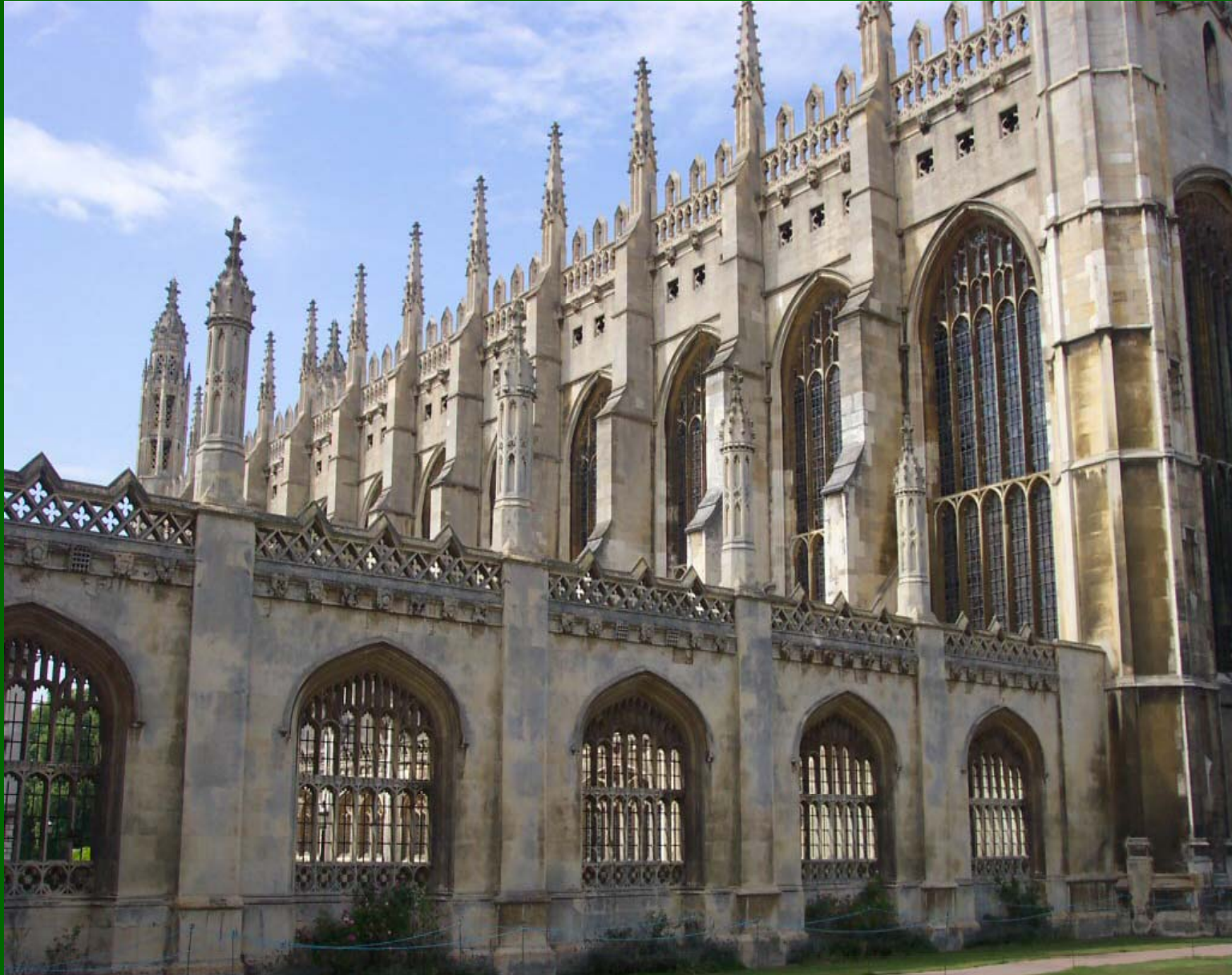


Charles Simeon





Holy Trinity Cambridge

Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.

(Romans 12.12)



Horae Homileticae

One of the most Influential Preachers in the
Church of England

Sermons number 2500. To read one a day
would take seven years.

Five Reasons

1. Faith in Christ Crucified
2. Willing to Suffer for the sake of Christ
3. Faithfulness to Scripture
4. Dedication to the ministry of preaching
5. He was a man whose life embodied integrity and Humility

1. Personal Faith in Christ Crucified

Instruction for the Lord's Supper:

I met with an expression to this effect that the Jews knew what they did when they transferred their sin to the head of their offering. The thought rushed into my mind. What, I transfer all my guilt to another? Has God provided an offering for me that I may lay my sins on his head? Then God-willing I will not bear them on my soul one moment longer. Accordingly I sought to lay my sins on the sacred head of Jesus.

1. Personal Faith in Christ Crucified

And on the Wednesday began to have a hope of mercy; and on the Thursday that hope increased; and on Friday and Saturday it became more strong; and on the Sunday (Easter Day, April 4, 1779) I awoke early with those words upon my heart and lips, “Jesus Christ is risen to-day; Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” From that hour peace flowed in rich abundance into my soul; and at the Lord’s Table in our King’s College chapel I had the sweetest access to God through my blessed Saviour.

1. Personal Faith in Christ Crucified

Indebted to Cross of Christ: At the age of 60 he could write:

It is now a little over forty years since I began to seek after God. And within about three months of that, after much humiliation and prayer I found peace from the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World. Since that moment I have not lost my hope and confidence in the adorable Saviour. I have never ceased to cast myself upon the tender mercy of my reconciled God.

1. Personal Faith in Christ Crucified

As he was dying he said:

“I want to lie here until the last looking unto
Jesus and to go as a sinner into the
presence of my God.”

1. Personal Faith in Christ Crucified

In Memory of
THE REV. CHARLES SIMEON, M.A.,
Senior Fellow of King's College,
And fifty-four years vicar of this parish; who,
whether as the ground of his own hopes,
or as the subject of all his ministrations,
determined to know nothing but
JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED.
1 Cor. II. 2.

2. Willingness to Suffer for the Gospel

I longed to know of some spiritual believer who had the same longings and feelings as myself. I had a serious thought to put into the newspaper an advertisement to the following effect

2. Willingness to Suffer for the Gospel

A young clergymen who felt himself an undone sinner and who looked to the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation and desired to live only to make known that Saviour to others;

was persuaded that there must be some person in the world whose view and feelings on the subject accorded with his own.

2. Willingness to Suffer for the Gospel

And the servant of the Lord must not strive;
but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach,
patient, (2 Timothy 2.24)

2. Willingness to Suffer for the Gospel

Matthew 27.32

32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Lay the Cross on me. I will gladly bear the cross for thy sake.

2. Willingness to Suffer for the Gospel

Proverbs 16.7

When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

3. Faithfulness to Scripture:

I've longer pursued the study of Scripture with a desire to be impartial. At the beginning of my studies I said I am a fool. I know that assuredly.

3. Faithfulness to Scripture:

I do not sit down to the perusal of Scripture to impose my sense on the inspired writers but rather to receive one as they give it to me. I do not pretend to teach them. I wish like a child to be taught by them

3. Faithfulness to Scripture:

My endeavor is to bring out of scripture what is there and not to thrust in what I think might be there. I never want to speak more or less than what is the mind of the Spirit in the passage I am expounding

3. Faithfulness to Scripture:

First business of an interpreter is to let his author say what he has said.

a) He was wary of theological Systems

The Author is no friend to systematizers in Theology. He has endeavoured to derive from the Scriptures alone *his* views of religion; and to them it is his wish to adhere, with scrupulous fidelity;

He was wary of theological Systems

He has no doubt but that there is a system in the Holy Scriptures; (for truth cannot be inconsistent with itself:) but he is persuaded that neither Calvinists nor Arminians are in *exclusive* possession of that system.

He was wary of theological Systems

The Author feels it impossible to repeat too often, or avow too distinctly, that it is an invariable rule with him to endeavour to give to every portion of the word of God its full and proper force, without considering one moment what scheme it favours, or whose system it is likely to advance.

He was wary of theological Systems

Of this he is sure, that there is not a decided Calvinist or Arminian in the world, who equally approves of the whole of Scripture. He apprehends, that there is not a determined votary of either system, who, if he had been in

He was wary of theological Systems

the company of St. Paul, whilst he was writing his different Epistles, would not have recommended him to alter one or other of his expressions.

Simeon, Charles: *Horae Homileticae Vol. 1: Genesis to Leviticus*. London, 1832-63,

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Be Bible Christians, not System Christians

b) The Truth is to be found at both extremes:

There are paradoxes in Scripture:

- Divine Sovereignty on the one hand
- Human free will and choice on the other hand
- which means that we are accountable to God

An Example

John 5:40

yet you refuse to come
to me that you may
have life

John 6:44

No one can come to
me unless the Father
who sent me draws
him. And I will raise
him up on the last day

b) The Truth is to be found at both extremes:

The Truth is not in the middle and it is not in one extreme. It is in both extremes, even if we cannot reconcile them.

It is both extremes to go to.

Think of Person of Jesus Christ and his two natures.

Jesus is God and he is Man and we must always emphasize that he is both fully human and fully divine.

Illustration from the Industrial Revolution

as wheels in a complicated machine may move in opposite directions and yet subserve one common end, so may truths *apparently opposite* be perfectly reconcilable with each other, and equally subserve the purposes of God in the accomplishment of man's salvation

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4. Dedication to Ministry of Preaching

1. Ordained Ministry primarily preaching.
 2. Diligent in Study

Nothing in the whole universe that compares with the word of truth. Not a day should pass in the life of a pastor without adding to that blessed store.

Dedication to Ministry of Preaching

3. Prepared his sermon. Few cost him less than twelve hours and some more than that .
4. Conserved his strength and refused to become an activist. Busy but never too busy to prepare and study.

An Illustration

I compare myself to bottled small beer.

Being corked up and opened twice a week, I make a good report. But if I were opened every day I should some become like ditch water.

5. Cultivated a direct and simple style.

“I think every sermon should have like a telescope one object in the field.”

5. Integrity and Humility

“Mama, What is the preacher in a passion about.”

(Little girl to her mother)

William Sangster

“My dear young brother,” responded Sangster with insightful wit and wisdom, “I’m not interested to know if you can set the Thames on fire. What I want to know if this: If I picked you up by the scruff of the neck and dropped you into the Thames, would it sizzle? “

Wonderful Way for us to see each other

"Well, my dears, it is green now, and we must wait; but a little more sun, and a few more showers, and the peach will be ripe and sweet. So it is with Mr. Simeon."

Principle Mark of Regeneration:

The first and indispensable sign is self-loathing and abhorrence. Nothing short of this can be evidence of a real change. I want to see more of this humble and contrite broken spirit among us. This sitting in the dust before God is most please to him. Give me to be with a broken-hearted Christian and I prefer his society to that of anybody else.

Isaiah 57.15

"I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Self Congratulation and the worship of God would have been incompatible for Charles Simeon.

Recovery from an illness three
years before he died.

Standing as I do on the very brink and
precipice of the eternal world I desire
nothing as much as a broken and
contrite spirit

From his Last Sermon

It is not sufficient for any man to run well for a season only. We must endure to the end, if ever we would be saved.

Whatever your attainments may be, and whatever you may have done or suffered in the service of your God, you must forget the things that are behind, till you have actually fulfilled your course and obtained the crown

Romans 12.12

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