

Session 3

THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE & MESSENGER

Pastor's college & "Lectures to my Students" began 6 years after his conversion at 15



The Prince of Preachers
Charles Hadden Spurgeon
1834-1892

In February 1854, at the age of nineteen, Spurgeon entered upon his ministry in London. He came on a three months trial, but his labor there was to last till his death nearly forty years later.

He had intellectual abilities of a very rare order. The constant reading, he began as a boy continued, and by the time he came to London the knowledge he had amassed could virtually be termed "encyclopedic." When he stood to preach he had that vast learning at his disposal. He could quote at will from any book in the Bible, using a most apt selection and repeating it exactly.

Spurgeon typically read 6 books per week and could remember what he had read—and where—even years later.

Spurgeon read *The Pilgrim's Progress* at age 6 and went on to read it over 100 times.

The New Park Street Pulpit and The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit—the collected sermons of Spurgeon during his ministry with that congregation—fill 63 volumes. The series stands as the largest set of books by a single author in the history of Christianity.

While Spurgeon's ministry flourished, his health did not. Spurgeon suffered from bouts of recurring depression and debilitating gout, which sometimes forced him to take retreats for weeks at a time.

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

1. BE AWARE OF SATAN'S OPPOSITION AS WE LEARN TO TEACH GOD'S WORD

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil.

IDEA: The Greek rendered "**wiles**," is *emphatic* *purposely set for taking the prey at **the greatest advantage** that can possible

POINT: he will study your point of greatest weakness and he will seek to ambush you there

2 Tim. 2:26 "And that they might **recover themselves** out of the snare of the devil, who are **taken captive** by him at his will."

2 Tim 2:26 NIV and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has **taken them captive to do his will**.

Thomas Brooks

The Greek word that is here rendered **recover themselves**, signifies to awaken themselves. The apostle alludes to one who is asleep or drunk, who is to be awakened and restored to his senses; and the Greek word that is here rendered "**taken captive**," signifies to be taken alive.

The word is properly a military word, and signifies to be taken alive, as soldiers are taken alive in the wars, or as birds are taken alive and ensnared in the fowler's net. Satan has snares for the wise and snares for the simple; snares for hypocrites, and snares for the upright; snares for generous souls, and snares for timorous souls; snares for the rich, and snares for the poor; snares for the aged, and snares for youth. Happy are those souls that are not taken and held in the snares that he has laid.

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices—Thomas Brooks 1608-1680

PRECIOUS REMEDIES AGAINST SATAN'S DEVICES



by Thomas Brooks (1608 - 1680)

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us - for we are not ignorant of his devices" - 2 Corinthians 2:11

Your free pdf copy

- I. OBSTACLES
- II. STYLE
- III. AIM
- IV. THEOLOGY
- V. PREPARATION
- VI. PRACTICALITY
- VII. ILLUSTRATIONS
- VIII. MECHANICS
- IX. BODY
- X. SPIRIT

III. THE AIM OF A MESSAGE

WE ARE NOW TALKING ABOUT TRUE BIBLICAL EXPOSITORY TEACHING

The reality is for those of us who preach & teach; we have to read and study our Bibles with all the zeal and passion of men and women who are **digging for buried treasure**.

1. IT LETS GOD SPEAK RATHER THAN MAN

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2 Tim 3:17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

IDEA: as the teacher opens the scriptures he gives
God a voice to speak!

*God has only revealed himself in one book!

*the Bible ...were **He continues to speak** to all who will listen!

NOTICE: It was by the ear, by our first parents
listening to the serpent, that we lost paradise;

POINT: and it is by the ear, by hearing of the Word,
that we get to heaven.

Isaiah 55:3 Incline **your ear**, and come to Me. **Hear**, and your soul shall live

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Rom 1:17 **NIV** For in the gospel a righteousness from God is **revealed**, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

2. IT BRINGS THE PEOPLE INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS

IDEA: God the Holy Spirit wrote the scripture
*when you dig deeply into the scripture, you are digging deeply into the mind GOD

A. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

- Inspired—God breathed
- Inerrant—no errors when words hit the page
- Infallible—all the guidance that it gives is 100% trustworthy
- Immutable—it never changes

EXAMPLE: great exhilarating discovery experience!
*interacting with:

***God's reasoning** ***God's logic!** ***God's truth**
*there is no human thought which can lift you to such heights!

NOTICE: such a joy when we all together as God's people come into understanding of the flow & logic & commanding of God in given passage!

POINT: this is why expository teaching & preaching is so thrilling!
*if it is done right it should be life changing for the listener!

Mark Twain once said of a preacher he had heard ... He charged nothing for his preaching, and it was worth it, too.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones told this story: He went to see a great old preacher, who was helping him along in his early ministry. The old pastor said, "Come on, I want you to hear this preacher down the road here, then I want to talk about something." So, they went, and as they drove away from the message, he turned to Lloyd-Jones and said, "So what do you think?" Lloyd-Jones told him, "It seemed so, this, that and the other thing. What do you think? You brought me here. " The old pastor said, "Here's what I think. All light and no heat."

Then he said, "Now, tomorrow, we're going to hear a different preacher." They went and heard the second preacher, and as they drove away, the old pastor asked the same question, "What do you think?" Lloyd-Jones answered, "Still a lot of this, that and the other, but this guy was just so passionate! Wow, if I could be like that! But what do you think?" He said, "What do I think? I think that he's all heat and no light".

Do you get the point? The point is---you need both. You don't want to be just all light, and you don't want to be just all heat. It isn't just volume either. You don't turn up the volume & just yell, swinging your arms around. You need to have the light and you have to have the heat. The heat comes from the exposure to the light---honest exposure to it---you're thinking God's thoughts after Him. When you come into the pulpit like that, then you bring the people into direct contact with God's thoughts.

1. IT LETS GOD SPEAK RATHER THAN MAN

2. IT BRINGS THE PEOPLE INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS

3. IT FORCES THE TEACHER TO PROCLAIM THE FULL COUNSEL OF GOD

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT VERSE BY VERSE EXPOSITION ...

IDEA: keeps you from avoiding certain issues

*have to take everything as it comes

*takes the limits off what you preach ...all of it!

EXAMPLE: this means you have to teach the things that deeply convict your own heart!

*deal with issues people in your church rather you didn't have to deal with!

2 Timothy 1:11-12 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Vance Havner

"If we preach the whole counsel of God, we shall be accused of extremism, not only by the world, but also by a professing church that ***cannot endure sound doctrine***.

POINT: you faithfully rightly divide everything that comes & do your best to present it exactly as the Spirit of God revealed it!

1. IT LETS GOD SPEAK RATHER THAN MAN
2. IT BRINGS THE PEOPLE INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS
3. IT FORCES THE TEACHER TO PROCLAIM THE FULL COUNSEL OF GOD

4. IT EQUIPS GOD'S PEOPLE TO THINK BIBLICALLY

1) ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL THAT GOD'S PEOPLE BE BIBLICALLY LITERATE

IDEA: *I want to know the scripture and I want you to!

*we could spend time learning a lot of things, but nothing as significant as the Bible

NOTICE: It is here that the teacher arms God's people with the **Sword of the Spirit!**

*it is a great thing when Christians have been well taught in the details of their new life in Christ!

2) ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL GOD'S PEOPLE FACE SATAN W/ THE SWORD!

Spurgeon

Oh, for a mighty onslaught upon the powers of darkness! Once more, we are to take this sword with a purpose. We are to use it that we may be able to stand and to withstand. If you want to stand, draw the sword, and smite your doubts. How fiercely unbelief assails! Here comes a doubt as to your election. Pierce it through with the Word. Anon comes a doubt as to the precious blood. Cleave it from head to foot with the assurance of the Word that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Here comes another doubt, and yet another. As quick as an arm can move, drive texts of Scripture through every new fallacy, every new denial of truth, and skewer the whole of them upon the SWORD of the Word. It will be for your good to **kill these doubts outright**. Do not play with them, but fight them in real earnest.

You will find that temptations also will come in hordes. Meet them with the precepts of sacred scripture, and slay even the desire of evil **by the Spirit's application of the Holy Word**. The washing of water by the Word is a glorious cleanser. **Discouragements** will arise like mists of the morning. Oh, that God's Word may shine them away with the beams of the promises!

POINT: this is why the pastor cannot ... must not ...
 *give the priority in the church service to anything else!
 *the faithful pastor sends his people out to face the enemy of their souls with their most powerful weapon
 razor sharp!
 *the unfaithful pastor sends them out defenseless!

MINISTRY FOR THE PASTOR THEN IS TO BE INTENSELY SINGULAR!

NOTICE: To sum it up then... the ministry is no place for *ungifted men *unbiblical preachers *weak and lazy students of scripture!
 *the standard is high!
 *Because the level of God's love for his People is so High!

William Taylor Ministry Word

"Let it never be forgotten then, ... that he who would rise to eminence and usefulness in the pulpit, and become wise in winning souls, must say of the work of the ministry, **"this one thing I do"** He must focus his whole heart and life, upon the pulpit. He must give his days and his nights to the production of those messages, ...by which he seeks to convince the judgments, ... and move the hearts ... and elevate the lives of his hearers.

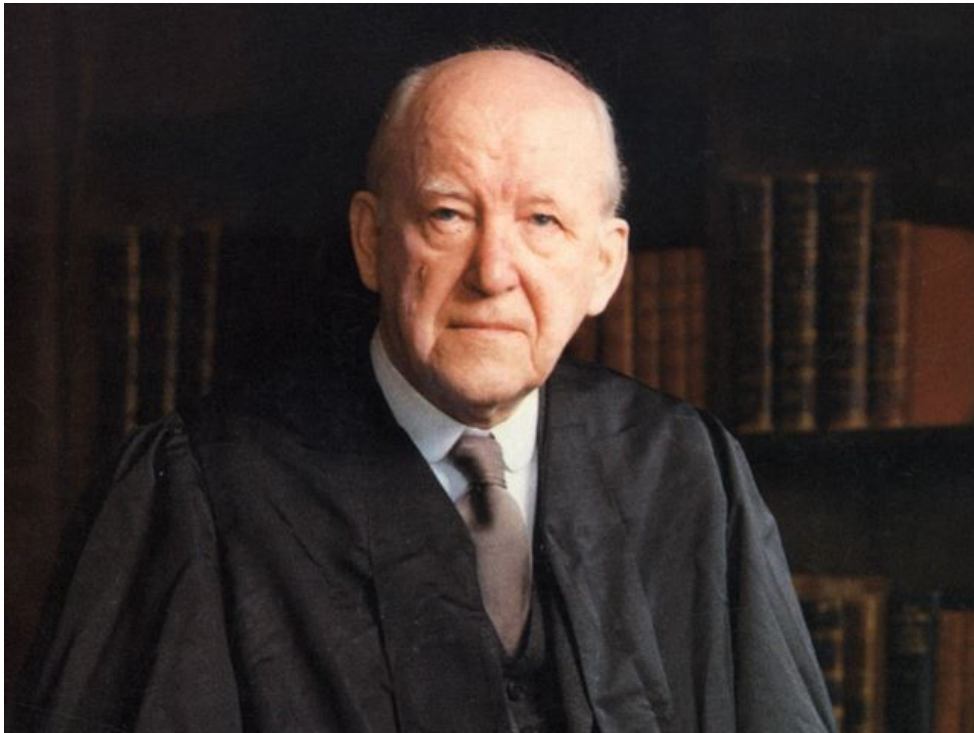
EXAMPLE: the Apostles

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Session 4

THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE & MESSENGER

The Theology in a Message



Theology on fire—Logic on fire
David Martyn Lloyd-Jones
1899—1981

- I. OBSTACLES
- II. STYLE
- III. AIM
- IV. THEOLOGY**
- V. PREPARATION**
- VI. PRACTICALITY**
- VII. ILLUSTRATIONS**
- VIII. MECHANICS**
- IX. BODY**
- X. SPIRIT**

IV. THE THEOLOGY IN A MESSAGE

1. BECOME A 1ST RATE BIBLICAL THEOLOGIAN

EXAMPLE: in days gone by the theologians were the pastors & key workers in the church

A. LEARN HOW THE BIBLE FITS TOGETHER

EXAMPLE: always be reading the bible from cover to cover

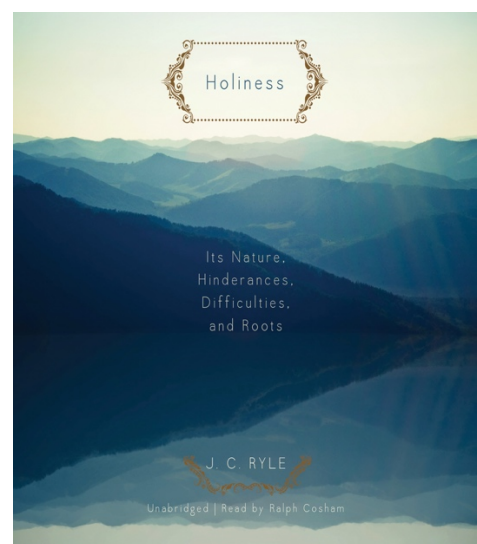
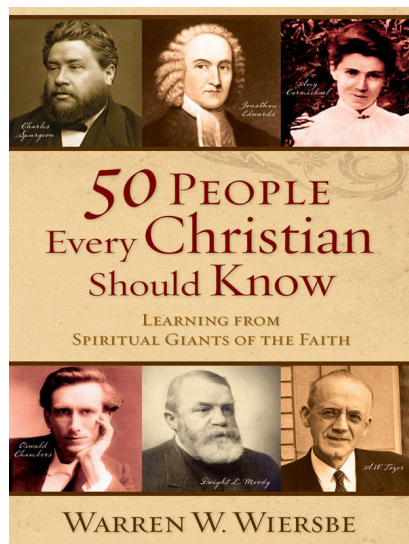
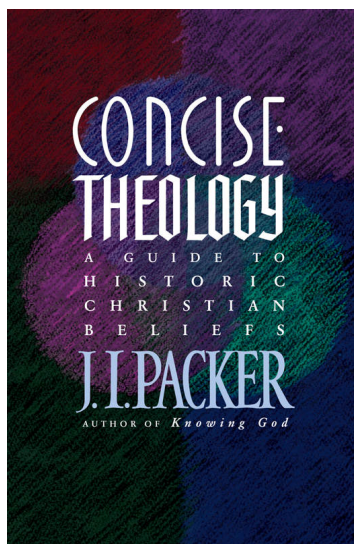
NOTICE: so many preaching the word today **do not** have **a theology**

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

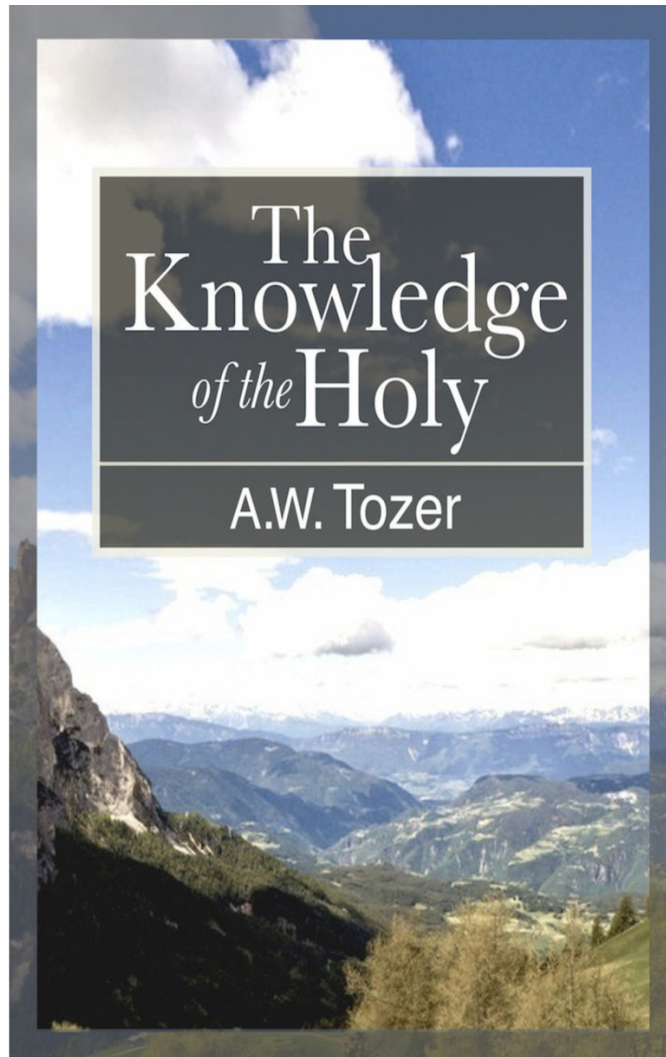
B. READ BOOKS THAT FILL OUT YOUR THEOLOGY

IDEA: “**definitive**” commentaries—ask someone who is ahead of you in teaching, for advice on who is best

EXAMPLE: here are 3 very different books that work toward the same end of filling out your theology



2. INVEST TIME IN A FOUNDATIONAL STUDY OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



1: Why We Must Think Rightly About God	5
2: God Incomprehensible	8
3: A Divine Attribute: Something True About God	12
4: The Holy Trinity	15
5: The Self-existence of God	20
6: The Self-sufficiency of God	25
7: The Eternity of God	29
8: God's Infinitude	32
9: The Immutability of God	36
10: The Divine Omniscience	40
11: The Wisdom of God	43
12: The Omnipotence of God	47
13: The Divine Transcendence	50
14: God's Omnipresence	53
15: The Faithfulness of God	56
16: The Goodness of God	59
17: The Justice of God	62
18: The Mercy of God	65
19: The Grace of God	68
20: The Love of God	71
21: The Holiness of God	75
22: The Sovereignty of God	79

3. TEST YOUR DOCTRINE AGAINST ATTRIBUTES GOD

A. NO DOCTRINE CAN BE TRUE IF IT VIOLATES ANY OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

1) THE ULTIMATE BACKDROP IN ALL CONCLUSIONS IS THE CHARACTER OF GOD

IDEA: nothing God would ever say in the Bible will violate his Character

B. THIS IS WHY YOU MUST BE KNOWING GOD THROUGH THEOLOGICAL INTIMACY

NOTICE: if you don't understand the nature of God ...
*you have no ultimate backdrop to validate the principles you are discovering!

EXAMPLE: if you don't know **GOD IS SOVERIEGN**
... you will make a lot of strange conclusions in bible

EXAMPLE: if you don't know **GOD IS JUST**
*Have some really big problems reading Old Test
*whole peoples were wiped out

EXAMPLE: if you don't understand **GOD IS HOLY**
as well as **LOVING.....** and you have a preoccupation with fact He is loving to exclusion of Holiness
*You will produce apathetic listeners who do not realize God requires obedience from His people!

NOTICE: there is often such an overboard **lopsided** approach to God's attributes in area of love
*start looking into Old Test and you can't reconcile it!

1) IN BEGINNING OF HIS BOOK HE TELLS MAN THE DAY YOU SIN YOU WILL DIE

EXAMPLE: He says to man

Gen. 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
Gen. 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

C. IF YOU HAVE A CLEAR THEOLOGY YOU CAN PASS IT ON CLEARLY

IF YOU HAVE AN UNCLEAR VIEW OF “GOD AS HE IS” ...IN YOUR HEAD

- You will be left vulnerable to forming a theology in your heart that will allow you to live on a very low level in the christian life. Left in that state you can miss **the abundant life** for days, months & years!

1. BECOME A 1ST RATE BIBLICAL THEOLOGIAN
2. DO A STUDY ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD
3. TEST YOUR DOCTRINE AGAINST ATTRIBUTES GOD

4. BE WILLING TO ACCEPT NON-CLOSURE

A. LEARN TO LIVE WITH APPARENT PARADOXES IN SCRIPTURE

IDEA: we are willing to preach and teach that some things are past our understanding in scripture

DEU 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God

Isa. 40:28 there is no searching of his understanding.

EXAMPLE: sovereignty of God and responsibility of man—*the Bible teaches both*

1) SOVERIEGNTY OF GOD

EPH 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

EPH 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will

NOTICE: I believe that.... I preach that

2) MAN'S CHOICE

IDEA: Do you believe you can choose to be saved? Yes.... I believe that too!

**I believe you never will be saved unless you do make that choice*

EXAMPLE: Jesus called men unto himself it was a straightforward honest call
*it was **not a mocking deceitful call!**

Mat 11:28 "**Come to Me**, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and **the one who comes to Me** I will by no means cast out.

Mark 8:34 ... "**Whoever desires to come** after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.

IDEA: We say if God absolutely chooses how can we possibly have a choice?

3) HERE WE TRY TO GET CLOSURE & CREATE SOMETHING IN MIDDLE

EXAMPLE: God looks down into time see's our choice and responds to it
*now you have just **taken away his sovereignty!**

B. WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ALL OF THIS?

IDEA: you leave **soveriegnity** over here....
*you leave **man's choice** over here ...
*and you do not try to harmonize them!

EXAMPLE: teach each in the passage where they appear
*have a wonderful time doing it and **leave it alone**

NOTICE: don't have to take 20 minutes each time explaining the other side!

IF YOU HAVE A HARD TIME WITH THIS ASK YOURSELF THE QUESTION:

1) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF ACTS?

WHO WROTE IT?

IDEA: *Luke wrote it....
*Holy Spirit wrote it...
*Oh, they took turns? you write one and I will...

POINT: it was 100% Luke and 100% God
*WAIT! that is 200% you **can't have 200%**
of something!
*I know but you do!

EXAMPLE: is Jesus Christ God or man?
*YES!

EXAMPLE: who lives your Christian life?

1Cor. 9:27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Gal. 2:20 I am **crucified** with Christ: **nevertheless I live**; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me

John Murray has well said
"in every major doctrine of scripture.... there is an **apparent paradox**!"

POINT: because you cannot reduce the infinite mind of God..... to finite understanding
.....without a lot of leakage!

**THERE IS MORE HERE THAN WE ARE EVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO
HANDLE AND WE MUST LIVE WITH THAT TENSION!**

NOTICE: if man had written this book—
*he would in desperation have **releaved** those tensions

POINT: one of the greatest proofs of the inspiration of scripture ...is that there is no resolution to the apparent paradoxes of scripture 😊

Valley of Vision

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

BLESSED LORD JESUS,
Before thy cross I kneel and see
the heinousness of my sin,
my iniquity that caused thee to be 'made a curse'
the evil that excites the severity of divine wrath.

Show me the enormity of my guilt by
the crown of thorns,
the pierced hands and feet,
the bruised body, the dying cries.
Thy blood is the blood of incarnate God,
it's worth infinite, its value beyond all thought.
Infinite must be the evil and guilt that demands such a price.

Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,
born in my birth,
alive in my life,
strong in my character,
dominating my faculties,
following me as a shadow,
intermingling with my every thought,
my chain that holds me captive in the empire of my soul.

Sinner that I am, why should the sun give me light,
the air supply breath,
the earth bear my tread,
its fruits nourish me,
its creatures subserve my ends?

Yet thy compassions yearn over me,
thy heart hastens to my rescue,
thy love endured my curse,
thy mercy bore my deserved stripes.

Let me walk humbly in the lowest depths of humiliation,
bathed in thy blood,
tender of conscience,
triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.