to be a physical testimony or signature of divine ownership, of one who fears the Lord, who is wholeheartedly consecrated to walk in all His ways. It was to be an external sign of inward presence of faith and grace. Circumcision as a concept as taught in the Bible and resonating in both Old and New Testament scriptures teaches on the need to renounce sin, conquer and subdue self and sinful nature, lusts and propensity to live lives that contravenes the word of God. Jews tried to do so but failed and were rejected by God. Heart's circumcision was predicted to be the solution to Israel's incessant covenant infidelity. Moses in Deuteronomy and the prophets in their writings pointed to the need for a spiritual operation in believers' heart comparable to Jewish physical circumcision but all encompassing. The experience, an operation in the human heart, performed not by human hand but by God through His Spirit will entirely transform a man's life and make him totally devoted to God.

3. The necessity and surpassing benefit of spiritual circumcision

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart" **Jeremiah 9:25-26.**



"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" **Ezekiel 36:26-28.**

God has always had controversy with sinning and sinful men. It doesn't matter whether the sin is committed as a state of mind or an actual physical act. Sins like rage, anger, intoxication and drunkenness, revelling, fornication, adultery and idolatry, witchcraft, cursing, lying, bribery, murders, malice, gossips and slanders, stealing, greed and envy are obvious, and can be physically observed, others like the thoughts that motivated and inspires them, lusts, covetousness, hate, hypocrisy and selfish tendencies lies deep and buried in the heart; they defile and disqualifies from serious intimate fellowship and relationship with God here on earth and eventually in heaven. We must be freed from them. This is only possible through spiritual circumcision or circumcision of the heart because the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. Life runs true to the heart. None can commit sin without first ruminating and incubating such sin in his heart. True circumcision, acceptable circumcision, otherwise called circumcision of the heart or sanctification involves God cutting away things from our hearts; things that prevents us from fearing God, loving Him with all our hearts, serving Him whole-heartedly, obeying His principles and precepts including anything we love more than God.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parables said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For April 2022

1. Thank God for the promise of circumcision of heart and a new heart
2. Thank God for the possibility of living a transformed life through circumcision of heart and sanctification
3. Thank God for the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of living eternally with God
4. Pray for circumcision of your hearts
5. Pray that God should cut away from your hearts things that negates, hinders and opposes their perfection in love for God
6. Pray that God will give you a heart of flesh
7. Pray that God will fill you with His love
8. Pray that God will put His Spirit within you to help your walk in His ways
9. Pray for grace for implicit, prompt and complete obedience to the words of God
10. Pray for purity of heart and vision of God

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;’ **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

For more info on the Mission, log on to: www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

PRESSING ON TO PERFECTION

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” **Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1**

In our text, Hebrew Christians are encouraged to leave behind carnality of baby life and move on to maturity. They partook in the milk of the word, which is exciting and entertaining but God has better plans for them that they cannot have without making progress towards perfection and maturity. Discernment of right and wrong, recognition of appropriate and inappropriate, acceptable and unacceptable lifestyle pattern, behavior and attitude in our relationship with God and other fellow humans are characteristic of adult and matured believers. Active believers who are not progressing, praying believers who are not perfected will not live with Christ in heaven on the final day.

Perfection is a realizable, recommended goal. To be perfected is to be purified by the sanctifier and emptied of self. It is to be redeemed from all sins, freed from all slavery and bondage, established in sanctification, consecrated to His sovereignty and transformed into a saint

We shall consider three subtopics:

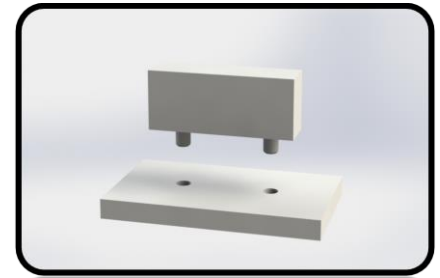
1. Pursuing gracious perfection
2. Preparing and praying for gospel perfection
3. Possessing and preserving glorious perfection

1. Pursuing gracious perfection

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect” **Genesis 17:1.**

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment” **Hebrews 6:1-2**

God called Abraham to perfection. God wanted Abraham's lying to the king of Gerah and his self-management to end. If we say perfection is impossible, it means we count God as a taskmaster. God required that Israelites be perfect in their walk with Him Deuteronomy 18:13. God boasted about Job's faith and faithfulness Job 1:8. Job had no partner or Christian friend that could encourage or influence him. The Bible has not been written at that time; there was no church or pastor. Yet he was a perfect and upright man who eschewed evil. Today we debate God's word and turn Christianity into community comradeship class project which if there is no one around to pull us along, hold



our hands and motivate us, we are not ready to go. Job was not like that. Job 2:3. Job was perfect. He was perfect as humanly possible. The perfection God required was not angelic perfection or mental perfection.

Mental perfection is to know all that God knows. Job did not know many things; he did not know that all the destruction and devastation that came to him was the handiwork of the devil. However, Job had moral perfection that is all that God requires. God provided that the blood of everlasting covenant which Jesus shed will make us perfect to do his will Hebrews 13:20. Hence, perfection starts with willingness, eagerness and faithfulness to do His will. Once we are willing and we start, He will complete it for us. He will give us grace, power and ability to complete it.

2. Preparing and praying for Gospel perfection

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God” **Revelation 3:2.**

“Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalms 139:21-24



God condemned Sardis' imperfection Revelation 3:2. Psalm 139:21 David fully identified with God and with the people of God. He loved what God loved and hated what God hated. His enemies are God's enemies. Goliath and Amalekites are God's enemies in that dispensation. Their extermination was a ministry to the kings that ruled Israel at that time. Today, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God loved to see sinners saved and men respond in faith to embrace His son and His sacrifice. We must love this too; we must love to see sinners saved. Today, God hates lying, discord, separating friends, sins and the things that injures other. We must hate them too.

We are commanded to love our enemies and seek for the conversion of the heathen. This is our own ministry today; every believer's ministry. Perfection is total wholehearted devotion and commitment to the ministry of soul winning that God gave us. This is gospel perfection. Perfection required from us is to cease from sinning Job 34:32. It is to ensure that the cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things does not crowd out from our hearts faithfulness and

consecration to God or hinder perfection of our fruits.

Colossians 1:28 Those who preach to God's people must aim at perfecting them; it is the most significant purpose of preaching; to present everyone in the church perfect in Christ and to Christ at His coming. Even more of our prayer should be directed towards perfection and completeness of God's people in the will of God like Epaphras Colossians 1:12

3. Possessing and preserving glorious perfection

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" 1John 4:7-8, 11-12.



John 4:12, 13 Perfection opens our hearts to God for God to dwell and reign in it and for the love of God to flow out from it towards all mankind. Perfection will make us bold on the Day of Judgment because we would have lived our lives while on earth, as He would have us live, radiating His loveable, loving and lovely nature. There is no fear in love; perfect love casts away fear. Fear of men, of the society, of the presence of challenging situations and difficulty in life; and fear



of the future hinders or limits perfection. Perfection comes by our realizing that our times and lives are in the hand of God. Perfection comes as we cleanse ourselves of flesh and spirit's filthiness. Fear of God rather than men in the way we do all things will take our perfection to unprecedented level.



"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

“And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” Deuteronomy 30:6.

Our text revealed that Israel in Moses’ days require spiritual heart surgery for them to perfectly love God. He also acknowledged the fact that they cannot perform this surgery on themselves; it must be done by God. God would circumcise their hearts. Circumcision means “cutting away” God will cut away from their hearts the things that negates, hinders and opposes their perfection in love for God. He will fill them with love; His own kind of love. The outcome of this divine intervention is that they will live. Message of life is a welcome development to a people who are about to perish because of chronic incessant infidelity. Moses prophesy the coming a new day when all that is in their hearts will be all for God and all about God; a day and time in which God will be their all in all and nothing else will matters. Have you ever experienced such a day? What kind of heart do you have; a heart devoid of God’s love, a divided heart, partly for God and partly for other things, or a heart filled with divine love?

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God” Ezekiel 36:26-28. In response to Moses’ pray, God through Ezekiel promised that He would work in the heart of Israelites in such a way that



will make their walk with God and obedience to Him easy. This same promise is for us today and for all whose relationship with God and obedience to Him has become an uphill task. If we pray and believe, He will do it today.

We shall consider two subtopics:

1. Significant of heart in relationship
2. Process and profit of filling the heart with divine love

1. Significance of heart in relationship

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” Luke 6:45.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” Proverbs 4:23.

The word “heart” as used in our text refers to a spiritual entity and not the physical heart organ that we know. God has a heart (Genesis 6:6) even though he has no physical form like human beings. This kind of heart in man is what our text speaks about. Spiritually, our heart is the seat or core aspect of our inner nature that makes us who we are before God. It is the wellspring and source from which all that we do in life flows. A man is good or bad according to the type, nature and dictates of his heart. Whatever controls a man’s heart will rule his life. If it is good, it will beautify his life and subsequently his relationship with either God or man, but if it is evil, it will bring him to ruin. God desires and seeks to rule and reign in our hearts without rival so that our lives will be guided by His word and influence of His Spirit. This definite and specific touch of God we need to be the kind of person that God created us and wanted us to be. This is what Moses prayed about and God promised to do in Ezekiel 36.

2. Process and profit of filling the heart with divine love

“And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” Deuteronomy 30:6.

“And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day” 1 Samuel 10:9.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” Mathew 5:8.

This experience and operation God promised to give us who have repented of our sins and have come to Christ, whom in spite of this are finding it difficult to be totally free from sins or walk in victory and holiness. The reality of our experience being that by God’s help and Spirit, we are restrain from committing physical acts of sin but sin’s, ill-will, ill-feelings emotional impropriety and lusts still rule in our hearts. God promised to remove all these ungodly tendencies from our hearts and give us a new heart; heart that desires nothing more than God. Such heart is precondition to the vision of God. We shall experience literal divine involvement in all our affairs here on earth and we shall see Him in heaven at the end of our earthly life and live with Him forever. If we are willing and pray earnestly, God will circumcise and sanctify our hearts today.

Immediately after his appointment to reign over Israel as the nation’s first king, God performed this operation in Saul; God gave him a new heart; He can still do it again and He will do it in our lives if we sincerely ask and pray. *“And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” Deuteronomy 30:6.*



HOLINESS AND HEAVEN

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:2-3

1Corinthians 2:9, 10. God himself revealed heaven to us in His word. Angels, the Apostles and Christ all spoke about heaven. Heaven is real; and if heaven is real, what did the Bible state that would qualify us for heaven? It is holiness. All who are living in heaven right now; God, Christ, Angels, Redeemed men living there at present are all holy. Everything in heaven is holy; therefore, we that are aspiring to go there must be holy.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Salvation and cleansing before entry
2. Sanctification and Holiness necessary prerequisites
3. Evidence of sanctification and permanent holiness

1. Salvation and cleansing before entry

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully” Psalm 24:3-4

David asked an important question in his days that is equally important today. David as a king had success, fame, and achievement, respect of his people in the nation and beyond his nation. His authority, power and influence went beyond those around him. Yet he knew that someday, these would not matter; everything in this world we will leave behind when we

die. So he was thinking of where he will go and what he will do after death.

When we say somebody does not have clean hands, we mean his hands are not clean; he is not morally sound. No human being in the natural is, because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God Romans 3:23. All men require salvation, conversion or redemption. They need the cleansing by the blood of Jesus and the power of God to stop sinning and acquire clean hands.



2. Sanctification and Holiness prerequisites

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

Living in heaven eventually will require a combination of clean hands and pure heart. Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men. Tribalism and sectarianism will be out of your life. You will follow peace with your husband or wife. There are people always on the opposition. They do not follow peace with anybody and yet claimed that they are saved and they are believers. The holiness that heaven requires is practical. As we can tell the difference between dirty papers and clean, in the same way, God can tell the difference between a clean heart and impure one. When you desire that something evil should happen to somebody who offended you, is your heart clean? When you desire to sin and say that *‘if not that I am a Christian, I will have done this or that’*; are such imaginations and thought pure? Impure thoughts makes us unacceptable before God. If we are truly saved and holy, we will abstain from all appearances of evil. Sanctification and holiness is the promise of God 1 Thessalonians 5:22. God is faithful, if you believe and pray He will do it. Samuel, Isaiah, Enoch, Daniel had his experience. God who did it in the lives of these people will do it in your soul.

3. Evidence of Sanctification and permanent Holiness

“And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” Deuteronomy 30:6.

Evidences of sanctification include (1) 1Corinthians 2:12 Witness of the Spirit. (2) Increased joy in your heart. (3) Abundant love, ocean of love in your heart Deuteronomy 30:6. So much love for God in the heart of Abraham could not make him say *“No”* when God demanded for his son as a sacrifice Genesis 22:1-3. (4) You find it easy to forgive (5) The law of God is written in your heart, not only on posters, making it possible for you to easily detect and avoid wrong, sinful things (6) Divine nature of God becomes impacted into you, you will be able to love what God loves and hate what He hated.

To be sanctified require (1) desire, (2) consecration, (3) persevering prayer (4) believing when we pray. When we pray God will instantaneously answer. The Lord sanctifies instantaneously. There are people who have instant experience but do not know how to keep it. There are people who receive it but do not enjoy it; they are always receiving and losing it. God wanted us to keep on a permanent basis the holiness experience He gives to us Luke 1:75 His plan is to empower us to serve before Him in Holiness all the days of our lives. It is the permanence and perpetuity of our holiness experience that will make us see God at the end of our lives. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Mathew 5:6.

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www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was born in England in 1834. He accepted the Lord as his Savior at age 15 in a Methodist church. Within a year he was filling in as a preacher for a friend and by the end of the following year, at only 17 years of age, he was installed as the pastor of a Baptist church in Waterbeach (Cambridgeshire, England). Two years later, at the age of 19, he was called to be the pastor of the largest Baptist church in London.

Even at 22 years old, he was the most popular preacher of his day. He regularly preached to crowds of more than 10,000 listeners in those early years. The congregation moved with him from venue to venue until they built their own church building, which became the famous Metropolitan Tabernacle. Spurgeon preached at this church for almost 40 years until his death in 1892. The auditorium would seat 5,000 people with standing room for 1,000 more. The New Park Street Church, which hired Spurgeon at the age of 19, invited him to come for 6 months on a provisional basis. He agreed to 3 months because, as he said, *"the congregation might not want me, and I do not wish to be a hindrance."*

Spurgeon was a strong proponent of using the Bible as his sole authority in preaching and practice. While many preachers of his day claimed the same thing, the reality was that they leaned on the traditions of their denominations to dictate their decisions. These other men also started accepting some of the modern teachings of evolution to help them interpret the scriptures. Spurgeon led his church out of the Baptist Union because of what became known as the *"Downgrade Controversy"* (so named because Spurgeon said the other leaders were downgrading their view on the sole authority of the Bible). He preached thousands of times in his life, with more than

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

CHARLES H. SPURGEON
1834 - 1892



3,500 published sermons. The printed sermons were released weekly. At his death there were more than 25 year's worth of weekly sermons still to be published and distributed.

Besides his sermons, Spurgeon published many other works. One of the things he was very careful about was the doctrine of song lyrics. He would not allow certain songs to be used in the church because he did not agree with them doctrinally. He compiled his own songbook that was used in the church. He also wrote an autobiography, commentaries and books of sayings.

In 1856, Spurgeon married Susannah, daughter of Robert Thompson of Falcon Square, London, by whom he had twin sons, Charles and Thomas. He suffered ill health towards the end of his life, often recuperating at Mentone, near Nice, France, where he died in 1892. His remains were buried at West Norwood Cemetery in London, where the tomb is still visited by admirers. His son Tom became the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle after his father died.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"
Hebrews 12:14

SONG OF THE MONTH

"CALLED UNTO HOLINESS"

1. Called unto holiness," Church of our God,
Purchase of Jesus, redeemed by His blood;
Called from the world and its idols to flee,
Called from the bondage of sin to be free.

Chorus:

"Holiness unto the Lord" is our watchword
and song,
"Holiness unto the Lord" as we're marching
along;
Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
"Holiness unto the Lord," now and forever.

2. "Called unto holiness," children of light,
Walking with Jesus in garments of white;
Raiment unsullied, untarnished with sin,
God's Holy Spirit abiding within. [Chorus]
3. "Called unto holiness," praise His dear name!
This blessed secret to faith now made plain,
Not our own righteousness, but Christ within,
Living and reigning and saving from sin.
[Chorus]
4. "Called unto holiness," glorious thought!
Up from the wilderness wanderings brought,
Out from the shadows and darkness of night,
Into the Canaan of perfect delight. [Chorus]
5. "Called unto holiness," Bride of the Lamb,
Waiting the Bridegroom's returning again;
Lift up your heads, for the day draweth near
When in His beauty the King shall appear.
[Chorus]

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