

# Insight Into



July / August 2023

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork” (Psalm 19:1).*

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# Insight Into

## General Information

*Insight Into* is the official youth periodical of the Netherlands Reformed Congregations in the United States and Canada.

As a Reformed magazine, *Insight Into* seeks to promote the knowledge of the truth and to give biblical guidance to young people in their daily lives.

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# MEDITATION

*“He entered into Capernaum”*

(Luke 7:1).

Rev. A. Verschuure

Suggested reading: Matthew 11:20-30

Although our attention is focussed mainly on the centurion and his sick servant, we also will look at the place where they lived. This miracle was done by Christ in Capernaum. It wasn't the first time that he did a miracle there. The son of the nobleman who was cured was also from there (John 4). Many more miracles were performed by Christ there; therefore, Capernaum was a privileged place. Christ spoke many things here as well.

Yet there was not much fruit to be found upon His labours. In Matthew 11:20, Jesus complained about several cities where He had spent much time speaking and performing miracles. Yet the people of those cities were not converted. One of these privileged cities was Capernaum.

We are also privileged, for much work has been bestowed upon us. Every Sunday, yes, every day, the nourishment of God's Word is placed around the tree of our life. We are also exalted to heaven, but are you still unconverted? Even though life is so serious, have you not yet bowed your heart before the Lord? If you continue in this way, you will be brought down to hell. May this portion of Scripture be used to urge you to hasten for your life's sake.

*While He proffers peace and pardon  
Let us hear His voice today,  
Lest, if we our hearts should harden,  
We should perish in the way.*

~ Psalm 25:4

Taken from *Beacon: Daily Meditations for Young People*

A black and white portrait of John Newton, an 18th-century English hymn writer and theologian. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a large, powdered wig and a dark coat over a white cravat. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

# Gems from John Newton

*I*f we cut out our own crosses, we shall find them heavier than His. Both wind and weather are at the Lord's command, and He can turn the storm into a calm in a moment. We may therefore safely and confidently leave the government upon His shoulders. He that walketh humbly walketh surely.

Experience will teach you not to expect that every blossom will prove fruit. I can sometimes talk loud and look big in the pulpit, but how different a creature am I behind the scenes! Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, O Lord.

The Lord can do without the best of us. If God has a controversy with us, I can expect no other than that wisdom should be hidden from the wise. Surely when the Lord crosses our wishes, it is always in mercy, and because we short-sighted creatures often know not what we ask, nor what would be the consequences if our desires were granted. Where we are mistaken, a denial is a mercy. To lay down rules precisely to which all must conform, and to treat all enquiring souls in the same way, is as wrong as it would be in a physician to attempt to cure all his patients who may have the same general disorder (a fever for instance) with one and the same prescription. A skilful man would probably find so many differences in their cases, that he would not treat any two of them exactly alike.

I hope your soul prospers. That is, I hope you are less and less in your own eyes and that your heart is more and more impressed with a sense of the glory and grace of our Lord. How miserable a portion would the best this life can afford be, without the knowledge of a Saviour! The skill of the Pilot is best evidenced in a storm; so is the Lord's wisdom and faithfulness towards His children, and so is the sincerity of their hearts towards Him.

To those who feel their own weakness, grace is all-sufficient.

Go whither you have often gone in trouble, and ask counsel of the Lord, and He will direct you. The Lord is all-sufficient. He can make the hard easy and the bitter sweet, and He does. I believe the Lord's Word, that He will guide those who simply wait upon Him for direction. I compose my mind by considering all hearts and all things as instruments of Him who worketh all things according to the counsel of His own will, and makes all subservient to the fulfilling it.

Sin, my friend, is the great evil. Let us preach against sin, let us cry to the Lord for mercy, let us point to Jesus as the only Refuge from the storm, and let us leave the rest to them who know better. They who live the life will doubtless die the death of the righteous. To see Him as He is, and to be like Him! This is worth dying for, and worth living for, till He shall say: "*Come up hither*" (Revelation 11:12).

Taken from the book *Wise Counsel*; page 88.

"There was once a rich nobleman who kept a fool. This was a person whose job it was to do and say funny things, so as to make those about him laugh and be happy. The nobleman gave the fool a wooden staff as a sign of his office, telling him to keep it until he found someone else who was a greater fool than himself. Not many years after, the nobleman became sick and was going to die. The fool went to see him. "I must soon leave you," said the nobleman. "And where are you going?" "Into the other world," said his lordship. "And when will you return again? Within a month?" "No." "When, then?" "Never." "Never?" said the fool. "And what preparation and provision have you made for so long a journey and for being happy there?" "None at all," said the nobleman. "Here, then; take my staff," said the fool, "for with all my nonsense, I am not guilty of such folly as this." To be going into eternity without preparation is the greatest of folly."

~ Submitted

# “Lord, Teach us to Pray”

Rev. M. Romeyn (1913-1971)

**I**n Luke 11:1 we read: *“One of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray.”* Who of us is not in need to be taught to pray? We know that no one is able to pray without the help of the Lord. God is a Spirit, and those that call upon Him, must call upon Him in spirit and truth. Prayer is often times called the pulse beat of spiritual life. The answer to Question 116 of our Heidelberg Catechism states *“that prayer is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us.”* God speaks to us by His Holy Word, and we may speak to God with prayer. By prayer we place our desires before the Lord; it is a humble supplication, if it may please the Lord, to fulfill our desires. It is the pouring out of our soul before God. We may only pray to God so as it has pleased God to reveal Himself in His Word. God the Father and our Creator, Christ the Son and our Redeemer, God the Holy Ghost and our sanctification, and we read: *“And these three are One”* (1 John 5:7).

God is worthy to receive all the honour and the glory. He is the Most High, and above everything and everyone which exists. *“The Lord knoweth our down sitting and our uprising”* (see Psalm 139:2). We sing in Psalter 123: *“He knows all our hearts and the secrets within.”* According to the might of God, He is the only one able to answer our prayers, and according to His goodness, willing to hear us. If we pray, we must know our needs and wants. We must seriously take in consideration if our prayer is in accordance with the holy will of God. We must pray with reverence, knowing that we are speaking to an infinite Being, and we must understand that we are so little, so unworthy ourselves. When Abraham prayed, he said, *“Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am dust and ashes”* (Genesis 18:27). If we go on unrepented, we are instructed that God does not hear us. *“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth”* (John 9:31). My friends, you shall understand if our ears are closed for

the speaking of the Lord, then the Lord shall not have an open ear for our prayers. Otherwise if we confess in uprightness our sins before the Lord, and do this with a broken heart, the Lord shall hear. *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise”* (Psalm 51:17).

Not everything we pray for is good for us. The Lord’s children agree if the Lord had always answered their prayers according to their desires, it would not have been beneficial to them. We read in James 4:3: *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”* The Lord knows better than we do, what is best for us. Agur was blest with self-knowledge; listen to his prayer: *“Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny Thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain”* (Proverbs 30:8-9).

What about the outward appearance of our body while we pray? People have different customs; shall I condemn the one custom and justify the other? No, I may not and do not dare. It would be very strange if we would see a man pray like David did it, with his hands raised toward heaven. We read in Psalm 141:2, *“Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”* We also read in Lamentations 3:41, *“Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.”* We know that the Israelites directed their faces toward Jerusalem where the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant stood. We may and must direct our spiritual eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Only for His sake, the prayers of God’s children are answered in accordance with God’s will. *“Unto Thee lift I up mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that He have mercy upon us”* (Psalm 123:1-2).

Young friends, we must do some self-searching. Are we willing and desirous to forgive our fellowman? *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you”* (Matthew 6:14). Let us not look too much at the other man, how he prayed. Let us pray for a true prayer. Searching ourself, knowing that the contents of our prayer must be: *“Thy will be done”* (Matthew 6:10). If we see our prayers in the light of the Scriptures, must we not all pray, *“Lord, teach us to pray”*?

## Questions

1. What is prayer?
2. How are we supposed to pray?
3. What are your thoughts about true prayer?

# Jesus Only

(The preface to a sermon preached by Rev. Ebenezer Erskine in 1724)

We do not read of any plaster that the stung Israelites were to make use of for their healing, but only looking to the brazen serpent. If they had made a confection of the best herbs in the wilderness, or a plaster of all the sovereign ingredients in the world, and withal heaped up mountains of prayers, or poured out seas of tears, all would not have helped, if they had not looked unto the brazen serpent. God had appointed that as the only way of relief; and therefore nothing else could perform the cure God hath set up, His Christ as the only way of life. He hath lifted Him up on the pole of the gospel, *“that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:15). And though we should spend our whole time and strength in praying, and mourning, and other acts of obedience, all would be of no avail, unless we made use of God’s remedy, in a way of believing, and that is: *“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth”* (Isaiah 45:22). Seeking the cure is not the cure. In reading and hearing, we are directed how to come at the cure, but these are not the cure. Let us never put our duties in the room of Christ. The man that rests in anything on this side, Christ, will at last rest on this side, heaven. All our duties and works of obedience will be but as ropes of sand, or chains of glass, too brittle to draw our souls up to glory.





# A Prodigal Attitude

*“And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.  
And he divided unto them his living”*

(Luke 15:12).

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

**W**hy did the prodigal son desire to have his portion in his own hands? Was it that he might apply himself to business and trade with it and so make it more? No, he had not thought of that. He was weary of his father’s government, of the good order and discipline of his father’s family, and was fond of liberty, falsely so-called, but indeed the greatest slavery, for such a liberty to sin is. He was willing to get from under his father’s eye, for that was always a check upon him and a check to him. He was distrustful of his father’s management. He was proud of himself and had a great conceit of his own sufficiency. He thought he could manage it better than his father did and make a better figure with it. There are more young people ruined by pride than by any one lust whatsoever.





# Plenty to do in God's World

Rev. P. van Ruitenburg

God doesn't just let go of this world. *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him"* (Colossians 1:16), and the whole world still belongs to God and the world must know that. God has a right for everyone to serve Him, for everyone to obey His Word. God never abandons that claim, and therefore we should not deny that claim. Let us stand in this world fully aware that the **WHOLE WORLD** is God's. Even though this world is temporary, it must be about God's glory! Even though we must be strangers and pilgrims on earth, we must not remain aloof. That is the easiest thing, but it is a denial of God's right to the earth.

It makes sense to stand up for God's glory, not only upholding God's Word, but also advertising God's law, politically and personally. Or are we ashamed to label abortion as murder? Do we prefer to keep our mouths shut about controversial matters, for the sake of sweet peace? There are many unstoppable things that we must not remain silent about and for which we must act. If a train strike during the Second World War is justified to prevent the deportation of Jews, a demonstration against abortion is only justified. Let's also be active in politics and have Daniels in high posts to infiltrate this world and be salting salt.

Let us certainly not retreat to an ecclesiastical island and not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist did not keep silent before Herod who lived in adultery, and he asked the Samaritan woman to bring her husband, knowing of course that she had had five husbands. That is not bigotry, but it is love for God and our neighbour.

Look around you where volunteers are needed to make God's voice heard in our society. Has slavery not come to an end like this? Justice must be done on earth, including abroad. There is still plenty to do in God's world!

*“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matthew 5:13).*

*“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).*

*“And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak” (Matthew 10:18-19).*

“On one of his journeys in Scotland, Rev. G. Whitefield was told of a widow with a large family, whose landlord had seized her furniture and was about to sell it, unless her rent was paid. Rev. Whitefield's purse was never large, but his sympathy was great, and he immediately gave the five guineas which the helpless woman needed. A friend, who was travelling with him, hinted that the sum was more than he could reasonably afford, to which he replied: “When God brings a case of distress before us, it is that we may relieve it.” The two travellers proceeded on their journeys and, before long, encountered a highwayman who demanded their money, which they gave. Rev. Whitefield now turned the tables on his friend and reminded him how much better it was for the poor widow to have the five guineas than the thief who had just robbed them. They had not long resumed their travel, before the man returned and demanded Rev. Whitefield's coat, which was much more respectable than his own. This request was also granted. Rev. Whitefield accepted the robbers ragged coat, until he could procure a better. Presently, they perceived the marauder again galloping towards them most furiously, and now, fearing that their lives were threatened, they also spurred their horses and arrived at some cottages before the highwayman could stop them. The thief was stopped short, and no doubt was immensely mortified, for when Rev. Whitefield took off the man's tattered coat, he found in one of its pockets a carefully wrapped parcel containing one hundred guineas.”

~ Submitted

# Bible Word: “Justify”

Submitted

The word “justify” means to make something just or right. You will probably come across the word in printing or word processing where words or numbers are all aligned or made straight together. To make a page tidy, you would justify the writing to the left so that all the lines begin one underneath another. When you write a column of numbers to be added together, they will be justified to the right, so that the hundreds, tens, and units are in their correct columns. The text in this magazine is justified to both the left and the right; and the headings are center-justified so they appear in the middle of the page.

In the Bible, to justify means to be shown or declared righteous. Job asks: *“How should man be just with God?”* (Job 9:2). This is an important question, and what he means is: How is man made straight or righteous in God’s sight? God is almighty and holy; Job goes on to describe His greatness. God created man good, but man fell. Man is sinful and has broken God’s holy commandments. Therefore, man is not right with God. Can man make himself just with God? Job continues: *“If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; yet shalt Thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me”* (Job 9:30-31).

Man can do nothing to make himself just in God’s sight. Yet a holy God has made a way to make sinners just in His sight. God the Son, the Lord Jesus, gave Himself for His sinful people. He died in their place, and so removed their sin. He rose again for their justification, which is greater than the removal of sin. It is God giving His righteousness to His people, so that they are made as righteous and as just as God is just. What a tremendous thing, that a sinner is made the righteousness of God in Christ. *“In Thy Surety thou art free; His dear hands were pierced for thee; With His spotless vesture on, Holy as the Holy One”* (John Kent; 1766-1843).

Justification is received by faith, and faith only. A sinner called by grace and taught by the Holy Spirit to know his lost and ruined state, is given

faith to believe God has a righteousness to give, and that He justifies the ungodly. By faith he believes that God has done the work, and like Abraham who believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, so the sinner receives justification. This truth is what godly men stood for in the days of the Reformation, and some were martyred for it. At that time, and sadly it is increasingly evident today, it was wrongly taught that justification comes by man's deeds, either by his own works or through so-called sacraments. The Lord's people are shown that they are justified by faith, and they have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord teach us this truth, and grant that we may be among His called ones, for "*whom He called, them He also justified*" (Romans 8:30).

*"Without faith we are not fit to desire mercy; without humility we are not fit to receive it; without affection we are not fit to value it; without sincerity we are not fit to improve it."*

~ Rev. Stephen Charnock (1628-1680)

*"The jewel of assurance is best kept in the cabinet of a humble heart."*

~ Rev. Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

*Jesus did "do and teach."*

(Acts 1:1)

*"Lying slander is one of the foulest sins on earth, seeking as it does to destroy man's character, injure his usefulness to others, separate him from his friends and crush him beneath an unjust burden."*

~ Author Unknown



# The Importance of Reading

**R**ev. J. K. Popham (1847-1937) was a great reader. He realized that books have traditionally been the means by which the learning of previous generations is passed on to the present. We are “standing on the shoulders of giants” (as the saying goes--you will find these words around the edge of the British £2 coin). It is very proud to assume that we know better than all the godly men and women that have lived in the past, and therefore ignore their writings and testimony as something worthless. It is folly to be ignorant of the past and not read history, because that leaves us open to fall into the same traps, having not learnt the lessons of history. Above all else, the doctrines of the Word of God are “truth unchanged, unchanging.” It must be so, because their author, the eternal Word, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Our needs as sinners have not changed, the means of salvation have not altered, and the working of the Spirit continues the same from generation to generation. Therefore, if we are spiritually hungry, and exercised in the things of truth, there should be a desire to read.

Firstly, the Word of God, which should be read daily, and in its entirety from Genesis to Revelation (and for personal reading, ideally consecutively). Then secondly, books which teach the doctrines of the Bible, and that faithfully describe the Lord’s dealings with His church and people in the past. Having proved the worth of good books, Rev. Popham often quoted from them in preaching, recommended books in his letters, and encouraged the young people of his congregation to read. We believe this had remarkable fruit. Firstly, through the blessing of the Holy Spirit resting on a ministry that was the product of reading and study, and the personal reading Rev. Popham encouraged amongst his

hearers at home, his congregation came to appreciate the deep mysteries of godliness. Secondly, the three ministers who sat under his ministry (Mr. John H. Gosden, Mr. Frank L. Gosden, and Mr. Jesse J. K. Popham Delves) were marked out as being particularly eminent servants of God, principally because they rightly divided the Word of Truth. We venture that, under the Holy Spirit, this was the product of the teaching of a well-read ministry, and the encouragement of their pastor to cultivate the habit of reading. Many were blessed under their ministry, and we still reap the fruits of it today. Thirdly, two young men in his congregation, who were encouraged to read by their pastor, would later go on to form two of the greatest, publicly accessible libraries of free grace literature in the UK. Mr. Geoffrey Williams, who was converted from the world under Rev. Popham's ministry, formed the Beddington Free Grace Library (now known as The Evangelical Library) and Mr. Sydney F. Paul began the Gospel Standard Baptist Library.

We fear our churches are poorer today for the lack of personal reading. Many people's houses appear virtually devoid of books. We are spiritually weak because of a lack of knowledge of the truth, and a shallowness in understanding when it comes to spiritual things. Reading alone will not fix this, but it is a means God has given to the church to its edification. If the Apostle Paul could not do without his books, and he was inspired, how can we ever think we can get by without the resource God has given us—a weighty blessing—good books for our strengthening and instruction. We would seek to encourage all pastors, deacons, church members, and parents to promote the habit of personal reading, and to advocate reading to our young people. If you are looking for material, the library catalogue is a good place to start, or even better, consider making a visit with the family to the library to find some of the treasures that are stored on its shelves. We believe there is something in the library for everyone who genuinely comes looking for a good book to read.

~ Taken from the *Gospel Standard* magazine

“The minister called to read the Bible to a poor girl, Nellie Conroy. She listened attentively while he read to her the Beatitudes from the “Sermon on the Mount.” When he had finished, she said, “There is one more.” “No, Nellie,” said the minister, “I read them all.” “No,” she insisted, “there is one more: *‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’*” (Revelation 14:13).

# IRAQ!



1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq.
2. Mesopotamia, now in Iraq, was the cradle of civilization.
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq.
6. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, was from Nahor, which is in Iraq.
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh, which is in Iraq.
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
10. Amos cried out in Iraq.
11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.
13. The three Hebrew young men were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth Person in the fiery furnace).
14. Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, saw the writing on the wall in Iraq.
15. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.
16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
17. The wise men were probably from Iraq.
18. Peter preached in Iraq.
19. The Babylon described in the Book of Revelation is named after a city which was in Iraq.

Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq. However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word "Mesopotamia" means "between the two rivers," more exactly, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name "Iraq" means "country with deep roots." Indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

*~Author Unknown*



# Why Rome Fell



In the book entitled *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, completed in 1787, Edward Gibbon lists the following reasons for that fall:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes, and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

3. The mad craze for pleasure: Sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within: The decadence of the people.

5. The decay of religion's faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and becoming impotent to guide the people.

Does any of this sound familiar as pertaining to the present-day circumstances in our own country? We need to be much in prayer, not only for our nation, but also for our beloved Zion.

~ Mr. Ralph Harris

*"If there be any way or means on earth to bring us upon our knees before God in secret, it is the serious and solemn thoughts of eternity."*

~ Rev. Thomas Brooks (1608-1680)

# Watch!

***“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak”*** (Mark 14:38).

Rev. William Dyer (1632-1696)

First, watching implies:

1. A continual waking, like the spouse (see Song of Solomon 5:2).
2. A diligent hearkening; thus the watchman (see Isaiah 21:7).
3. A constant readiness. Peter exhorts, under a metaphorical expression: *“Gird up the loins”* (1 Peter 1:13). That is, be ready. It is taken from the Jews’ long garments which they used to gird about them, that they might run with less interruption.

Secondly, what we may do to watch. I shall but name the particulars.

1. Let the heart be continually fixed upon God. Oh, how will this cool our affections to the world, and kindle the fire of love to God!

2. Let the eye be much upon self. This will keep us low in spirit. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 5:3).

3. Beware of drowsiness; we should take it off by prayer.

4. Be well resolved in spirit; mind that of the prophet: *“How long halt ye between two opinions?”* (1 Kings 18:21).

5. Be sure all be well within; be sure thy foundation be Christ. Let there be no sin unrepented of, that will breed sorrow; harbour no enemy, no lust in thy soul (see Proverbs 20:9).

6. Trust not thine (no not thine own) heart, but regulate it by the Word of God, for *“the heart is deceitful”* (Jeremiah 17:9). And he is a fool that trusts in his heart (see Proverbs 28:26).

7. Keep therefore a narrow eye to the heart (see Proverbs 4:23).

8. Call thine heart often to a strict account (see Psalm 4:4). Examine diligently, what have I done? What do I now? What am I about to do?

9. And if there be anything out of order, tarry not, but repair it suddenly. Lay sin upon Christ, and then mourn over it.

10. Let nothing be suggested, and presently entertained, but first brought to trial. See if it be the will of God, if it be for His glory. If it be

not for His glory, it is not His will.

11. Be sure to keep conscience clear. A little filth there stops all the channel. It is dangerous to know of one sin and not to confess it; much more dangerous to know thy sin, and wink at it.

12. For this end keep an open ear to conscience; let it speak.

13. Let the mouth be stopped to sin, and the hands tied up from wickedness. David prays that a watch may be set to the door of his lips, and certainly it is very needful.

14. Let the whole armour of God be on (see Ephesians 6:10-18).

*“If you will not do as Judas did, nor come to such an end as he did, take heed you live not unprofitably under the means of grace. Judas had the best means of grace that ever man enjoyed. He heard Christ Himself preach; he joined often with Him in prayer; but he was never the better for it all. It was but as the watering of a dead stick, which will never make it grow, but rot it the sooner. Never was there a rotten branch so richly watered as he was. Oh, it is a sad sign and a sad sin too, when men and women live under the gospel from year to year and are never the better. I warn you to beware of these evils, all ye that profess religion. Let these footsteps by which Judas went down to his own place terrify you from following him in them.”*

~ Rev. John Flavel (1627-1691)

*“Beware of the smallest beginnings of temptations. No wise man will neglect or slight the smallest spark of fire, especially if he see it among many barrels of gunpowder. You carry gunpowder about you; O take heed of sparks.”*

~ Rev. John Flavel (1627-1691)