



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

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THE NECESSITY OF SHADE

A Study in God's Pattern for Publishing the Power of the Gospel



Every flower, even the fairest, has its shadow beneath it as it swings in the sunlight.

Where there is much light there is much shade.

Mrs. Charles B. Cowman, *Streams in the Desert* (p 249)

Shade - noun [Latin *scutum*, *a shield*]

1. Darkness; obscurity; as the *shades* of night.
2. An obscure place, properly in a grove or close wood, which precludes the sun's rays; an hence, a secluded retreat.
3. Something that intercepts light or heat.
4. In *painting*, the dark part of the picture.
5. A shadow. [See *Shadow*.]

Why the Shade?

1. So that he is not exalted above measure

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

2 Corinthians 12:7

2. God's strength is perfected through our weakness

. . . He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in hardships, in persecutions, and in distresses for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

My Philosophy

Every strong Christian has a thorn; every strong Christian understands suffering (*ie. William Carey, Amy Carmichael, William Booth, Corrie ten Boom, Gladys Ailward, Hudson Taylor; C.T. Studd, Oswald Chambers, and the list goes on and on*)

Introducing Charles Spurgeon



- Commonly known through the ranks of evangelical Christianity today as “The Prince of Preachers”

“(Charles Spurgeon is) one of evangelical Christianity’s immortals.”

Carl F.H. Henry (Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers)

- At the age of twenty-three Charles Spurgeon was the pastor of the largest mega-church in Protestant Christianity, with his services held in the Metropolitan Tabernacle - one of London, England’s largest buildings - filled to capacity whenever he spoke.
- Americans returning from a tourist visit to England were commonly asked two questions:
 1. Did you see the Queen?
 2. Did you hear Spurgeon?

Who Wants to be the Next Charles Spurgeon?

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2 Corinthians 12:10

In Weaknesses

1867 - Age 33: Spurgeon suffered his first attack of chronic nephritis, or Bright's Disease (kidney inflammation similar to Lupus)

1869 - Age 35: Spurgeon was diagnosed with gout, an inflammation of the joints.

1886 - Age 52: Spurgeon said, "When I am suffering very greatly from gout, if anybody walks heavily and noisily across the room, it gives me pain." (MTP 49:234); and in a letter to his brother, "I thought a cobra had bitten me and filled my veins with poison." (Autobiography 3:134); with the bounty of medicine being given him, Spurgeon said he "would have been dead long ago if we had tried half of them." (ST 4, February 1875).

In Reproaches, In Persecutions

Harvard started out strong. It's foundational motivations were inspiring and grand. But it lost its focus somewhere in the late 1700s. Charles Spurgeon referred to it as "The Down-Grade" - when a stunning wave of liberal ideology began to stream with alarming rapidity into the conservative sector of evangelical Christianity. By the year 1806, Harvard had fully moved away from center, dismissing its "Christ-only" roots as bygone notions from a bygone era.

In response to this ideological erosion at Harvard, Andover Theological Seminary was launched in 1807 to train the brightest minds in the way of Christ, the way Harvard had set out to originally do. But even Andover, by 1887, was on the "down grade". It seemed that to find a school that held the age-old values of evangelical Christianity, in 1887, was about as difficult as digging for a rib-eye steak in the Saharan sand. Even the stoutest bastions of evangelical Truth had begun to show the sure signs of erosion. The cry "Where's the beef?" could be heard throughout the evangelical landscape.

It was at this hour that Spurgeon, a trainer of Christian ministers in his own right, spoke out against this dire trend. As the most famous Christian preacher in the world at that time, it would have been thought that his concern would have rallied the troops of the evangelical elite to action and decision. It did. But not the action Spurgeon had expected. The Baptist Union, of which Spurgeon was the most famous member, censured him - distancing themselves from his hardline, old-fashioned bluster. Open-mindedness had officially entered the living room of Christian thinking and it wasn't planning on giving up its seat on the couch, even for the "Prince of Preachers".

Charles Spurgeon died five years later, for which his wife and others close to him would attribute to the anguish he experienced due to the backlash he endured in attempting to stay this downhill slide. The betrayals, the accusations, the slander, and calumny Spurgeon faced in taking the unpopular position, was shocking to even the man that preached endurance in the gravest trials.

Eric Ludy

The Bold Return of the Dunces - deleted scenes

In Hardships

It is easy to sing when we can read the notes by daylight; but he is the skillful singer who can sing when there is not a ray of light by which to read,— who sings from his heart, and not from a book that he can see, because he has no means of reading, save from that inward book of his own living spirit, whence notes of gratitude pour forth in songs of praise (*MTP 44:98-99*).

Charles Spurgeon

In Distresses

I do not suppose there is any person in this assembly who ever has stronger fits of depression of spirits than I have myself personally (*MTP 15:640*).

Charles Spurgeon

After Spurgeon was witness to the harrowing death of seven people being trampled to death, he said, “The very sight of the Bible made me cry” (*MTP 37:383-84*).

“I think it would have been less painful to have been burned alive at the stake than to have passed through those horrors and depressions of spirit” (*MTP 53:137-38*).

Charles Spurgeon

The Seeming Contradiction

Strength

It was said of Spurgeon that his prayers raised up more sick persons than the ministrations of any doctor in London.

A.W. Tozer

God Tells the Man Who Cares (p 3)

Weakness

Health is set before us as if it were the great thing to be desired above all other things. Is it so? I would venture to say that the greatest blessing that God can give to any of us is health, *with the exception of sickness*. Sickness has frequently been of more use to the saints of God than health has. If some men, that I know of, could only be favored with a month of rheumatism, it would, by God’s grace, mellow them marvelously.

Charles Spurgeon

The Minister in These Times in *An All-Round Ministry* (p 384) italics in the original

Strength

God worked powerful miracles by the hands of Paul. So handkerchiefs or aprons he had touched were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Acts 19:11-12

Weakness

. . . a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me . . .

2 Corinthians 12:7

Introducing Paul the Apostle

Paul, The Apostle. Known as Saul of Tarsus before his conversion to Christianity and the most influential leader in the early days of the Christian church. Through his missionary journeys to Asia Minor and Europe, Paul was the primary instrument in the expansion of the gospel to the Gentiles. Moreover, his letters to various churches and individuals contain the most thorough and deliberate theological formulations of the NT.

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

Who Wants to be the Next Paul?

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9

The Making of a Powerful Gospel Vessel

. . . this man (Paul) is a chosen vessel of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and their kings, and before the sons of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.

Acts 9:15-16

Paul in Damascus

After many days had passed, the Jews arranged to kill him. But their scheme was known by Saul. They watched the gates day and night to kill him. But the disciples took him by night, and lowered him in a basket through the wall.

Acts 9:23-25

Paul in Jerusalem

And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists. But they tried to kill him.

Acts 9:29

Paul in Antioch

... when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, blaspheming and contradicting what Paul was saying ... the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women and the chief men of the city, and raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them from their region.

Acts 13:45; 50-51

Paul in Iconium

... the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and embittered their minds against the brothers ... When an assault was planned by both Gentiles and Jews, with their leaders, to attack them and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region.

Acts 14:2; 5-6

Paul in Lystra

Then some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing he was dead. But as the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city.

Acts 14:19-20

Paul in Derbe

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the minds of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith, to go through many afflictions and thus enter the kingdom of God.

Acts 14:21-22

Paul in Philippi

... they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace to the rulers. And they brought them to the magistrates, saying, "*These men, being Jews, greatly trouble our city and teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.*" The crowd rose up together against them. And the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them. After they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely. Having received such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:19-24

Paul in Thessalonica

... the Jews who did not believe became jealous and, taking some evil men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd, stirred up the city, and attacked the house of Jason, trying to bring them out to the mob ... The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.

Acts 17:5, 10

Paul in Berea

... when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also, stirring up the crowds. The brothers immediately sent Paul away to the sea.

Acts 17:13-14

Paul in Corinth

When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews in unity attacked Paul and brought him to court.

Acts 18:12

Paul in Ephesus

... some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the crowd ...

Acts 19:9

Paul in Greece

... the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Acts 20:3

Paul in Miletus

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they came to him, he said to them, "You know how I always lived among you from the first day that I came to Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with many tears and trials which befell me through the plots of the Jews. I did not keep from declaring what was beneficial to you, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what shall befall me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But none of these things deter me. Nor do I count my life of value to myself, so that I may joyfully finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:22-24

Paul in Tyre

When we found the disciples, we remained there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:4

Paul in Caesarea

While we stayed there many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had arrived, he took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet, saying, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this manner the Jews at Jerusalem shall bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we heard these things, both we and the residents implored him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When he would not be persuaded, we kept silent and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Acts 21:10-14

Paul in Jerusalem

... the Jews from Asia saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him ... Then the whole city was provoked, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. And immediately the doors were shut. While they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commander of the battalion of soldiers that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He at once took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. When they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the commander came and arrested him, and ordered that he be bound with two chains ... When he came onto the stairs, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the people. For the mob of people followed, crying out, "Away with

him!" . . . the high priest Ananias ordered those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth . . . At daybreak some of the Jews conspired under oath, saying they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty who had conspired.

Acts 21:27,30-33, 35-36; 23:2,12-13

Paul in Antipatris

. . . he ordered that he (Paul) be guarded in Herod's Praetorium . . . But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix. And Felix, desiring to do the Jews a favor, left Paul imprisoned.

Acts 23:35; 24:27

Paul in Caesarea

When he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him and brought many serious charges against him which they could not prove . . .

Acts 25:7

Paul at Sea on the way to Rome

But soon afterward a tempestuous wind swept through, called the Euroclydon. When the ship was overpowered and could not head into the wind, we let her drift . . . We were violently tossed by the storm . . . When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was upon us, all hope that we should be saved was lost . . . But striking a sandbar where two seas met, they ran the ship aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was broken up by the violent surf.

Acts 27:14-15,18,20 ,41

Paul at the island of Malta

When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper driven out by the heat fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "Surely this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, justice does not allow him to live." But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They expected him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But while they waited and saw no harm befall him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Acts 28:3-6

Paul in Rome

After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. Landing at Syracuse, we waited there for three days. From there we circled around and sailed to Rhegium. After one day the south wind blew, and the next day we arrived at Puteoli. There we found brothers, and were invited to remain with them for seven days. And so we went to Rome.

Acts 28:11-14

A Summary of Paul's Life

Every flower, even the fairest, has its shadow beneath it as it swings in the sunlight.

Where there is much light there is much shade.

Mrs. Charles B. Cowman, *Streams in the Desert* (p 249)

Paul's Boast

2 Corinthians 11:24-30

2 Corinthians 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews forty lashes minus one.
2 Corinthians 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods;
2 Corinthians 11:25 once I was stoned;
2 Corinthians 11:25 three times I suffered shipwreck;
2 Corinthians 11:25 a night and a day I have been in the deep;
2 Corinthians 11:26 in journeys often,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils of waters,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils of robbers,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils by my own countrymen,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils by the Gentiles,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils in the city,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils in the wilderness,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils in the sea,
2 Corinthians 11:26 in perils among false brothers;
2 Corinthians 11:27 in weariness and painfulness,
2 Corinthians 11:27 in sleeplessness often,
2 Corinthians 11:27 in hunger and thirst,
2 Corinthians 11:27 in fastings often,
2 Corinthians 11:27 and in cold and nakedness.
2 Corinthians 11:28 Beside the external things, the care of all the churches pressures me daily.
2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak?
2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is led into sin, and I am not distressed?
2 Corinthians 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things which concern my weakness.

Paul's Extraordinary Perspective

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me
in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, lest I be exalted above measure.
2 Corinthians 12:8 I asked the Lord three times that this thing might depart from me.
2 Corinthians 12:9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore most gladly I will boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
2 Corinthians 12:10 So I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in hardships, in persecutions, and in distresses for
Christ's sake.
2 Corinthians 12:10 For when I am weak, then I am strong.

It is the common idea that the pathway of faith is strewn with flowers, and that when God interposes in the life of His people, He does it on a scale so grand that He lifts us quite out of the plane of difficulties. The actual fact, however, is that the real experience is quite contrary. The story of the Bible is one of alternate trial and triumph in the case of everyone of the cloud of witnesses from Abel down to the latest martyr. Paul, more than anyone else, was an example of how much a child of God can suffer without being crushed or broken in spirit . . . we find him left for months in the lonely dungeons; we find him telling of his watchings, his fastings, and his desertion by friends, of his brutal and shameful beatings, and here even after God has promised to deliver him, we see him for days left to toss upon a stormy sea, obliged to stand guard over the treacherous seaman, and at last when the deliverance comes, there is no heavenly galley sailing from the skies to take off the noble prisoner; there is no angel form walking along the waters and stilling the raging breakers; there is no supernatural sign of the transcendent miracle that is being wrought; but one is compelled to seize a spar, another a floating plank, another to climb on a fragment of the wreck, another to strike out and swim for his life. Here is God's pattern for our own lives. Here is a Gospel of help for people that have to live in this every day world with real and ordinary surroundings, and a thousand practical conditions which have to be met in a thoroughly practical way. God's promises and God's providences do not lift us out of the plane of common sense and commonplace trial, but it is through these very things that faith is perfected, and that God loves to interweave the golden threads of His love along the warp and woof of our every day experience.

Hard Places in the Way of Faith

(Streams in the Desert - pp 246-247)

I, the preacher of this hour, beg to bear my witness that the worst days I have ever had have turned out to be my best days, and when God has seemed most cruel to me, he has then been most kind. If there is anything in this world for which I would bless Him more than for anything else, it is for pain and affliction. I am sure that in these things the richest, tenderest love has been manifested to me. Our Father's wagons rumble most heavily when they are bringing us the richest freight of the bullion of His grace. Love letters from heaven are often sent in black-edged envelopes. The cloud that is black with horror is big with mercy. Fear not the storm, it brings healing in its wings, and when Jesus is with you in the vessel the tempest only hastens the ship to its desired haven.

Charles Spurgeon (*MTP 27*, Sermon 1606, p. 373)

Mark then, Christian, Jesus does not suffer so as to exclude your suffering. He bears a cross, not that you may escape it, but that you may endure it. Christ exempts you from sin, but not from sorrow. Remember that, and expect to suffer.

Charles Spurgeon (*Morning and Morning*, April 5, p. 96)