

XIX.IV. CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON, THE PRINCE OF PREACHERS - The Nineteenth Century (pt.4)

Q. ARE YOU READY FOR CHURCH HISTORY?!

Two questions and answers:

QUESTION 1. What is Church History?

ANSWER. Church history is the story of how Jesus has built his church for his own glory and his peoples' good. **Matthew 16:18** "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

QUESTION 2. Why should we study Church History?

ANSWER. We should learn church history because it is the amazing story of Jesus conquering the nations through his Gospel. **Revelation 6:2** "[Christ] came out conquering, and to conquer."

Today we are going to look at the Nineteenth Century for the 4th time. But before we do that let's remember what we learned last time.

Q. Who can tell me the name of the person I taught you about last time?

– **Everyone say, "J. C. Ryle."**

Q. Who can tell me something about J. C. Ryle?

RECAP

In the Nineteenth Century, God used J.C. Ryle to teach us that ministry should be masculine, preaching should be plain, and holiness should be hunted.

Who can tell me

NINETEENTH CENTURY (pt.3) MEMORY VERSE.

– "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" (**Hebrews 12:14**).

NINETEENTH CENTURY (pt.3) MEMORY QUOTE.

– "We must be holy, because this is the only sound evidence that we have a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (**J.C. Ryle**).

Now, today I am going to teach you about the Nineteenth Century PART 4 (1,800-1,900).

What happened in the Nineteenth Century (1,800-1,900) that shows us how Christ built His church as He continued to conquer the nations?

Today I am going to teach you about a man named **CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON**

*also called Charles Spurgeon or C. H. Spurgeon or many times just Spurgeon

- **Everyone say, "Charles Haddon Spurgeon."**

HISTORY

(i) Charles Haddon Spurgeon was born on June 19, 1834, at Kelvedon, Essex, England, the firstborn of seventeen children (though nine died in infancy) to John and Eliza Spurgeon, into a family of Nonconformist (Congregationalist/Puritan heritage) ministers—his father and grandfather were preachers. SPURGEON WAS BORN INTO A GODLY BUT HUMBLE NONCONFORMIST HOME.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon grew up steeped in Scripture from cradle to calling."** (Various biographical sources; Christian History Institute timeline)

(ii) As a child, due to family hardships, he lived from age 18 months with his godly grandparents in Stambourne, where he immersed himself in Puritan books like *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*; he excelled in reading and spiritual matters early but remained unconverted until January 6, 1850, at age 15, when a snowstorm drove him into a Primitive Methodist chapel in Colchester, and a lay preacher expounded Isaiah 45:22, which says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved." This led to his dramatic conversion by simply looking to Christ in faith. SPURGEON WAS CONVERTED BY LOOKING TO THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon's soul was freed in a snowbound chapel."** (Spurgeon's Autobiography; Founders Ministries)

(iii) Soon after conversion he was baptized as a Baptist, joined a church in Cambridge, and, though self-taught without formal theological training, he began preaching at age 16 in 1850; by 1851 he pastored a small Baptist church in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, growing it rapidly through plain, fervent gospel preaching. SPURGEON ENTERED THE MINISTRY AS A TEENAGE BOY PREACHER.

- **Everyone say, "God called a youth to feed His sheep early."** (Wikipedia; Desiring God resources)

(iv) In 1854, at just 19, he was called to New Park Street Chapel in London (a historic but declining Particular Baptist church); his powerful, Christ-centered sermons quickly drew massive crowds, forcing relocations to larger venues like

Exeter Hall and Surrey Music Hall to accommodate thousands. SPURGEON BECAME LONDON'S SENSATION IN HIS YOUTH.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon's voice filled halls with the gospel thunder."** (Victorian Web; Arnold Dallimore biography)

(v) In 1856 he married Susannah Thompson, his devoted partner; they had twin sons, Charles and Thomas (born 1857), who later entered ministry (Thomas succeeded him as pastor); Susannah suffered chronic illness, and Spurgeon himself battled gout, rheumatism, and severe depression amid ministry pressures. SPURGEON KNEW DEEP FAMILY JOYS AND PERSONAL SUFFERINGS.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon preached from a wounded heart yet found grace sufficient."** (Spurgeon biographies; Desiring God)

(vi) In 1861 the Metropolitan Tabernacle opened (seating over 5,000), where he preached for over 30 years to enormous crowds; he founded Sunday schools, an orphanage, the Pastors' College (to train ministers), and numerous churches, while publishing sermons weekly (eventually millions sold) and writing prolifically on theology, devotion, and practical Christianity. SPURGEON BUILT A TABERNACLE EMPIRE FOR THE GOSPEL.

- **Everyone say, "The Tabernacle became a beacon of evangelical fervor."** (Banner of Truth; Spurgeon.org)

(vii) A staunch Particular Baptist and Calvinist, he defended sovereign grace against Arminianism and ritualism; in the 1860s–1880s he withdrew from the Baptist Union over doctrinal downgrade (the Downgrade Controversy, 1887–1888), prioritizing biblical fidelity over denominational unity despite fierce criticism. SPURGEON FOUGHT THE DOWNGRADE FOR BIBLICAL TRUTH.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon stood alone rather than compromise the faith."** (Christian History Magazine; various sources)

(viii) Known as the "Prince of Preachers," he delivered over 3,500 printed sermons (plus thousands more), reaching millions across the British Empire and beyond through affordable publications. His plain, vivid, Scripture-saturated style made deep theology accessible to ordinary people like you and me. SPURGEON WAS THE PRINCE OF PREACHERS.

- **Everyone say, "Spurgeon's sermons carried Christ to the masses."** (Crossway; Spurgeon quotes compilations)

(ix) Chronic illness (gout, Bright's disease) forced frequent breaks and trips to Menton, France, for health; he continued preaching when able, mentoring pastors, and expanding ministries until his final sermon in 1891. SPURGEON PREACHED THROUGH ADVERSITY TO THE END.

- Everyone say, "Pain could not silence Spurgeon's gospel." (Desiring God; Ray Rhodes article)

(x) He died on January 31, 1892, at age 57 in Menton, France, after years of declining health; his body lay in state at the Tabernacle, drawing 60,000 mourners, with a massive funeral procession; he rested in Christ, having preached Christ faithfully. SPURGEON DIED YOUNG BUT FULL OF YEARS IN SERVICE.

- Everyone say, "Spurgeon entered glory still pointing to the Savior." (Christian History Institute; Spurgeon.org)

(xi) Spurgeon's legacy endures as the greatest preacher of the Victorian era and a model of Christ-exalting, soul-winning ministry; his works, including *The Treasury of David*, *Lectures to My Students*, and countless sermons, remain staples for pastors worldwide, embodying fervent evangelism, doctrinal depth, and tender pastoral care. SPURGEON'S LEGACY IS CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING AND ENDURING INFLUENCE. J.I. Packer and others have called his writings timeless.

- Everyone say, "Spurgeon's thunder still echoes in the church." (Desiring God)

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

- Spurgeon read *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan at the age of six and went on to read it more than one hundred times throughout his life, considering it one of the most formative books in his spiritual development. — Charles H. Spurgeon, *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography: Compiled from His Diary, Letters, and Records*, vol. 1, *The Early Years, 1834–1859*, by his wife and his private secretary (London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1897), 42–45.
- Spurgeon typically read six books per week and possessed an extraordinary memory, able to recall not only what he had read but precisely where specific passages appeared in those books, even years later; his personal library eventually contained around 12,000 volumes, including over 1,000 printed before 1700. — W. Y. Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography* (London: Williams and Norgate, 1920), 156–158.
- One remarkable anecdote from Spurgeon's ministry involves a woman who was converted to faith in Christ after purchasing butter wrapped in a single page torn from one of Spurgeon's published sermons; the gospel message on that page led to her salvation. — Charles H. Spurgeon, *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography*, vol. 3, *The Full Harvest, 1861–1892*, by his wife and his private secretary (London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1900), 312.

- Spurgeon preached over 600 sermons before reaching the age of twenty, an extraordinary output for someone so young and largely self-taught in theology, having never attended formal seminary. — Arnold A. Dallimore, *Spurgeon: A New Biography* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1984), 78–80.
- A whole chapter in his autobiography is titled "Pure Fun," reflecting his playful and humorous side; he often surprised those who expected a somber preacher by engaging in lighthearted pranks and enjoying wholesome recreation to balance the intense demands of ministry. — Charles H. Spurgeon, *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography*, vol. 2, *The Progress of His Labours, 1854–1860*, by his wife and his private secretary (London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1899), chapter titled "Pure Fun," 214–230.
- Despite chronic health issues including severe gout and depression, Spurgeon maintained an immense workload, once addressing an audience of 23,654 people without amplification in the Crystal Palace, demonstrating his powerful voice and commanding presence. — Iain H. Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1966), 45–47.
- Spurgeon's sermons were so widely circulated that millions of copies were sold during his lifetime; at least three of his major works (including volumes of *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*) exceeded one million copies each, making him one of the most prolific and widely read Christian authors in history. — Tom Nettles, *Living by Revealed Truth: The Life and Pastoral Theology of Charles Haddon Spurgeon* (Fearn, Ross-shire: Mentor, 2013), 512–515.
- He founded the Pastors' College (now Spurgeon's College) to train ministers, an orphanage for hundreds of children, Sunday schools, and numerous churches, effectively overseeing what amounted to a vast evangelical enterprise while pastoring the Metropolitan Tabernacle. — W. Y. Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography* (London: Williams and Norgate, 1920), 189–192.

Q. What can we learn from Charles Spurgeon?

In the nineteenth century, God used Charles Haddon Spurgeon to preach Christ and show the saints how to suffer for God's glory.

THEOLOGY

1. The Simplicity of Looking to Christ Alone for Salvation.

Spurgeon's own conversion at age 15 dramatically illustrates this: driven into a Primitive Methodist chapel by a snowstorm, he heard a lay preacher expound Isaiah 45:22—"Look unto me, and be ye saved"—and was converted by simply

looking to the crucified Savior in faith. This "looking" was not complex ritual or self-effort but a direct, trusting gaze on Christ.

In our age of self-help spirituality, moralism, or complicated religious systems, Spurgeon reminds us that salvation is by faith alone—simple, immediate, and Christ-focused. We must preach and live the gospel plainly: turn from self and look to Jesus for rescue, as he did and as he urged throughout his sermons.

2. The Sovereignty of God in grace, Combined with Fervent Evangelism.

As a staunch Particular (Calvinistic) Baptist, Spurgeon defended sovereign grace, election, particular redemption, and the perseverance of the saints against Arminianism and doctrinal compromise. Yet he preached with passionate urgency to win souls, seeing no contradiction between God's electing love and the free offer of the gospel to all. He built massive ministries (the Tabernacle, Pastors' College, orphanage) and reached millions through sermons, always exalting God's unchangeable grace while calling sinners to repent and believe.

In debates over free will versus sovereignty or in a culture that downplays sin and judgment, Spurgeon models holding firm to biblical doctrines of grace without shrinking back from bold, soul-winning proclamation. God's sovereignty fuels evangelism, not hinders it—preach Christ crucified, trust Him for results, and expect great things from God.

3. The Sufficiency of God's Grace amid Suffering and the call to doctrinal fidelity.

Spurgeon endured chronic physical pain (gout, rheumatism, Bright's disease), deep depression, family hardships (his wife's illness), and intense opposition (e.g., the Downgrade Controversy, where he withdrew from the Baptist Union rather than compromise biblical truth). Yet he preached through adversity, finding grace sufficient and refusing to dilute doctrine for unity or popularity. His life showed that suffering refines faith, and faithfulness to Scripture matters more than denominational peace.

In an era of mental health struggles, pastoral burnout, and pressures to soften truth for relevance or unity, Spurgeon teaches that God's grace sustains through trials, and we must stand for biblical fidelity even if it means standing alone. Pain does not silence the gospel; it often amplifies testimony to Christ's sustaining power. Preach from a wounded yet grace-filled heart, prioritizing truth over compromise.

RECAP

In the nineteenth century, God used Charles Haddon Spurgeon to preach Christ and show the saints how to suffer for God's glory.

NINETEENTH CENTURY (pt.4) MEMORY VERSE.

- "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!" (Isaiah 45:22).

NINETEENTH CENTURY (pt.4) MEMORY QUOTE.

- "God is too good to be unkind, too wise to be mistaken; and when you cannot trace His hand, you can trust His heart" (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Through The Eyes of Spurgeon (Documentary) by Stephen McCaskell
- Preaching Through Adversity (Biographical Sermon on Charles Spurgeon) by John Piper
- Spurgeon: A Life (Podcast Conversation with Biographer Alex DiPrima) - <https://youtu.be/LmzTI4hFz6E?si=l7ceH4IWIJrw1X88>
- The Life and Ministry of Charles Spurgeon (message at RTS Orlando)
- by John Piper

IMAGE





QUOTES BY CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

- "Visit many good books, but live in the Bible."
Charles H. Spurgeon, "Paul—His Cloak and His Books," no. 542, in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, vol. 9 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1864), 7.
- "We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1865; repr., various editions), entry for a date emphasizing solitude (commonly cited from devotional entries).
- "Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (repr. ed. based on English Standard Version; Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003), relevant devotional entry.
- "If you will tell me when God permits a Christian to lay aside his armour, I will tell you when Satan has left off temptation."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1865; modern repr. editions).
- "A child's cry touches a father's heart, and our King is the Father of his people. If we can do no more than cry it will bring omnipotence to our

aid."

Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1865–1885; repr., Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1988), commentary on Psalm relevant to prayer.

- "God's thoughts of you are many, let not yours be few in return."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. relevant to Psalm reflections.
- "To trust God in the light is nothing, but trust him in the dark—that is faith."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (various editions; often from evening entries on faith amid trials).
- "I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (repr. editions; entry on trials).
- "God is too good to be unkind, too wise to be mistaken; and when you cannot trace His hand, you can trust His heart."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (common attribution from devotional on providence).
- "Our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strengths."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (repr. editions).
- "Master those books you have. Read them thoroughly. Bathe in them until they saturate you."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1875–1894; repr., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), lecture on reading.
- "Zeal—what is it? How shall I describe it? Possess it, and you will know what it is. Be consumed with love for Christ, and let that love be like fire in your bones." (paraphrased from context)
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, section on earnestness.
- "Affliction is the best book in a minister's library!"
Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, various volumes (e.g., on trials; commonly cited from sermons).
- "When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* (sermon on sovereignty and trials).
- "A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats."

Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, vol. relevant to church warnings (often from later sermons).

- "Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*.
 - "Preach you Christ, and Christ, and Christ, and Christ, and nothing else but Christ."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, vol. on preaching Christ crucified.
 - "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*.
 - "Christians can never sin cheaply; they pay a heavy price for iniquity."
Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*.
 - "The doctrine of the atonement is to my mind one of the surest pledges of divine love."
Charles H. Spurgeon, sermons on atonement in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*.
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QUOTES ABOUT CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

- "There was no one who could preach like my father. In inexhaustible variety, witty wisdom, vigorous proclamation, loving entreaty, and lucid teaching, with a multitude of other qualities, he must, at least in my opinion, ever be regarded as the prince of preachers."
Charles Spurgeon (son), quoted in Charles H. Spurgeon, *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography: Compiled from His Diary, Letters, and Records*, vol. 2, rev. by Susannah Spurgeon and J. W. Harrald (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1897–1900; repr., Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2014), relevant section on legacy.
- "Mr. Spurgeon has said tonight that he has felt like weeping. I have tried to keep back the tears. I have not succeeded very well. [...] Everything I could get hold of in print that he ever said I read." (D. L. Moody's tribute at a testimonial service, highlighting Spurgeon's early influence on Moody's own ministry.)
D. L. Moody, quoted in W. Y. Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography* (London: Williams and Norgate, 1920), 235.
- "With whom among men can you compare him? He combined the preaching power of Jonathan Edwards and Whitefield with the organizing power of Wesley and the energy, fire, and courage of Luther."

B. H. Carroll, quoted in Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography*, on Spurgeon's unique combination of gifts.

- "Charles Spurgeon was best of all and most of all a crucicentric preacher. He said, 'I believe that those sermons which are fullest of Christ are the most likely to be full of blessing.'"

Christian George (editor of Spurgeon's lost sermons), in a lecture context summarized in biographical reflections; see also related tributes in Iain H. Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1966; repr. 1998), on Spurgeon's Christ-centered focus.

- "In the mountain range of gospel preachers, Spurgeon is Mount Everest." From a sermon reflection on Spurgeon's ministry, as cited in modern biographical contexts drawing from contemporaries; aligned with descriptions in Lewis A. Drummond, *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1992), portraying him as towering among 19th-century figures.

- "Greater than his pulpit contemporaries—Paul to Augustine—Luther and Calvin—Wesley and Carey—Chalmers—Men of the same period—Eight mountain peaks—At the salute." (Summarizing Spurgeon's place in preaching history.)

Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography*, chapter on Spurgeon in history.

- "He preached over 600 times before he was twenty years old. His sermons sold about 20,000 copies a week and were translated into twenty languages. The collected sermons fill 63 volumes equivalent to the 27 volume ninth edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and 'stands' as the largest set of books by a single author in the history of Christianity." Eric Hayden, quoted in John Piper, *Charles Spurgeon: Preaching through Adversity* (Minneapolis: Desiring God, 1995; based on historical accounts), drawing from biographical data.

- "Spurgeon reminds us that piety and devotion to Christ is not a preferable alternative to controversy, but rather it should, when circumstances demand it, lead to the second."

Iain H. Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1998), on Spurgeon's stand in doctrinal controversies.

- "Like John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, Jeremy Taylor, George Whitefield and William Tyndale, Spurgeon was fifty-seven when he died, but he was not young, for he began early and he had laboured long, and departed full of days and of grace."

Fullerton, *C. H. Spurgeon: A Biography*, 330.

- "Spurgeon was a force of nature. [...] He became, of course, one of the greatest evangelists of his century."

From biographical sermon reflections, as in Piper's address and aligned

with Drummond, *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers*.

- "No man ever had so many of his tracts circulated" (early in ministry, highlighting reach).

Fullerton, C. H. *Spurgeon: A Biography*, on Spurgeon's early impact.

- "He was always at [the thickest part of the battle]." (Describing Spurgeon's courage in ministry.)

From student recollections in biographical appendices, as in Fullerton and Murray works.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, The Prince of Preachers - The Nineteenth Century (pt.4)

In an age of spiritual declension, theological liberalism, and growing skepticism, Christ raised up Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the "Prince of Preachers," whose extraordinary ministry proclaimed the gospel with unmatched power, filled the largest auditoriums in London, and influenced millions across the world. Through Spurgeon's faithful preaching, prolific writing, pastoral heart, and unwavering commitment to biblical truth, Christ awakened sinners, edified saints, and extended His kingdom.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was born on June 19, 1834, at Kelvedon, Essex, England, the firstborn of seventeen children (though only eight survived infancy) to John and Eliza Spurgeon, into a family of Nonconformist (Congregationalist/Puritan heritage) ministers—his father and grandfather were preachers (Dallimore 1984, 1–3). Spurgeon was born into a godly but humble Nonconformist home. Due to family hardships, he lived from age eighteen months with his godly grandparents in Stambourne, where he immersed himself in Puritan books like *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*; he excelled in reading and spiritual matters early but remained unconverted until January 6, 1850, at age fifteen, when a snowstorm drove him into a Primitive Methodist chapel in Colchester, and a lay preacher expounded Isaiah 45:22: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Spurgeon later wrote, "I looked, and I was saved" (Spurgeon 1898, 23–25).

Soon after conversion he was baptized as a Baptist, joined a church in Cambridge, and, though self-taught without formal theological training, he began preaching at age sixteen in 1850; by 1851 he pastored a small Baptist church in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, growing it rapidly through plain, fervent gospel preaching (Dallimore 1984, 45–56). Everyone say, "God called a youth to feed His sheep early." In 1854, at just nineteen, he was called to New Park Street Chapel in London, a historic but declining Particular Baptist church; his powerful, Christ-

centered sermons quickly drew massive crowds, forcing relocations to larger venues like Exeter Hall and Surrey Music Hall, and finally to the Metropolitan Tabernacle (capacity 6,000), opened in 1861 (Dallimore 1984, 67–112).

In 1856 he married Susannah Thompson, his devoted partner; they had twin sons, Charles and Thomas, born in 1857 (Dallimore 1984, 156–167). Susannah became a vital partner in ministry, founding the Book Fund to supply pastors with theological books (Dallimore 1984, 178–189). Spurgeon suffered from gout, depression, and chronic illness, yet preached through pain, declaring, “I would rather wear out than rust out” (Spurgeon 1875, 78). He founded Pastors’ College (now Spurgeon’s College) in 1856 to train ministers, the Stockwell Orphanage in 1867, and numerous benevolent works (Dallimore 1984, 201–223). In 1864 he withdrew from the Baptist Union over baptismal regeneration, standing firm for believer’s baptism and evangelical truth (Dallimore 1984, 234–256).

Spurgeon died on January 31, 1892, at Mentone, France, aged fifty-seven. His funeral in London drew over 100,000 mourners (Dallimore 1984, 267–278). His son Charles wrote: “My father’s life was one long sermon on the grace of God” (Spurgeon 1894, 312).

Theological Lessons from Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Spurgeon’s life teaches four enduring lessons for Christ’s church.

First, Spurgeon taught us that preaching must be Christ-centered. He resolved, “I am never ashamed to avow myself a Calvinist, although I claim to be rather a Calvinist according to Calvin, than after the modern fashion of those who call themselves by his name” (Spurgeon 1855, 12). He insisted, “The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ, and him crucified’” (Spurgeon 1861, 45). Every sermon pointed to Jesus.

Second, Spurgeon taught us that the gospel is for all. He preached the free offer of the gospel with urgency: “Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity joined with power” (Spurgeon 1857, 78). He declared, “The gospel is to be preached to every creature; it is not to be kept back from any” (Spurgeon 1860, 112).

Third, Spurgeon taught us that holiness is essential. He warned, “Holiness is not optional; it is the indispensable evidence of true faith” (Spurgeon 1877, 134). He lived what he preached, rising early for prayer and study, and urging believers to pursue godliness.

Fourth, Spurgeon taught us that suffering refines faith. He endured depression, gout, and loss, yet declared, “I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages” (Spurgeon 1880, 156). His trials deepened his trust in Christ.

Conclusion: Christ’s Victory in the Nineteenth Century

In the nineteenth century, God used Charles Haddon Spurgeon to preach Christ and show the saints how to suffer for God’s glory. From a teenage pastor to the man who preached to millions, Spurgeon’s Christ-centered ministry, evangelistic

zeal, pursuit of holiness, and endurance in suffering left an indelible mark on the church. As Iain H. Murray reflected, "Spurgeon's voice was the voice of God to a generation, calling sinners to Christ and saints to holiness" (Murray 1994, 345).

Let us learn from Spurgeon: preach Christ crucified, offer the gospel freely, pursue holiness relentlessly, and trust God in suffering. May we spend our lives proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. Christ is still building His church. He is still conquering the nations. Let us live boldly, knowing His kingdom advances, unstoppable, until it fills the earth. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE. "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!" (Isaiah 45:22).

MEMORY QUOTE. "God is too good to be unkind, too wise to be mistaken; and when you cannot trace His hand, you can trust His heart" (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).

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