

I. Downcast in Doubt (vv. 1-14)

a. Truth Known (v. 1)

b. Doubt Arises

i. ...From Sin (vv. 2-3)

ii. ...From Circumstances (vv. 3-12)

Matthew 5:45b For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

iii. ...From Suffering (vv. 13-14)

“Some doubts there always will be.
He that never doubts has nothing to lose.
He that never fears possesses nothing truly valuable.
He that is never jealous knows little of deep love.” - J. C. Ryle

II. Assured in Faith (vv. 15-28)

a. Remember Your Position (v.15)

b. Evaluate Your Gaze (vv. 16-20)

c. Saturate With Truth (vv. 21-26)

“Our struggling against sin does not disprove our profession of faith, but confirms it (I Jn 1:8-9). We know that we know Christ, not because we are without sin, but because our attitude toward sin has been altered: We have a growing hatred for it, we are broken over it & we confess it.” -Paul Washer

Matthew 14:30-31 ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

John 10:27-28 ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Isaiah 46:9-11: I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and

from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

"We can never over-exalt the sovereignty of God." - Alex Motyer

"Spiritual darkness comes on horseback, and goes away on foot. It is upon us before we know that it is coming. It leaves us slowly, gradually, and not till after many days. It is easy to run down hill. It is hard work to climb up. So remember my caution, when you have the joy of the Lord, watch and pray." - J.C. Ryle

d. Practice His Presence (vv. 27-28)

"Hopeful did also endeavor to comfort him, saying, Brother, I see the gate, and men standing by to receive us; but Christian would answer, It is you, it is you they wait for; for you have been hopeful ever since I knew you. And so have you, said he to Christian. Ah, brother, (said he,) surely if I was right he would now arise to help me; but for my sins he hath brought me into the snare, and hath left me. Then said Hopeful, My brother, you have quite forgot the text where it is said of the wicked, "There are no bands in their death, but their strength is firm; they are not troubled as other men, neither are they plagued like other men." Psa. 73:4, 5. These troubles and distresses that you go through in these waters, are no sign that God hath forsaken you; but are sent to try you, whether you will call to mind that which heretofore you have received of his goodness, and live upon him in your distresses."

- *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

Benediction:

Now may the Lord, who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and rich in steadfast love and mercy, cause you to set your gaze upon His presence, keep you from despair in all your troubles, and keep you from idolatry in all your joys. Amen.