

# *Commit Thy Way*

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## **Commit Thy Way**

Do you realize that there is something that you can do about your future? *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).*

As our days pass we learn that there is little that we actually can control. It is not in man to direct his steps. This can be frustrating. Consider, who are you? You didn't pick your parents, the city in which you were born or grew up. Consider your home and the loved ones therein. You think of the people. Sometimes you try to control those people and that is when your troubles begin. You can't control them.

What about your business and your competitors? What about the customers that come? So many things are far beyond our control.

Now it is true I do have a limited choice of a few alternatives that have a very limited scope. Oh, I can decide when I step out of that door whether I will turn to the right or left. The moment I made that decision my course was set. I'll meet people I would not have met should I have turned left. The moment I start moving out I'm continually beset by circumstances and people that I cannot control. I would be very wise if I would just recognize this and admit that I have very little to do about the world as it is. I may not like to think of it because this threatens me. This may well account for the sad hearts of so many people. *"But when he saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).*

In the midst of all the confusion about us, the Gospel speaks peace to our hearts, and rest to our souls. You see God IS, and God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. "Commit they way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Living each day can be seen as a journey. Life moves on unknown, new, for we've never been over that road before. The road I choose, the values I prefer, the choices and decisions I make, constitute my living. I cannot reshape this world. I choose, I act, but I cannot guarantee the outcome.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 45:22). His word comes to help me that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Thank the Lord. This has always been true. It was clearly revealed in Christ Jesus, who, when He looked out upon the People gave His word, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

God made me, God keeps me, God enables me and God is sovereign over my affairs; and He is a Living God. He holds the whole world in His hands. It's wonderful to remember He loves me, will be merciful and gracious to me, and I can trust Him. And this is for you. As far as this world is concerned, don't let it overcome you. God is on the throne. All round about you in the world you may see the waves mounting high, but they won't stay up there. God is over all, and God doeth all things well.

You say, "Well, I don't know what is going to happen tomorrow." He does! "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). And remember, "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). With that assurance you can just go to sleep tonight and let it be! God is watching over you.

Man, woman, child, this applies to you. Just as you live on your street, you get in your car, you drive off to your work: You've got your family, the home, the bills to care about. Someone in the family maybe is breaking your heart. Then there is competition, rising prices . . . if you're a husband and you wonder

about things – commit thy way to God. If you're a wife and you wonder how things are going, turn to God. Regardless of who you are or what the situation may be, turn it over to God – commit thy way to Him. And by the way let me tell you something – you're not going to stay down here. You're not going to be here forever, but God is forever and you can put your trust in Him.

If you're a parent and you're wondering about your children, put your trust in God. If you're a child and you are wondering what in the world is ever going to happen to you – commit thy way unto the Lord. He knows the way you are going. If you're an adolescent, a young person, living out in the world today in all the confusion and turmoil, commit thy way unto God. If you should be a sinner and right now you are bothered by the fact that you haven't done right let me urge you gently but firmly – commit thy way unto God. He can take care of sinners. And if you're a loser, just seems everywhere you turn you're losing – commit thy way unto God. And if you're alone – just alone – commit thy way unto the Lord. *"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:13).*

## **Unto The Lord**

Are you hoping all things will work out well for you? If so, on what are you depending? *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).*

In this life we are dependent. We need something upon which to stand. No matter how strong anyone is, he cannot stand on nothing. The Lord Jesus, teaching His disciples, told them, "No man can serve two masters." The implication is very plain. He's going to serve somebody and the Lord is saying he can't serve two. He cannot serve God and mammon.

Apparently each person in this world is dependent upon something or someone outside himself. Each person must face the issue of whether he will depend upon himself or upon God. Depending upon God is the result of having received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. As we decide, either Christ or self becomes the point of reference in our thinking.

We know it is a natural temptation to think that we will be guided from within ourselves. Even in school as we are teaching children isn't it true that ordinarily the average teacher is trying to train that boy or girl to know what to do so that they will be wise enough, smart enough, and good enough to do the right thing. One of the most discouraging and disappointing things for a teacher is that the children just don't do it. Did I say teachers? Could I have said parents? Could I just have said people? Isn't it true when someone comes to you in trouble, with a problem, isn't it a natural thing for us within ourselves to plan out the best thing for them to do?

For a Christian, this isn't good enough. Stop and think about it. Are you going to decide where to go; what to do? Take for example a traveler in the woods, surrounded by trees, traveling through an untracked forest. Do you recognize right away how easily he could get hopelessly lost? And you would say, "How would he get out of there?" Experienced travelers carry a compass because the compass relates them to the world outside as it is. The compass points north whether he feels that way or not.

Perhaps an easier illustration would be to think of a sailor at sea. Can you remember when you have been out at sea and looked out from the boat across the waters? Could you ever get a sense of direction by looking at those waters? We could be guided if we looked up at the sun, or we would look up at the stars if we knew how to understand them. And again, one can go by the compass. The compass points out to the sailor what is actually true outside himself. He can trust the magnetic pole, regardless of where he may be. And with our bearings, our directions in hand, we can proceed.

This is how it would be with a Christian. Safety, security, satisfaction will come to the soul that turns to God: not to anything inside himself, but to God who is over and above and beyond. The psalmist had these words to say: "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved"

(Psalm 16:8).

Now it is possible that some people would think that depending upon God, committing themselves to the ways to the Lord and trusting in Him would probably mean that they should go as missionaries. Going as a missionary you could certainly believe that you would be trusting God and some of us show that this is in our minds when we talk about full time service. Isn't it true when you hear the phrase "full time service" you think of a person devoting all his time and all his interest to religious practices of one sort or another?

Are you able to understand that as a Christian your daily life, twenty-four hours each and every day, is full time service? Right where you are. With Christ Jesus in you, all you need to be is a believer. A believer is one who trusts that he or she is being saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ will save me when I put my hand in His and He leads me His way. I'll make it with Him. He doesn't give me a little chart to follow so that I'll know which way to go. He doesn't give me a book to read so that I'll learn what to do. It isn't a matter of giving me directions so that I will go out and follow them, He doesn't leave me alone at all. He takes me. "I will hold thee by thy right hand and I will be with thee." This is the wonderful truth of the Gospel.

Sometimes people think that this thing of putting your whole trust in the Lord, committing your way unto Him, would be true if they had some unusual suffering or some extraordinary trouble. Other people will think if they give a large amount of money to the church, or a large amount of time to religious work, such as working with the orphans or visiting the sick, distributing food among the poor and then they could have the feeling that you were actually trusting in God. Now all such activities certainly could be unto the Lord and I'm sure that there could be blessing on any one of those things. But ordinarily the average Christian needs to recognize that just ordinary regular work could be done as unto the Lord. When I commit my way unto the Lord, my whole being, be assured He will use it.

This is brought out so wonderfully in that great hymn that you and I sing with such deep personal feeling – "Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God I come." Just as I am. Not the way I could be, not the way I would be if I were doing something else, just as I am right now. It was to reconcile me, just as I am, to God just as He is, that Christ came for me and died for me as I am. He came to offer Himself on my behalf. "For me," as I am, that I, such a person as I am, might be reconciled to God. You say, "Well you must think you are good." I wish I were but it isn't true to say that I think that I'm good. I know better. Even Paul said, "I know that in me there dwelleth no good thing." No, He came for me just as I am. He is now in the presence of God in heaven praying for me. Thank God! When I commit my way unto God, I'm deliberately turning myself over to God, to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again I raise this question, What does this mean, to commit thy way unto the Lord? It means to yield myself, to obey His will whenever I have any choice There are many matters I do not have any choice about that are in His hands; but there are some things I do have a choice about. And I could ask, What is revealed as acceptable conduct with the Father?

There is a certain attitude toward God. If I commit my way unto the Lord I will acknowledge God as revealed in the Bible. I will be able to say I believe in God and He is almighty and He is on the throne and He is the Lord of all. I will repent of my sinfulness. "I know that in me, in my flesh, there dwelleth no good thing." I will acknowledge my own unfitness. I will confess, admitting what I have done wrong with no excuses and no alibis. I will accept Jesus Christ, believing in Him and accepting Him as my Savior and Lord. And I will receive the Holy Spirit, believing God's Word about Him and about God's plan for me. If I'm going to commit my way unto the Lord I will yield to God, obeying the will of God as revealed in His Word; I'll study the Bible and read the Bible and think about the Bible so that I can find out what He wants me to do. And I'll find out in the Bible He wants me to be reverent toward Him, to have respect for people who have authority, to be considerate of all other people and to be charitable to the poor. I will want to do all this because He wants me to do it.

Even now, there are those who depend upon their family. Some did that in the time of our Lord. They told Him they were the children of Abraham; but He wasn't impressed by that. Others depend upon a past confession of Christ. Because they at one time accepted Christ and at one time made an open confession – some people think that that's all that needs to be done. Oh no! If I went into the church last Sunday, and heard an organ playing a marvelous hymn and were to go in again on Wednesday to listen – would I be going listen to the echoes of what I heard on Sunday? What would I hear in that sanctuary? Not a thing. It is true the organ played on Sunday; but this is Wednesday. If I go to hear the organ, someone would have to play it now. And so it is with Almighty God. When I turn my heart to Him, depend on Him and commit my way unto Him, that is for today. I did it before, thank the Lord. I have done it through the years, thank the Lord. I want to have His blessing today, so I do it now. I must depend on the Living God and on Him alone, moment by moment.

### **Trust Also In Him**

Can you see how I could trust a person, even though I had my doubts?

I say I trust a person when I put something which I value into his hands. This is what happens when I authorize a doctor to operate on me in some physical surgery. I commit myself to him and let him do it. To say I believe in the doctor means I esteem him to be reliable. To say I trust really implies I entrust. I commit myself, my life, my future into his hands. So to have faith in God is to believe what He has promised.

This causes us to search the Scriptures for His promises. Usually this is to be seen when we have a problem or we're in some particular trouble; then we look to God for a promise to cover that trouble. When we find that promise we can rest in it.

But there is so much in life I do not know so that I cannot make it specific. Paul says in one place, "We know not what to pray for as we ought." I may not know what is wrong with my sick child, but when I bring that child to the doctor and commit that little girl to him, I trust him. I entrust him with this child. This means I place my child in his hands to enable him to do what is needed. Just so, when I come to God and I commit my way unto the Lord, I am turning over into God's hands much more than I know. Now I can decide whether I will go to the right or the left but I cannot know what will happen. I do not know the peril that I am in, but God knows all things, and I can trust God. I do not know what a day will bring forth, but I can trust all to God. I do know that some day I shall die, and I can entrust myself to God about that also.

You remember the prayer that we teach the little children, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray thee Lord my soul to take." The little child, when he offers that prayer, may not know a great deal about what is involved in life and death and heaven, but we who know God can trust Him totally.

I have good reason to think that God knows now everything that is going to happen and will happen and because of that I can trust myself to Him with confidence. I can yield everything into the hands of the Almighty God. I can trust God. "Trust also in Him."

Anything can happen to me, and it probably will. Anything can happen to my loved ones and I'd be quite helpless about it, but I could trust God. Anything could happen to my work, to my business, but I can trust God. Anything can happen in the world – what is going to happen tomorrow no one knows, but God knows. And because God does, the Christian can confidently trust God.

I may not be strong enough to be real sure that I can keep on, but I can trust Him. He is able. When He is with me He can do it through me. I may not be so wise; as a matter of fact I know right well I'm not, but He is wise, and I can entrust all to Him. I may not be fortunate. Every day will not be a beautiful day, or a

good day. There'll be some days when I'll have trouble. Something may happen to me that seems disastrous, but God can do all things and I can trust Him. So whatever the situation is in my daily affairs, today or tomorrow, I can trust Him to do what is good for me, today and tomorrow.

I certainly do not know what's going to happen to my loved ones. There are some eighteen of us in our immediate family, and with eighteen people living along every day, there are countless chances for anything to happen. Whatever may happen to my loved ones, which I do not know and I couldn't do anything about, I can turn them over into the hands of God. God is able and if something were to happen to every one of us and all eighteen were in trouble, God is able! There isn't anything going to wear Him out. The Keeper of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

The same is true no matter what may happen to my possessions: things could happen to the bank I put my trust in. Things could happen to the house that I live in. Things could happen to the car that I drive and things could happen just to my own possessions.

In just these days several of our friends, actually more than ever in our lifetime, have had their houses broken into, burglarized; some have lost precious things: things that were keepsakes and were mementoes from early days. I think of a friend of mine who had a watch stolen that was given to him on a very special occasion. Somebody broke into the house and stole the watch. At the same time his wife had several very precious bits of jewelry that were stolen. Among them were some rings, and a diamond studded watch that she cherished throughout the years and wouldn't have taken any amount of money for. The couple came home one day from shopping at the grocery store and found these things were gone, surprising the thieves who left several bags already packed as they escaped.

We don't know about these possessions of ours. We can't hold them in our hands all the time. We can't take them with us all the time. But even so, you and I don't need to be worried. We can entrust them to God. We can accept any loss and look up to God. He will still be there.

When I say I trust Him, I do not mean that I am going to get what I want. Nor do I mean that I'm going to get what I think would be pleasing to me. But it means that I am going to Yet what He knows will be good for me. He is benevolent and He intends to draw me nearer to Him.

Some people face the fact that tomorrow they are going to be sick or hurt. They have some trouble that causes pain. They may be assured there isn't a thing that is going to happen to them that God doesn't know about, and God can be trusted. So they can say, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

As we think about our daily affairs we can in complete trust turn everything over to God. My son may do wrong, but I can trust in God. My daughter may be deceived and suffer real loss, but I can trust this also to Him. My health may fail, I can trust in Him. My friends may have real troubles, I can trust them to Him.

When I say that I am going to trust God, I mean that I accept His will. I remember the Scriptures say, "Thou doest all things well." I accept His providence as Job did when his children died. "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." I can accept the outcome whatever it may be. Paul says, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him."

So I look up as I look ahead. Suppose I fail, I can trust in God. Suppose I sin, I can trust in God. Suppose I blunder, do some foolish thing, I can trust in God. Suppose I fall, I can trust also in Him. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul."

## And He Shall Bring It To Pass

Do you realize that when a person becomes a Christian he gives up his own plans that he might share in the mighty works of God? *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).*

How often we have the idea that the Bible is a means to help us work out our plans. It would be surprising if we were ever to stop and look at ourselves, hold ourselves up before the mirror of our own mind, to see exactly what we have in mind when we either go to church or read the Bible, sometimes even as we pray. Isn't it true that what we're actually having in mind is that this is the best way to get done what we want to do. How often we have quoted Psalm 37:5 – "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" – and how often we have quoted that with an assurance that we will succeed because God will help us.

In all such thinking we have fallen into a very common human error. We are so full of our selves; our principle preoccupation of mind and heart is about self. When a person says "I just hope I can do well," he is inclined to feel that he has said a good thing for the whole day. That is such a common error!

Even the idea of accepting Christ as Savior becomes a matter of accepting Him as Savior and Helper. "I'm going to do better from now on." Why? "Because He is going to help me. Now I have the Savior to help me do my work." This is our attitude when we neglect to hear God's word. *"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:9-11).* "He that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works." Many of us take that to mean we are no longer going to work for eternal life: for our eternal salvation. But wait a minute. Why limit it like that? Why not just understand that the Gospel actually leads us into this wonderful truth that we are able now to cease from our own works?

In Matthew 16:24 we read: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." And in Romans 6:11 Paul writes: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead." If I am going to reckon myself to be dead, what's the idea of me having plans? Here is where the confusion comes in. We are going to reckon ourselves dead unto – what? Well, we will be dead so far as eventual judgment is concerned. We will be dead so far as the Great White Throne is concerned. And we will be dead here and now so far as our fleshly desires are concerned. This is the way in which Paul put it. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Abraham was a pioneer in living by faith, and his outlook can be seen when you notice in him the classic difference between himself and the men of Babel. The Bible tells about the men of Babel: "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name." (Genesis 11:4). And what do we read about Abraham? "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Hebrews 11:10).

In all of this there is a profound truth. God is working His will. He is working all the time and it is for me to be wise enough to yield myself to Him, and to let Him do His will. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." What is that "it"? He shall bring "it" to pass. What is *it* that He will bring to pass? You may understand at once this is not something that I was planning. This is not some scheme I was working on. How often it is true that when a person works, plans, desires a certain outcome, he runs into difficulty. He has trouble. He's frustrated. He's facing failure. Then someone comes to him and says, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." And now when he may be doubting and fearing he turns to this verse and thinks that's the way to get things done: "I'll turn everything over to Him. This mess that I've gotten into confusion about, that I don't know what to do about, I'll turn over to Him and He will work it out. And so I will succeed because He will be with me."

That sounds very fine but actually that is very wrong.

Sometimes people try to encourage me to turn my tangled skein of yarn over the Lord, assuring me that He will untangle what I have tangled: He will straighten out what I have gotten all mixed up, and then He'll do my knitting for me. Oh no! This too sounds very nice, but this too is all wrong.

Psalm 37 is not a general promise of help to all mankind to assure them of success in anything that they're going to do. Actually Psalm 37 is a wonderful promise that God will perform *His will*. In the case of the history of Israel, it was to bring His people into the promised land. Over and over again you see this. Psalm 37 is where you read the meek shall inherit the earth; and the earth that is referred to is the land, the country, the promised land. And where you see "the promised land," you can think of the promises of God, the blessing of God. It is not my success, but it is His program worked out: His project completed: His promise fulfilled. That is the blessing of God.

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost. He didn't come to help me make a profit in my business. He didn't come to help me to get my work done real well. He didn't come to help the housewife keep a clean house. He came to seek and to save the lost. All heaven is waiting for this. They are rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repents and comes home. God is working to bless me with eternal life abundantly and if I just commit my way unto Him, yield myself to Him, He will bring that to pass. He's going to reconcile me to God that I might have peace with God. He'll bless me. He'll get it done. He'll pardon me and He'll forgive me. He is going to deliver me that I might have freedom from sin.

He is coming to deliver me. He is coming to give me rest that I might have quietness and confidence. So if I will commit my way, turn it all over to Him, leave it with Him, trust also in Him, He will bring it to pass. My way? No. *His way*. I can rest on that in quietness and confidence. I know that He is going to regenerate me that I might have eternal life abundantly. He's going to give me the Holy Spirit so that I might have communion with Christ, with the Lord, with God. He is going to give me His blessing so that I can day in and day out actually have joy in the Lord. I need only to yield myself to God, and He will accomplish His purpose. He will bring to pass the very thing He has in mind.

Read all of Psalm 37 and you will find this is the theme that is carried all the way through. It is in this psalm that you read, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." "But the meek shall inherit the earth." And the psalm finally ends with "And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him." That is the big thing about God: not my personal daily round of living which is only for a time. It is the eternal truth of God, and He wants me to live it every day.

## **The Goal of Salvation**

Do you realize what the final outcome of the work of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit living in the heart, will be for every believer? "*Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and He shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday*" (Psalm 37:5-6).

We know that as human beings our primary concern is self. In this no one means to be vicious or wicked, just natural. I think it is a fair thing to say that if any one thing characterizes a woman's attitude it could be expressed in the words, "How do I look?" Or, "Is my slip showing?" In the same way I think that one sentence that could characterize any man is "How am I doing? How will my score compare to others?" A woman is interested in her appearance: the man is interested in his performance.

To be interested in my practical situation, my daily routine, is as natural as living. As surely as I am going to live I am going to think about what I am facing. I am going to become preoccupied with my daily

problems. This can become a snare to the Christian.

Often when we are thinking of the blessing of God, we think about money, health, prestige, or success. All these things are in this world, and none of them will stay with us. How often is it true that some will actually go to church, with the thought in mind that for this they will prosper. We are inclined to make the blessing of God equal to material benefits. And from one point of view when you look at it you may think to yourself, "Isn't it that way?" Consider the poor, the lonely, the sick – those who are in trouble; look at the people who never succeed. So you mean there is no Gospel for them? Are you going to say for them they failed because they didn't get along in this world? This cannot be the Gospel.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Many people see this as a formula for success, but they are mistaken. Take a person faced with some problem, trying to get something done: maybe trying to get some work done at home or get some business deal put through, or perhaps trying to finish some course in college or university. We are inclined to say, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." We mean to imply, "You will be successful." Actually, this is not true. That is not the way it is. The thrust of this very verse, Psalm 37:5, is not an assurance that God is going to help anybody to win. It is not a call for me to seek the help of God for me, for my plans.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" is in the Bible. It is not for me only. That particular promise was not made only because of the problems I have today. That Scripture, that promise, was made because of the work God is doing. We need to ask ourselves at a point like this: What is the Bible all about? What do we actually have in the Bible? The truth is that what we have in the Bible is a great plan of God whose one basic purpose is to save me, and to save you, and to save "whosoever will." He will bring out of the natural, into the spiritual, whosoever will believe in Him.

As a human being I was in bondage, condemned, awaiting death. I was in darkness, groping around trying to find some kind of relief, when I heard the Gospel. "In the fullness of time God rent forth His Son." "While we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly." "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Did you notice in all these promises there is not one word about how much money you are going to make, how well you are going to get along, what kind of a house you are going to have, how much you can afford? There is nothing about such: not anything about your physical condition, not anything about your health and your circumstances for that matter. These gracious promises go out to people who are crippled, who will never walk normally; they go out to people who are blind, who will never see as far as this world is concerned; they go out to people who are poor, who will never have anything of this world's goods. The truth is a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesses.

To accept Christ as my Savior and Lord is to yield myself into His will. Not only do I commit myself to Him as my Advocate, because He will intercede for me in the presence of God, but I accept Him as my Savior, I'm trusting Him to save my soul. I am trusting Him to work out His will in my life, so that this will be the purpose of all that Christ does in me: to incline me to obey God.

One could properly ask in view of the holiness of God, how could a human being ever share in the blessing of God? What would it mean? One of the wonderful things about the Gospel is that God will give the believer righteousness. Abraham believed in God and it was counted to him for righteousness. The book of Romans is written to make it clear to all that righteousness is not something believers earn, but it is something God gives. God gives it in the course of dealing with believers and this is what we have in mind here when we say, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness."

The Holy Spirit in me moves me along into obedience, that I might look up to God as Christ would look up to God, to walk in His way. Paul writes in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work



together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Now when I look at that verse, I might keep in mind that it doesn't promise me unbroken bliss: that every day is going to be lovely, and that everything is just going to be beautiful. It does promise that the outcome will be blessed. If I were to read that marvelous promise in verse 28, I should go on to read verses 29 down through to the end of the chapter, and I would be astonished to see how there will be tribulation and distress and persecution and famine and nakedness and peril and sword; but the promise is firm that not one of these things will ever separate me from Him.

Our righteousness, originating in the grace of God is available to anyone. It will be as a light: it will shine out in broad open daylight.

I will be in the presence of God, not because I'm worthy, but because He is gracious; and I will be there without a single thing against me. This will be not because I paid all my debts, but because He forgave me. So it is a gift. Salvation is free. We will be out in the wide open, free because we have been delivered by the Lord Jesus Christ.