

## Message Notes

### The Sign of Jonah

## Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - 4 beards + Cor

### Setting His Face to Jerusalem

#### Last Week:

- No one has a positive internal voice
- God is the strongest man

### Today's Message: Luke 11:29-36 The Sign of Jonah

#### The "wicked" asks for a sign

Luke 11:29

The weakness of signs

Luke 16:27-31

#### The "Sign of Jonah"

Luke 11:30, Matthew 12:39-40

#### The Queen of the South?

Luke 11:31, 1 Kings 10:1-13

#### The people of Ninevah too?!?!

Luke 11:32

#### The light of Jesus

Luke 11:33

1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 1:22-24

#### The light within you

Luke 11:34-36

Linking the two accounts

Charles Spurgeon on "priestcraft"

#### Gospel Application

Fix your eyes upon Christ!

#### Luke 11:29-36

29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here. 33 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. 36 Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you."

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

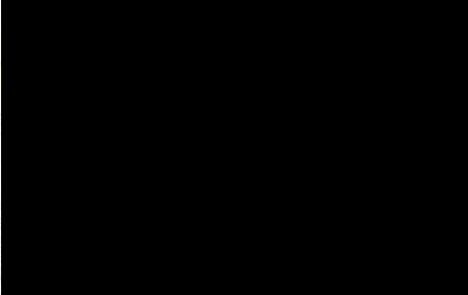
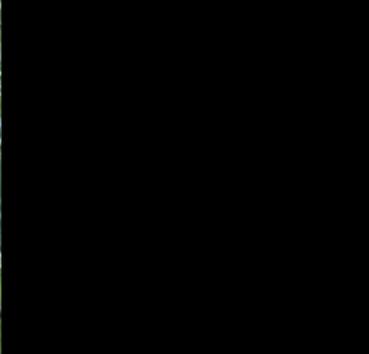
1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.



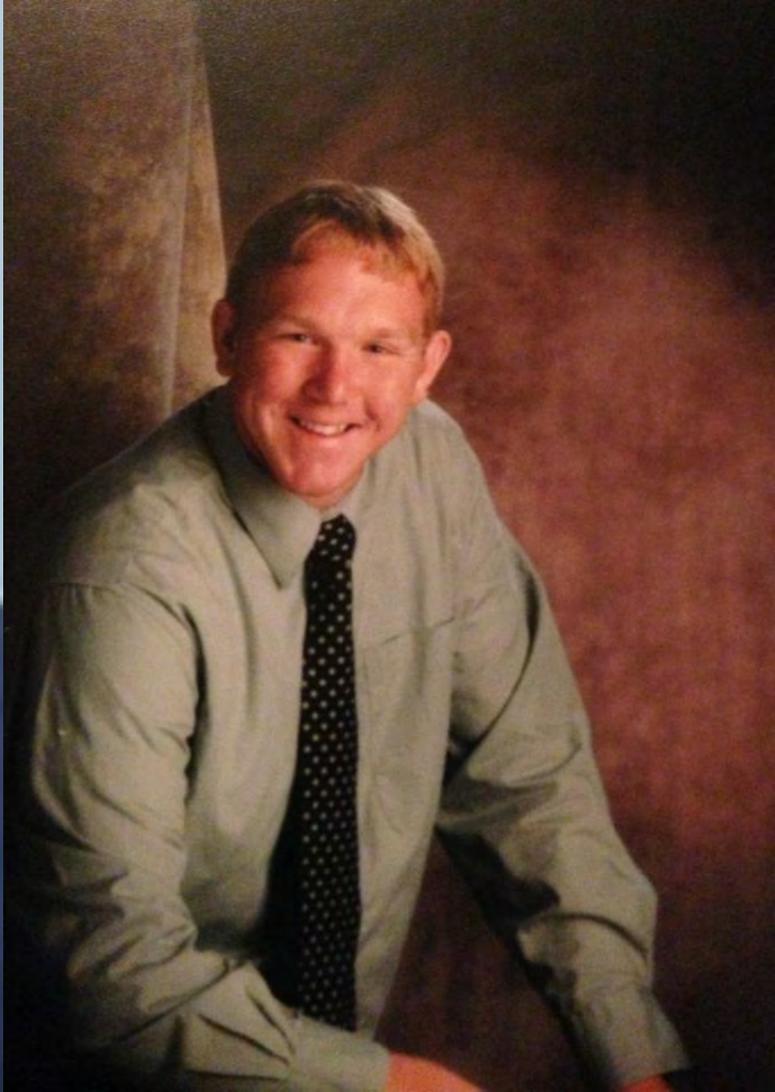
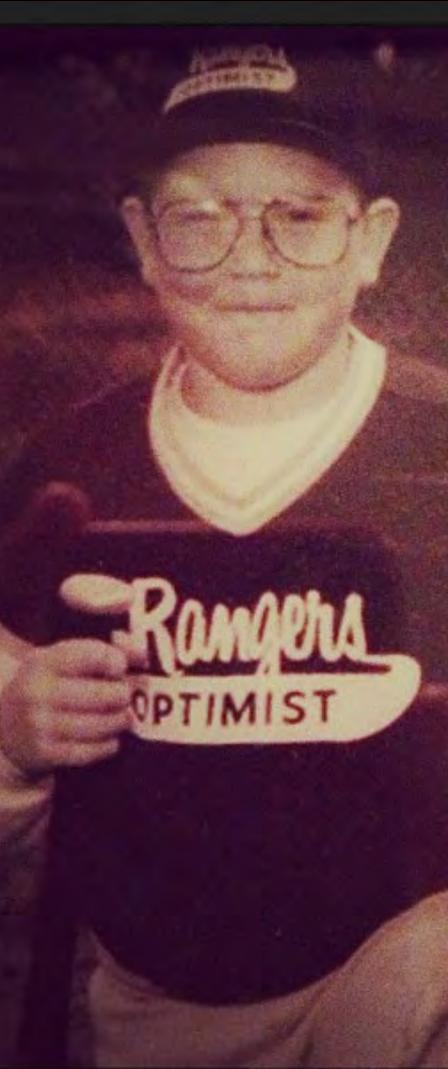


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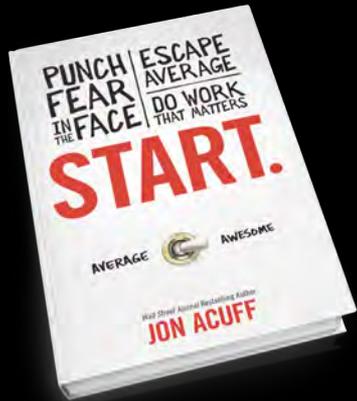
The Gospel of  
**LUKE**

Setting His Face to Jerusalem  
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

## **Luke 9:51**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,  
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

No one has a positive internal voice. Most people believe the internal voice is telling them the truth. We've heard them for so long that we trust them. We think it's looking out for us, that it has our best interest in mind. We think it's trying to protect us or help us, and that it's our friend. It's not.



Jon Acuff  
Start. 2013.



## Luke 11:14-16

14 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

**Today's Message:**  
*The Sign of Jonah*  
Luke 11:29-36

# Today's Bible Reading

**Luke 11:29-36**

29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.

# Today's Bible Reading

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# The “wicked” asks for a sign

**Luke 11:29-30**

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# The weakness of signs

Luke 16:27-31

27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ 29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ 30 “ ‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ 31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

# The “Sign of Jonah”

**Luke 11:29-30**

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# The “Sign of Jonah”

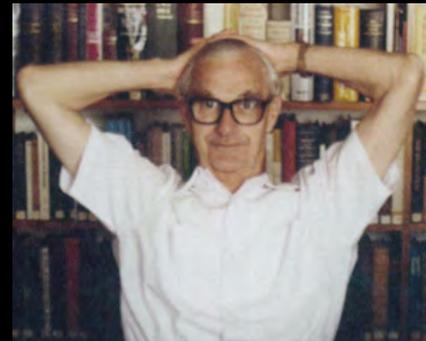
Matthew 12:39-40

39 He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Many recent scholars think that the sign here is not the same as in Matthew, but a simple appeal to the fact that Jonah preached the authentic word of God and the Ninevites recognized the fact and repented. Similarly Jesus proclaimed the word of God and people ought to repent. One difficulty in the way of accepting this commonly held view is that of seeing in what sense preaching can properly be called a sign. A second is that Jesus does not speak of Jonah's and his own words as signs, but of Jonah and himself. In each case the sign is the person...

A third is the use of the future tense. Jesus does not say that he is a sign, but that he will be a sign. This fits in with Matthew's account and also with the fact that John tells us that, when Jesus was asked for a sign on another occasion, he pointed forward to the resurrection (Jn. 2:19). Jesus then makes it clear that when he gives a sign it will be one of his own choosing, not one given at the demand of an unbelieving generation.

Leon Morris,  
Australian New Testament Scholar, *Luke*



# The Queen of the South?

**Luke 11:31**

31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here.

# The Queen of the South?

## 1 Kings 10:1-9

1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan – with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones – she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba...

# The Queen of the South?

## 1 Kings 10:1-9

saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed. 6 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes...

# The Queen of the South?

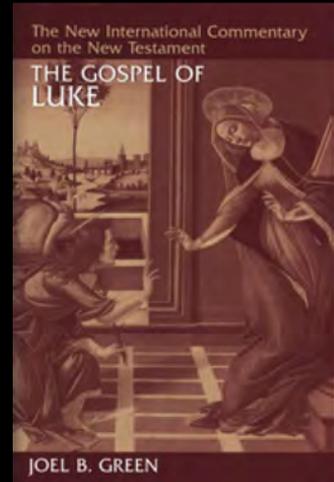
## 1 Kings 10:1-9

Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. 8 How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."

The queen of Sheba (southern Arabia, modern Yemen) came to test Solomon and found that he was indeed an agent of Yahweh, having been placed on the throne by him; having acknowledged his divine legitimacy, she enters into an alliance with him, signified by the mutual exchange of gifts. The comparison with the current audience that Jesus evokes is particularly apt, since their testing of Jesus has not led to a similar recognition even though he is greater than Solomon. Moreover, Jesus' audience is drawn from the people of Israel, while Solomon's was a foreigner...

Her insight and response, compared to their lack of the same, will situate them on opposite sides at the judgment, when she will be vindicated and they will be condemned. The reference to Jonah and the Ninevites is the same, though in this instance Jesus reports not only that they listened to God's agent (as in v 31), but that they responded with repentance.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary  
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



# The people of Ninevah too?!?!

**Luke 11:32**

32 The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here.

We must not try to escape the weight of these words. Our advantage is immense. We have explicit accounts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ from the four evangelists. We have the Pauline, Petrine, and Johannine corpus of New Testament writings and the rest of the New Testament too. We have the reasoning and living of 2,000 years of church history. We have the Holy Spirit's work around and in us. How great our responsibility to be open to the light, to believe in Jesus Christ, and to follow him faithfully and courageously!

~ R. Kent Hughes, Luke: That You May Know the Truth,  
Preaching the Word



# The light of Jesus

**Luke 11:33**

33 “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.”

# The light of Jesus

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

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## 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

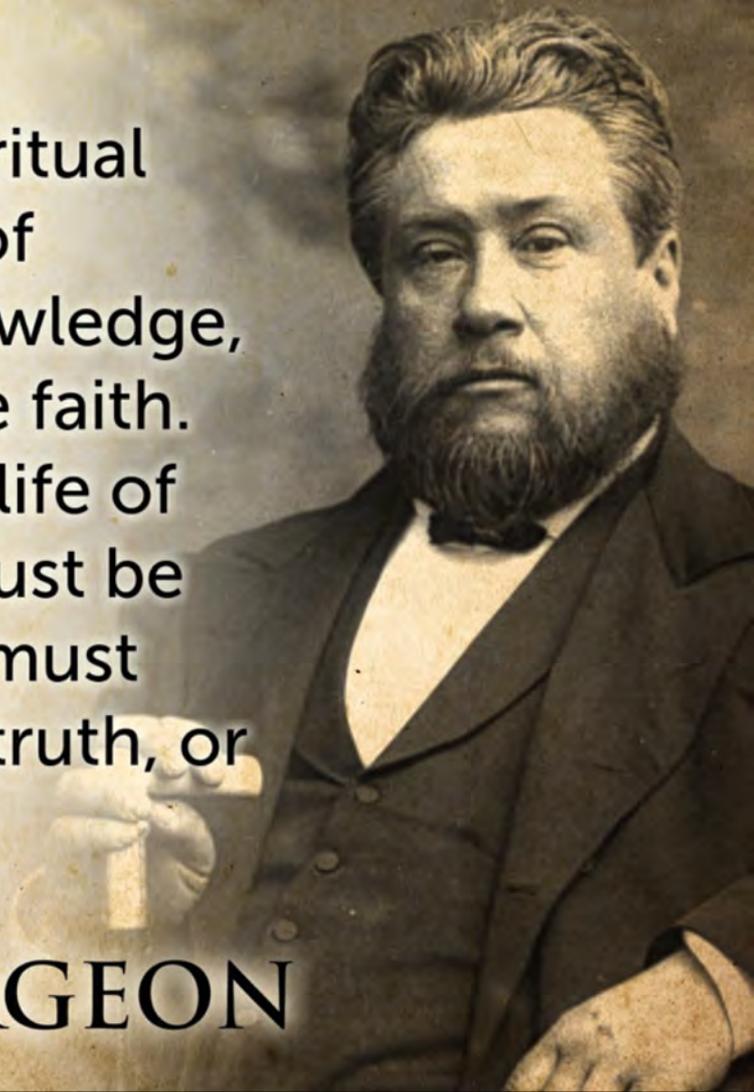
# The light of Jesus

## 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to  
Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom  
God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ -- the  
power of God and the wisdom of God.

Light is absolutely essential to spiritual life. Ignorance is not the mother of devotion, but of superstition. Knowledge, grace, truth, are the nurses of true faith. The light of God is needful to the life of God. We must know Christ, we must be illuminated by his Holy Spirit, we must have fellowship with the Father's truth, or else we are dead, as well as dark.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**



# The light within you

**Luke 11:34-36**

34 "Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness." 36 "Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you."

## Luke 11:34-35

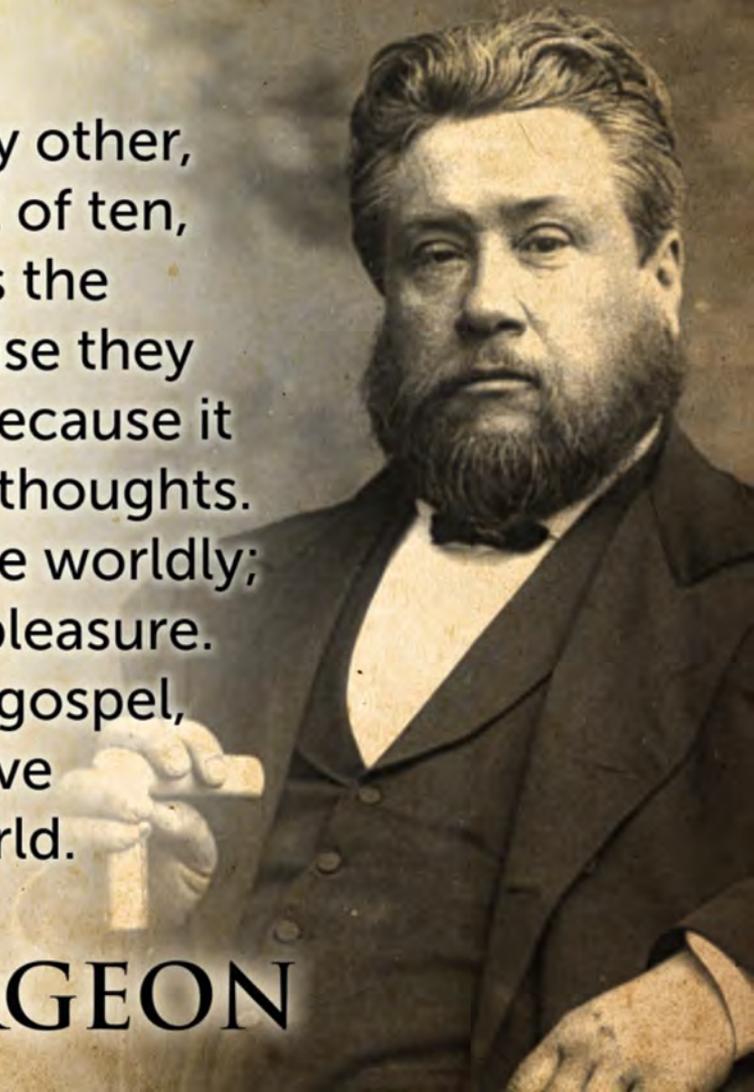
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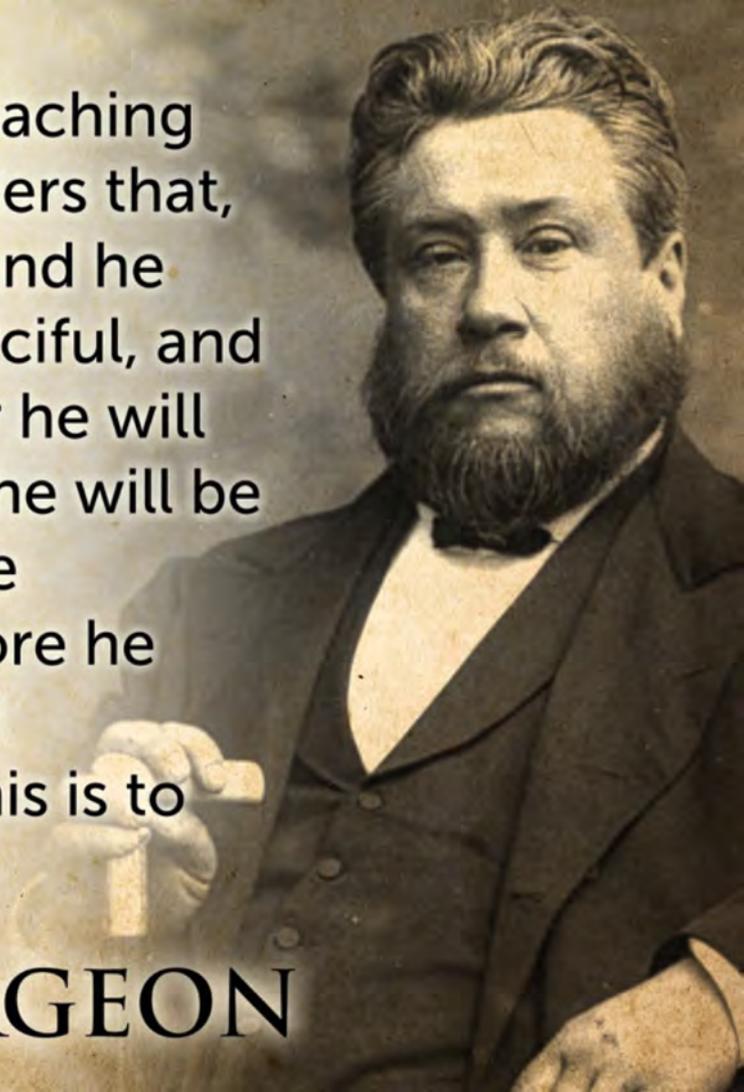
One thing darkens the eye more than any other, and that is the love of sin. Nine times out of ten, allowed sin is the cataract which darkens the mental eye. Men cannot see truth, because they love falsehood. The gospel is not seen, because it is too pure for their loose lives and lewd thoughts. Christ's holy example is too severe for the worldly; his Spirit is too pure for lovers of carnal pleasure. When people reject the doctrines of the gospel, they also tolerate laxity of morals, and give predominance to the customs of the world.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**



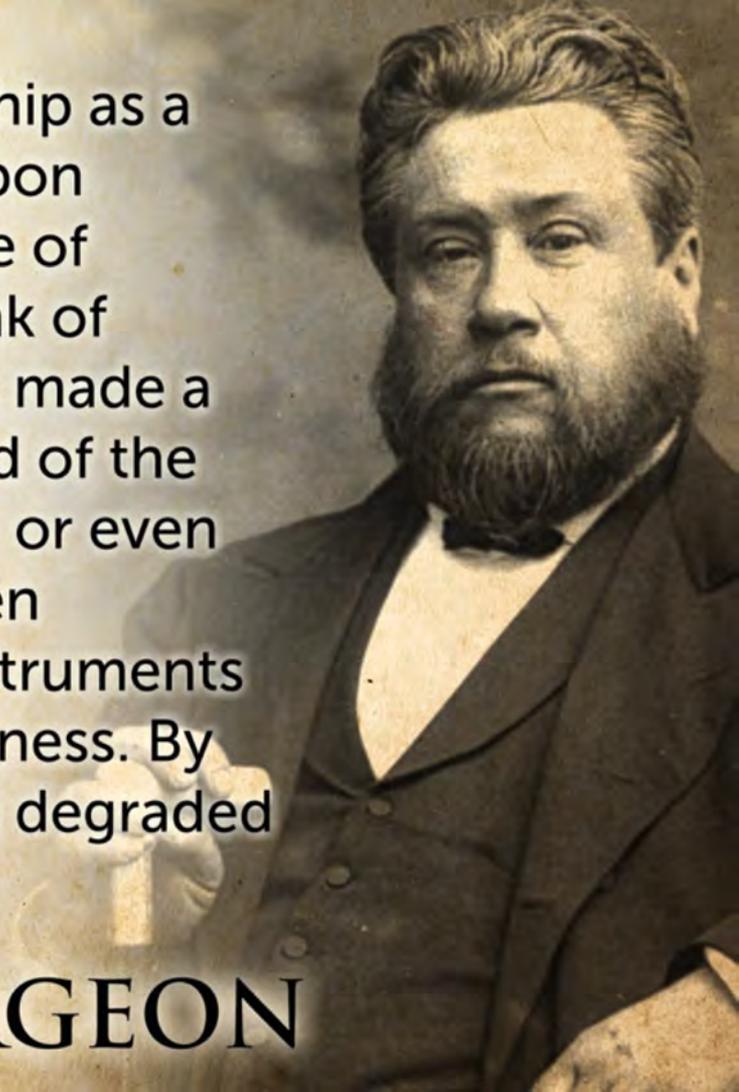
But he draws an inference from this teaching which is ruinous to his soul. He considers that, after all, sin is of small consequence, and he may indulge in it freely, for God is merciful, and grace is infinite. At some time or other he will repent and believe in Jesus, and then he will be set right, however grossly he may have offended. God is gracious, and therefore he may be sinful: God freely forgives, and therefore he may recklessly offend. This is to turn light into darkness.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**



He regards attendance upon public worship as a substitute for inward religion; he looks upon membership with a church as a certificate of salvation. He may be so foolish as to speak of Baptism as an ordinance whereby he was made a member of Christ, and a child of God; and of the Supper of the Lord as a saving ordinance, or even as a sacrifice for the quick and dead. When instructive symbols are perverted into instruments of priestcraft, the light is turned into darkness. By multitudes, in these days, aids to faith are degraded into the machinery of superstition.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**



# Gospel Application

*Are you fixing your eyes  
upon the light of Jesus Christ?*