

# *My Homegoing*



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# My Homegoing

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
1. What It Means to Go Home.....	4
2. Before I Had Hope .....	6
3. My Current Hope .....	8
4. Do You Have Hope? .....	11

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# MY HOMEGOING

## Introduction

I want to speak to you for a little while this morning on a subject that is near and dear to my heart, and that is: *my homegoing*. As a child of God, death holds no dread nor fear for me, for death to me is only the gate that leads into my Heavenly Father's house; and who dreads or fears going home? I can say, as did the Psalmist, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psa 23:4). I can say with the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Again, in Revelation, I hear these words, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Rev 14:13), and then, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power" (Rev 20:6). I also read these words in Numbers 23:10, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" Why? because the death of the righteous is a gracious and glorious and merciful death, as it ushers us into the presence of the Lord God of Glory. I also find in Philippians 3:20 that my citizenship is in heaven; from whence I look for my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change this body of my humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body. The apostle John also tells me in his letter, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath

this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1Jo 3:2-3).

This hope that God gives His children is my hope because I am His child, through the redeeming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. This hope is a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, “which entereth into that within the veil” in heaven (Heb 6:19), where the Lord Jesus Christ has already entered for me. This hope given unto me is wrapped up in one Person, and one Person only, and He is the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who alone can save and deliver me safely into my Father’s house, for He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Joh 14:6).

The Apostle Paul said, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1Co 15:19), but, praise the Lord, by His grace this hope reaches beyond the grave into heaven itself. You know, I praise the Lord that in this life I have that blessed hope of going home to see my gracious Lord. In this age of materialism, when everything that is spiritual is laughed at and made fun of, and we who know the Lord are ridiculed, I praise the Lord that I have a hope that is the sure and steadfast anchor of my soul which enters into that within the veil.

## **1. What It Means to Go Home**

My friends, *to go home* means that I will be privileged to see and to look upon for eternity, the One whom my soul has learned to love, the One who gave His life as a ransom for me. I will be able to see Him who was made sin for me, who knew no sin; that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2Co

5:21). I know that heaven will be beautiful with its mansions and its streets paved with gold, its River of Life and the Tree of Life, with the angels and all the redeemed ones; but it would not be heaven without the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who bore my sins in His own body on the tree. He will be the Central Figure in heaven, the One whom all the redeemed will worship and adore and praise forever and forever. Praise begins down here, and I praise Him that it is in my heart.

*To go home* means that I will be able to sing, around the throne of God, the song of Moses and the Lamb, which will be the song of deliverance. I sing that song down here this morning. I sing it every hour—that God redeemed my poor soul from going down to the pit. That’s the thing that rejoices my poor soul, the thing that stands out in my salvation—that God delivered me from the power and penalty of sin and made me “accepted in the beloved” (Eph 1:6).

*To go home* means that I will have my new body, which will be like unto the body of my Lord (Phi 3:21), wherein shall dwell righteousness—no more sin, sickness, or sorrow.

*To go home* means that I will be delivered from the very presence of sin, for in salvation God delivered me from the power of sin and the penalty of sin, but—praise be to His holy Name—when He comes to get me, either in His second coming or in death, He will deliver me from the very presence of sin. I shall not be tainted with it throughout eternity, for into that place there will enter nothing “that worketh abomination, or maketh a lie” (Rev 21:27). And I praise Him for it!

*To go home* means that I will enter into that rest which God has prepared for those that love Him—rest!—rest! “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Heb 4:9). My friend, this hope that God has given me in Christ is not a sentimental hope, a fairy-tale hope, a hope that is tacked on to my life, or something extra—but it is a *living* hope, a hope of reality, a hope that is continually with me.

This hope that I have in the Lord Jesus Christ, I did not give myself, nor did I receive it from the church, nor was it bestowed upon me by some minister—but it came wholly and completely from *God Himself* through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the convicting, convincing power of the Holy Spirit.

## **2. Before I Had Hope**

I did not always have this hope, for in times past I “walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, (Satan),” and possessed “the spirit (of disobedience) that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph 2:2). I lived my life and conducted myself in the passions of the flesh, obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind, and was by nature a child of wrath, even as you are, who do not know the Lord today. But—oh, praise the Lord, He saved me, and had mercy upon me, and delivered me from the power of sin and Satan, and cast all my sins behind His back, and put a new song in my heart and in my mouth, even praise unto my God (Psa 40:3). And I praise Him and praise Him and praise Him for it! And you know, when I think of what the Lord has done for me, and

what He is going to usher me into one day, and all that this finite mind of mine can think of, I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 2:9, “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” Isn’t that grace!

There was a time when I was without Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, a stranger from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world—but, praise His holy Name, I am now in Christ Jesus, made nigh by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 2:12-13). Until nine months ago, I was yet in my sins, “foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating” God and man; but oh, the kindness and love of God my Savior appeared and saved my poor, sin-sick soul, not by works of righteousness which I had done, but according to His mercy He saved me, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Ti 3:3-5). This salvation He shed on me abundantly through Jesus Christ my Savior; that being justified by His grace, I should be made an heir according to the hope of eternal life (Ti 3:6-7). Praise His holy Name for His unspeakable gift to my soul! Surely, herein is love, not that I loved Him, but that He first loved me, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for my sins (1Jo 4:10).

There was a time that I spoke with the tongues of men and of angels, but had not Christ as my only hope of acceptance before God. Therefore, I was as a sounding brass and a clanging cymbal. I was one of those who had the gift of prophecy, and thought I



understood all mysteries and all knowledge; and I thought I had all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but without Christ, I was nothing—nothing but a hell-bound, hell-bent, hell-deserving sinner, because the love of Christ did not rule in my heart. I could, in times past, say that I was one who had bestowed much goods to feed the poor, given much money to needy causes, and I would have given my body to be burned, if necessary, but I was without Christ and without hope in this world, so all this profited me nothing! (1Co 13).

I was a watchman that was blind, very ignorant of myself and of God's requirement of me, that was, to glorify Him in all that I did. I was as a dumb dog, that did not bark, but who was sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber rather than give out the true word of God. I was as the greedy dogs which never had enough, and as a shepherd that did not understand my last end, or the last end of those to whom I preached, looking only to my own way to receive gain from any and every quarter (Isa 56:10-11).

### **3. My Current Hope**

But, praise His Name, those times are gone, those sins have been forgiven, cleansed, washed away in the blood of the Lamb, never to be remembered against me any more. Now I stand in Christ and preach the unsearchable riches of Him who loved me and gave Himself for me. I stand today accepted in the Beloved and preach of Him who is able to save to the uttermost, the most vile and depraved sinner, because "this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save

sinner; of whom I am chief" (1Ti 1:15). I praise Him for that blessed hope! I did not always have it, but, praise God, I have it this morning! He delivered me by His marvelous grace, and I praise Him for it.

I was once deceived as to my lost, ruined condition, thinking that I was rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing, not knowing that I was wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. But the Lord, in love to my soul, counseled me to buy of Him gold tried in the fire, that I might be rich; and white raiment that I might be clothed and that the shame of my nakedness did not appear; and He anointed my eyes with His eye salve, that I might see (Rev 3:17,18). He gave me of Himself, and took me into His banqueting house where I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. His banner over me was love, and I became His and He became mine (Song 2:3-4). Oh, the love that filled my soul when God saved me by His grace and showed me by the Holy Spirit from His Word that He had paid my sin-debt in full, and that the handwriting of ordinances that was against me had been taken away and nailed to His cross. How precious was that word that came home to my heart in power and much assurance: "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee. Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for THE LORD HATH REDEEMED" LEE ROY, "AND HATH GLORIFIED HIMSELF" IN HIM (Isa 44:22-23). And my soul has been praising Him and praising Him and praising Him ever

since. You can laugh, and you can scorn, you infidel, but my soul praises the Lord this morning that He redeemed Lee Roy from going down to the pit!

How sweet and precious is my lovely Lord to my soul today! How precious are His promises to my soul as I feed upon them and by faith drink from them! How bright are the days as I wait for my Lord from glory, who shall change this vile body of my humiliation and fashion it like unto His glorious body, and I shall then forever be with the Lord.

As I labor and wait for my Lord from glory, I know that He is with me now to lead me, to guide me, to provide for me, and to keep me from falling. The blessedness of knowing Christ is beyond words of expression. The half cannot be told of what He means to my soul as I walk with Him day by day and commune with Him and have fellowship with Him in my heart. My soul sings His praises for His mercy and His grace and His love. My soul sings His praises for His patience and long-suffering with me. My soul sings His praises for His goodness and kindness. My soul sings His praises for His death, burial, and resurrection. My soul praises Him, because He invited me to come to Him to share His glory and heirship, to be a partaker of His Divine nature and to be with Him throughout all ages. My soul praises Him for that love that would not let me go, but followed me through forty-three years of sin and hell and depravity, that I might become a part of His glorious bride. You wonder why I praise Him? You shouldn't! If the Lord has done for your soul what He has done for mine, you will praise Him, too. If He hasn't, He can, because He is no respecter of persons. And I praise Him for it!

#### 4. Do You Have Hope?

Do you know Him? Do you rejoice in Him? Are you longing to see His face? Are you waiting for the shout from heaven that says, "Look up, for your redemption draws nigh"? Do you wait for the day when the Holy Spirit shall say, "Look up, My child, My redeemed one, for He who Loves your soul is coming to get you"? Is that hope within you? Oh, I praise the Lord this morning that I can tell to the nations that there is salvation in Christ, that there is keeping power in Christ, that in days of blackness and darkness, when men's hearts are failing them, and they are fainting on every hand for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth, there is in this life, in these times, joy and peace and mercy and grace and happiness and contentment and rest of soul in one Person, and that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ, Whom God has sent to be the propitiation for our sins. Brother, you have turned away from Him, haven't you? But to turn away from Christ is to turn away from the only One who can take us back to the Father, for He has said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." I praise Him that He is able! I praise Him that He is willing to deliver any poor sinner from going down to the pit: He delivered me!

I will also tell you this day that before Christ came in as my hope of glory, there was worked in my heart by the Third Person of the blessed Godhead, the Holy Spirit, a *work of conviction* and *repentance*. Before faith came, I was kept under the Law, and there I learned what an awful thing sin is, and what an awful judgment awaits every Christ-rejecting soul. I learned

that God is holy and hates sin, and His wrath burns against it. I was made to see and acknowledge that the Law of God was just; and that I was justly under its condemnation. I was made to see the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the great gulf that it had made between a Holy God and me. Under the illuminating light of God's Word in the hands of the Holy Spirit, I was made to cry out like Paul, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom 7:24); and like Isaiah, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isa 6:5); and like Job, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6); and like Peter, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luk 5:8). I was made to see that my whole head was sick, and my whole heart was faint, that from the sole of my foot even unto my head there was no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores; that had not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment (Isa 1:5-6). Sin—*sin!*—rottenness and sin, that's all I was.

But, praise be unto Him, He spoke to me and He speaks to every one today who sees himself in this condition: "Come now"—Oh, what condescension! Oh, what grace! Oh, what mercy!—"let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa 1:18). Is not this grace that the Lord would stoop to reason with you and me? I think so. He said, "Put me in remem-

brance: let us plead together" (Isa 43:26), and praise His Name, I did. The promise He gave me to lay hold of, was Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." He said He would do it, and He did! I am a living witness today that God gives sinners new hearts. I mean, He absolutely makes you a *new creature* in Christ Jesus. Old things pass away; behold, all things become new (2Co 5:17).

As I said, I am a living witness this day that in salvation God gives a new heart. He takes away the old heart of hatred and gives you a heart of love. He takes away the old heart of rebellion and gives you a heart of obedience. He takes away the old heart that loves sin and gives you a heart that loves righteousness, a heart that loves Him. He takes away the old heart of pride and gives you a heart of humility. He takes away the old heart of love for this world and sets your affection on things above.

In that moment of salvation, all confusion is gone, all arguing ceases. The power of sin is broken, and never again does the repenting, believing soul, come back under the dominion and power of sin. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2). I have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but I have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby I cry, Abba, Father (Rom 8:15). "There is therefore now no condemnation" because I am "in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1), and I defy all the demons in hell or out of hell to bring me back under the power, under the yoke and dominion of sin. My Lord on the cross broke Satan's hold

upon me; in His resurrection He freely justified me, and there is no one—I said, “No one”—that can lay anything to my account in heaven because it is God who has justified me (Rom 8:33). Praise His holy Name!

Therefore, to be with Him when I go home is my daily desire. Surely, “I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better” (Phi 1:23). But while I labor, I wait and I pray and I look for that coming of the blessed Lord who shall change this vile body of my humiliation and fashion it like unto His glorious body. Oh, that blessed hope! That blessed hope that God has given me; that living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! I have “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven” for me, because I am “kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1Pe 1:4-5). What a blessed hope! What a gracious hope: my homegoing, my going to see the Lord because He has brought me from death unto life into the glorious liberty of the sons of God; and I walk in the brightness and the glory of the noonday sun in the Lord Jesus Christ, because one day the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing in His wings for my poor soul; and I’ve been walking in Him ever since; and one day I shall be like Enoch, I shall walk right on into Glory with my blessed Lord! But while I wait, I receive the end of my salvation by faith, as I wait for the Lord from Glory. Are you waiting for Him? Oh, I hold out mercy and grace to you in the blessed Lord Jesus Christ this morning, the One who died for sinners, was buried for sinners, the One who was lifted up and raised again for

sinners, and Who is at the right hand of God the Father this morning, ever living to make intercession for sinners. And I know that He is able to save you, for He saved me! Why don't you come to Him?

This message was first delivered over the *Voice of Truth* broadcast May 21, 1967, shortly after the author's conversion when he was associate pastor in his father's church. It was first printed in 2003, shortly after the author's death.

