

**A Farewell
Sermon:
Psalm cv. 45**

by

**George
Whitefield**

A Farewell
SERMON
PREACHED on THURSDAY Morning,
OCTOBER 28th, 1742.
IN THE
High-Church-Yard

OF

GLASGOW,

PSALM cv. 45

That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws.

By The REVEREND

MR. GEORGE WHITEFIELD, A.M..

Taken from his own Mouth and published at the earnest Desire of many of the Hearers.

GLASGOW,

Printed for, and sold by R. SMITH in his Shop at the Gilt Bible, Salt-
mercat. M DCC XLII.

Quinta Press

Quinta Press, Meadow View, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire,
England, SY10 7RN

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Psalm CV. 45. *THAT THEY MIGHT OBSERVE HIS STATUTES,
AND KEEP HIS LAWS.*

THE Psalmist who composed this Psalm, was a Man after Gods own Heart, a Man whom Gods Goodness had inclined, and whom Gods Love had constrained unto Obedience; a Man who had a Heart inflamd with Gratitude unto God for what he had done from Time to Time for him and his Peoples Souls; a Man who took a Pleasure in looking back on the distinguishing Marks of Gods Providence, and with Pleasure he took care to impress these Providences to his people as so many Inducements to a holy and exemplary Life.

This Psalm contains Exhortations to praise God, and to pray unto him. Here, out of the Fulness of his Heart, the Psalmist speaking from the Beginning of the Psalm, he says, *O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing Psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy Name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength; seek his faith evermore.* And then in the 5. Ver. *Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his Mouth.* And speaks especially to the *Jews* to do so. So in the 6. Ver. *O ye seed of Abraham his servants; ye children of Jacob his chosen.* And 7. Ver. *He is the Lord our God, his judgements are in*

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all the earth. And then he goes on to give a short Abstract and Account of the Jewish History, and then he infers, That they should consider Gods Goodness; and begins with remembering Gods Covenant with *Abraham*, and afterwards delivering the Children of *Israel* out of *Egypt*; and goes on and shews many remarkable Mercies and Favours bestowed

on the Jewish Nation; and especially remarks, God had not dealt so with any Nation, as he had done with them; for, says he, 44. Ver. *He gave them the land of the heathen; and they inherited the labours of the people.* And then in the Words we have read, and which I purpose to discourse upon at this Time, he shews for what End he had thus highly favoured them above other People, and what Use they should make of the distinguishing Marks of his Goodness, that they might enjoy from Time to Time; namely, That his Goodness should lead them to Repentance, his Love constrain them to Obedience. And seeing he had been gracious unto them, and distinguished them from other People, that they should likewise distinguish themselves by their Obedience, by doing Justice and loving Mercy, and walking humbly with their God, *That they might take care to observe his statutes, and keep his laws.* To take notice of them, to take diligent Care of searching them out, whether they belonged unto the Church or State, or related unto private Relative Duties; and take care, not only to observe and take Notice of them, but to keep them, *That they might observe his Statutes, and keep his Laws;* and thereby shew that his Mercies had a proper Effect upon their Love, and their Obedience, *That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws.* These are the Words I am inclined to speak

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from, and I hope may not be an improper Subject, because, at such a Time, many come to hear, which do not ordinarily attend at other Times. I have thought it best to preach a Kind of National Sermon. And surely, from what has been said, we may draw this great Proposition; namely,

I. That Gods Mercies to a Nation, ought to have this Effect on them, to excite them to *observe his statutes, and to keep his laws.*

II. I shall give you some Reasons, why we should *observe his statutes, and keep his laws.*

III. Mention some particular Mercies God has had on this Nation and Land, whereby we should be inclin'd to *observe his statutes, and keep his laws.*

And this will give me Occasion to speak to Magistrates, to Ministers, and to Masters and Mistresses of Families, and especially unto you who have been lately awakened and born of God.

First, Then from the Words of the Text, and what has been observed in the Words, I may draw this general Point; namely, The End of all Gods Dispensations towards us, whether of an afflictive or prosperous Nature, ought to have this Effect on our Souls; namely, To excite us to *observe his statutes, and keep his laws.*

My dear Friends, God made Laws that they might be observed; And all the Reason God doth punish People for is, because they do not keep *his statutes, and observe his laws.* God cannot possibly take Pleasure in afflicting his Creatures; he doth not afflict willingly, neither grieve the Children of men. No; Punishment is Gods strange Work; and, as God can take no Pleasure at all in the Afflictions of his People; so, when ever afflicting Providences happen, it is a Call from God to us, to ob

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serve his statutes, and keep his laws; and it is a Token of Gods Love. The Apostle tells us, *If we are chastned, God deals with us as with Sons; for, what Son is he whom the Father chastiseth not?* And, that God doth not afflict us for his Pleasure, but that we may be Partakers of his Holiness. This is the Reason of Gods afflicting individuals and particular Persons; and it is plain, when God doth afflict a Nation, it is a loud Call from God, for that Nation to repent; for that Nation to *observe his statutes, and to keep his laws:* A loud call to hearken to the Rod, and to be made better by it. And then, as for Prosperous Providences, when the Rod will not do, God is so gracious, as to melt a Nation down with his Love. Thus we see he dealt with the *Jews.* As soon as the *Jews* returned unto the Lord, the Lord removed the Plagues, and was pleased to visit with remarkable Deliverances: When they sinned against God, he sent other Plagues on them; but when they turned unto him, he was pleased to remove his Plagues, to teach them to *observe his statutes, and to keep his laws.* This is the End of all Gods Providences towards every one of you; a Blessing that comes to us with a sweet Call, my Son keep my Statutes and Laws. If God afflicts us with a Cross, it comes with a Knock of Oratory to your Heart, saying, *Little children keep yourselves from Idols.* I Believe this needs no Proof, as God is a good Being, and delights in the Happiness of his People, whether in afflictive or prosperous Providences,

tis all intended to make them better, to incline them to *observe his statutes, and to keep his laws*. That you would not think that Jesus Christ is a hard Master; I believe, if you will examine it, you will find you cannot be happy without keeping

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Gods statutes, and observing his Laws. I appeal to the greatest Enemies of Christianity, to the most arrant Deist, whether there is one Law of God, one Precept of the Gospel, but what tends to the Happiness of every particular Person: And would a whole Nation live, as wholly subject to these Laws and Precepts, they would be happy: Not a Precept enjoined by Jesus Christ, but what tends to the Happiness of Society, as well as every individual Person. All the Miseries we met with, whether on Princes or People, arise from our not keeping Gods Laws, and observing his Statutes; It is owing to our going from God the Father, and not living up to the Commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ. Tis then an indisputable Reason, why we should keep Gods Laws, and observe his Statute, because these Laws alone can make us happy; and we forget our Dignity and Happiness, when we do not keep these Laws: Numbers of Persons have been lately convinced of these Things. *Arians* and Enemies to the Divinity of Christ, they own themselves, an excellency in our Gospel-Precept; that they do exalt it as a notable System of Moral Precepts; and those who keep Houses are glad to have religious Fools about them. It will also be found, if a Nation declines from Gods Laws, it declines from its Happiness and Power. Instances of this we may see in the Jewish and Roman States, who-ever reads the Roman History, will see, when they began to be intemperate and left their Self-denial, then we find old Age came on the Roman State; it declined every Day: But as long as they lived up to their ancient Laws of Temperance, and Self-denial, they became formidable both at home and abroad. The *Jews* were Instances of this, as long as they

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kept Gods Laws, and observed his Statutes, they carried all before them; and as soon as they left God, God left them, and they became a Prey unto their enemies.

I cannot dwell long on the Doctrinal Part, because I design to be longer of the *Application* of this Discourse. I think I cannot bear a Dispute, but that the Happiness of a Nation and Persons, consists in observing Gods

Statutes, and observing Gods Laws; and, that all Gods Providences, whether afflictive or prosperous, tend all to make us better, more happy in ourselves, and more beneficial unto one another.

Is it so, then my dear Friends, that I am about to take my *leave*, and am not likely to see *you again*? Remark what has lately been done for this Church and Land. Time would fail me to give a full Epitome of the Blessings God has bestowed on this Land: It would take me more room, than the Repetition in this Psalm of *Israels Deliverances*. Did God drive out the Heathen, and set up his Ordinances among them? InSTITUTE them a holy People, and in a royal State, hedged them about, and set up a Wine-press in the midst of them, he gave them his Laws and his Statutes, he dealt with them as with no other Nation. God hath done thus with this Church and Land; whereas ye were a Den of Pagans, a Den of Idolators, but now the Lord Jesus Christ, has eminently sent his glorious Gospel among you, and carried on Reformation farther in this Land, than among any other People. And, I really believe, the Church of *Scotland*, is the best constitute Church in the World: God has committed unto you the Oracles of God. God, he has sent you faithful Ministers from Time to Time, to intreat you to come to Christ, to teach you

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what to do to be saved; to point out to you the Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

About two Years ago, the Lord did shake his Rod over you; the Lord afflicted you with a grievous Dearth. And, O yet more! How many Persons now living, had perished with *hunger*, had not the Lord, in Mercy, turned away your Captivity? To shew he was not willing to strick you, and that Punishment was his strange Work; He will divert the Rod, and take it away, and caused Plenty in the Land. These two Harvests past, the Fields have been clad with Corn; you have gathered your Corn in your Garners, and you have got Store laid up there for thee, for the Winter Months. You have got Peace here, when other Countries are the Seat of War. The Sword has not yet reached you; and you may sit every one of you under his Vine, and under his Fig-tree. Above all, has not God visited you, by sending you a spiritual Harvest? When the good Men of the Nation, as you told me, when I was here a Twelve-month ago, were afraid of, and were looking for a Stroak from God thinking the Time was now come, when the Lord would unsheath his glittering Sword, and his Hand take hold of Vengeance; expecting

that God would unchurch them, and that God would take away his Gospel from among them, and not only give them a Dearth of Bread, but a much more Plague, the worst of Plagues, a Famine of the Word: That all People were grown vicious, Ministers and People were so vastly departed from the Lord, that God would cut them down, that God would say, I will walk no more with them: They expected, that the Name of the Church of *Scotland* would be *Ichabod*, and that the Glory of God was departed from them. We need no Proof of this;

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ye old Christians, I appeal to you, if this, my dear Friends, was not the Language of your Hearts. But, O preventing Love! O amazing Love! The Lord, when we were looking for Judgment, behold Mercy; when ye were looking for a Scourge, and that Jesus Christ would pass by the church of *Scotland*; behold you have had an extraordinary Out-pouring of the blessed Spirit; you have had many Souls translated from Darkness to Light, and from the Power of Satan to the Kingdom of God. The Holy Ghost has come down to the Congregation, like a mighty rushing Wind; and, you have had Days of *Pentecost* among you. I think I have seen glorious Days of the Son of Man here; I have, in no Place, seen the *Redeemer* reign more in his Power, than in this Land. The Work of God, has went from Heart to Heart, from Soul to Soul, from Minister to People, till many of us has been swallowed up by the Love of God: This is plain and undeniable to those who have Eyes to see it, and Ears to hear. Many of you can say, that you are alive unto God, who, a Twelve-month ago, were as dead to God, as the Devil himself! Again, many, many can say, whereas they were blind, now they see. Those who have not been convicted, what a Call have you to come to the Lord Jesus Christ? And you would do well to examine, what Impression these Words have on your Soul. One would expect, that the whole Nation would return unto the Lord, and keep his Laws, and observe his Statutes, when God removed the Dearth, and shewed he was not willing to punish by giving you another harvest; when the Holy Spirit came down into the Congregation, and Christ rode in Triumph in the Large Assembly; that we should altogether worship God, and keep his Laws,

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and observe his Statutes. But, O my dear Friends! I speak it out of Love to your Souls. One would say, that instead of observing Gods

Statutes, and keeping Gods Laws, that we had made a League with Hell, and said to God, So and so thou hast done, and thou hast sent a plentiful harvest, and as In-gathering of Souls, and an Out-pouring of thy Spirit: But this will not do with us, we will take care not to keep thy Statutes, nor observe thy Laws. This is the Language of the generality of the Nation, and of this Place. My dear Friends, instead of keeping of Gods Laws, they break his Statutes and Laws. How much *Cursing* and *Swearing* in *Glasgow Streets*? And, how much *Whoring* and *Debaucheries* of all Kinds in this city? And the very Corn God has given this Year, many will abuse by being drunk therewith. And, as a Nation, we are not reformed; Gods Mercies has not had that saving Effect on our Souls they ought to have; namely, *To observe his statutes, and to keep his laws.*

I hope none here will be offended at my Plainness of Speaking; I speak out of Love to you, I dare not give flattering Titles to any, when I am speaking for God. I have endeavoured from Time to Time, to speak plainly to your Heart; I have not flattered the rich, neither done any Thing to displease them. As to such, as the Mercies of God has not had a proper Effect on their Heart; what may we expect next, but that God will say to us, I have spared them one Year more, but now I will cut them down, they have not observed my Statutes, nor kept my Laws: My Spirit shall no longer strive with the Church of *Scotland*, I will send a Sword thro the Land, and say to it, Pass thro the Land, that rebellious People; I have not dealt so with any other Nation as with them; it will be more tollerable for *Tyre* and *Sidon*,

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than for them; This is what we can reasonably expect from the great God, if we do not observe his Statutes, and keep his Laws. We are now like to be engaged in another War, our Government seems to be apprehensive of it, and have appointed another *Fast*; but, what signifies our fasting, if we but mock God? if we abstain only from a little Food on that Day, and get a Minister to preach to us, and we set in a Congregation, if we do not return to God, and keep his Laws, and observe his Statutes. Is not the *Fast* that God hath chosen, to loose the Bands of Wickedness, to undoe the heavy Burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that you turn every one from his evil Ways? Tis turning to God, with all our Heart, and with our Soul and Strength.

This Text directs me to speak unto Magistrates and Leaders of the People: If any of them has done me the Honour to come and hear me

take my Farewell; I take this Opportunity to exhort them as I am, an Ambassador of Jesus, tho less than the least of all God has sent forth. I would exhort Magistrates to be singular for God; tis their Duty to take care that the People observe Gods Statutes, and keep his Laws. Tis their Duty to take care that Gods Laws be not openly violated, that Gods Statutes be not openly prophaned in the Streets. Tis their Duty to appear bold for God; for, he is to be a Terror to evil Doers, and a praise to them that do well. Magistrates are not to bear the Sword in vain, they are the Vicegerents of God, they are to take care, as much as in them lies, that the Sabbath be not broken, and that Gods holy Name be not blasphemed and prophaned. Tis their Duty to put the Laws of the Land in Execution, and that the Laws of God be not trod upon: And they will be dreadfully punished of God at the great Day, if

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it be found that they have abused that Power God has intrusted them with; up and be doing, and be bold for God, let Gods Goodness lead them to Repentance, and Gods Mercies constrain them to Obedience, and imploy the Talents God has committed to their Charge, and endeavour to surpress Vice, and incourage true Religion.

Next, this Text, in a special Manner, speaks to Ministers, that they *observe Gods statutes, and keep Gods laws*: They are to be the Light of the World as they are, as a City set on a Hill, which cannot be hid; we are to take care from Time to Time, to lift our Voice like a Trumpet, and shew People their Transgressions and Sins, they are to be instant in Season and out of Season; we are not to be afraid of Men, of the Rage of the men of the World; we must take care, that what we do, we have our Eye to Gods Glory; but we must not have our Mouths stopt. Since God has given us an Out-pouring of the Spirit, now is the Time for the Ministers of the Lord to exert themselves, now is the Time for to stir up the People, for to return unto the Lord; now is Time for us to be active for God, to examine ourselves and Families, and see what is amiss there, and let reformation begin at the House of God. Ministers of Jesus Christ ought to have their Families little churches, that every one that comes to their House, may say, Surely God is in this House. Ministers that preach to others, should be eminently holy themselves. Ministers most outstrip all when they got into the Pulpit, and should show, that he has got several Stages above those to whom he preaches. They are likewise to be burning Lights, not only shining, but to be burning Lights,

to bring heat with them wherever they go; not to be lazy and indolent, but always to be on the Search

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for God. Now, when God has done so much for us, O that Ministers may arise and appear for God, and be instant in Season and out of Season! pray you be not angry with me, for I am now speaking as an Ambassador of Jesus Christ, tho perhaps younger than any of you all; I hope none of you will be offended at my plainness of Speech.

Next Place, I would speak to Masters and Mistresses of Families. O for Christ Sake, take heed what God has done for this Church and Land! Remember that Gods End in all is, That we may *observe his statutes, and keep his laws*. I pray you, take care your Fathers and Mothers, Masters and Mistresses of Families, this Morning, to set up this Resolution, *That as for you and your house, you will serve the Lord*: Turn unto the Lord and he will return unto you; *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it: And bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord*. You should be exemplary for Holiness and singular Piety. How many prayerless Families are they in *Glasgow*? many going to Bed without praying at all: I pray you, that you would take care, as much as in you lies, that all about you, *observe Gods statutes, and keep his laws*.

And now I would apply myself to you that have been born of God, that have not only heard the Cry, Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go you forth to meet him, but who have been inabled, through Jesus Christ, to Echo back, *Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly*: To you whom God has made Heirs of eternal Life. Many who were spiritually dead a twelve-month ago have now been born of God, and got the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. You have felt his Power in your Souls; what Return will you make to the dear Redeemer; I beseech you, that

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ye observe his Statutes, and keep his Laws, that you would take care to walk worthy of the Vocation, wherewith you are called into his Kingdom and Glory, and have your Conversation in heaven, from whence you look for a Saviour, being nothing terrified by your Adversaries. Such are Enemies unto the Doctrine of Free-grace, and the special Doctrines of Christianity, say, I teach only Enthusiastical Raptures, and am always preaching up imputed Righteous, and that I cry down good

Works. My dear Friends, you who have heard me, I can call you to witness, this is a Slander: I cry down good Works, and will cry them down, if they are put in the Room of the Redeemers Righteousness, and have not Christ for their Foundation. I have exhorted them that believe in Christ, to be careful to maintain good Works. If any of you who has been lately awakened, if any of you turn to the World again, they will say, There is your *Cambuslang* Converts, and there is your *Kilsyth* Converts, and the *Glasgow* Converts; and Jesus Christ will be stabled through you, and the Name of Jesus will be blasphemed. To you my dear Friends, the last Request I make of you is, That ye would walk worthy of the holy Vocation wherewith you are called, that you would appear singular for God, and walk so holily in all relative Duties: That People may say it was true we heard these are Christians indeed, this has not been a Delusion; my Heart in much concerned for you, knowing how much the Honour of God is concerned in your walk with God; whatever others do, do you say, Christ has touched my Heart, out of Love to Jesus; I will observe his Statutes, and keep his Laws. You will met with much Reproach and Contempt; the Way of the Crown is by the Cross; this was the Way that Christ took unto his

Crown:

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Crown: The wicked shall cease from troubling, and your wounded Souls shall enjoy eternal Rest. Be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord; Ere long, Jesus will come and take you to himself, and there we shall live with Jesus Christ. My dear Friends, what shall I say unto you more? I would say something that would leave an Impression on you, because you to whom I have been preaching, shall see me no more, finally farewell. I have been much among you, and was willing to spend, and to be spent for your Souls: God grant I may not appear in Judgement against any of you; I charge you, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who have felt the Power of God, that I dont miss any of you at the Right-Hand of God: do not walk unworthy of your glorious Profession, keep close to Christ, keep up a holy Walk with your dear Father. My dear Friends, I have not only been preaching to you, but, been willing to have imparted my own Soul unto you; and when away from you, when Storms and Winds surround me, I will interceed with God for you. O how glad will I be to hear that you walk in the holy Ways of God! That God is among you, and that you do indeed bring forth the Fruits of Righteousness; *Be you steadfast and*

unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; this has been the End of my Preaching, to bring you to Jesus Christ, and tho I have come unto you for this End, many have said I came for the Love of Money, and some have accused me, as one in League with the Devil; but they must wait until the Day of Christ, and then they shall know what a Creature the poor Minister is that is now preaching unto you, and whether Gods glory has been my Motive or not: If I know any Thing of my Heart, I think the good of Souls

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brought me here. If I might be any Way instrumental in promoting his Work in *Scotland*. Whether I will see you again, I know not, but if I am spared, and brought over, I will come and see you again; but before that, I have to travel many a long Mile, and go thro Storms and Waves. Pray for me that I may observe Gods Statutes and keep Gods Laws. You know how many have whit their Tongues, and shut out their Arrows, even bitter Words: I think more Calumny has been thrown on me in *Scotland* than any other Place where I have been; but may the Lord Jesus Christ Answer for me. I heartily thank any of you who have been pleased to contribute for the Supply of the *Orphan House* in *Georgia*; and you who, without Cause are mine Enemies, all I can say, is, That I pray God Almighty to pourdown his Blessing on your Souls, and that I may met you at the Right Hand of Jesus Christ. You may now be easy, the Troubler of *Israel* is about to leave you; You little Lambs of the Flock, do you keep Gods Laws; You young Men, do you shine as Lights in the Worldand dare to be singularly good; And, farewell you old People, tis likely I will never see you again. O may I see you in Eternity never to part, where the weary are at Rest, and where the Wicked cease from troubling. Farewell Magistrates, Ministers and People, Grace be with you all, may the Lord Jesus abundantly bless you. O mayGrace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied unto you, and may I see you in Heaven, there all Tears will be wipt away from your Eyes. O pray for me that I may go on conquering and to conquer! O my dear Souls! I needmuch Prayer, I am but a poor weak Worm. If I have done or spoken any Thing thats offended any, I ask them Pardon. Once more farewell. Remember what I said unto you, I must meet with you at the great Day, to give an Account of all the Sermons I have preached unto you. O may I meet with you never more to part and that I may be set down with you in the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: To whom with the

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GEORGE WHITEFIELD

Father and blessed Spirit, be all Glory and Honour, for now, and ever,
Amen and Amen!

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A FAREWELL SERMON: PSALM CV. 45

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