

The faith of the Gospel

by

**George
Whitefield**

The FAITH of the GOSPEL.

A

Farewell SERMON

Preached in the *Orphan-hospital Park*, upon *Wednesday* the 28th of *October*,
from The Epistle of *PAUL* the Apostle, to the *Philippians*, Chap. i.
Verses 27, 28.

*Only let your conversation be as cometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I
come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand
fast in one spirit, in one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel;
And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident
token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.*

**By the Reverend Mr. GEO. WHITEFIELD, A.B. late of *Pembroke
College, Oxford.***

*Taken from his own Mouth, and Published at the Earnest Request of many of
his Hearers: And carefully Revised by two Eminent Divines.*

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THESE are to give Notice, That several other SERMONS and LECTURES, delivered by the Reverend Mr. *Geo. Whitefield*, A.B. in *Edinburgh*, and particularly in the *Orphan-hospital* Park, taken from his own Mouth, are now preparing for the Press by two Eminent Divines, and will be published with all Expedition; particularly, that from *John*, Chap. xvii. v 3. Together with that, on *Blind Bartimeus*, and *Zaccheus* the Publican, &c. with several other worthy SERMONS too tedious here to insert, all preached in and about *Edinburgh*, never before printed; expecting suitable Encouragement from his worthy Hearers to bring to their Mind the great Truths delivered in the said SERMONS by him, &c.

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3

A farewell SERMON on the Epistle of *Paul* the Apostle, to the *Philippians*, Chap. i. Verses 27, 28.

Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of you affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, in one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of Perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

THERE is not one that knows but those that feel it, what a hearty concern, what an indissolved affection, God stirs often up betwixt his Ministers and his spiritual People. There is no doubt but

4

that a Minister, who hath the care of Souls at heart, that loves them for Christ's sake, cannot but be concerned for those whom God hath been pleased of making his instrument of bringing them from darkness to light, and from the power of *Satan* to God; whether absent or present they ought to be born on his spirit: If they cannot do it by preaching, they ought to do it by writing; or, if not by writing, they ought to do it by prayers to God. This was the method of the Apostle *Paul*, who followed Christ's example; he could not now be at *Philippi*, where there was a church risen to Christ, remarkable for its piety, and the afflictions that it underwent for the Gospel's sake; he could not forbear his Love to them, he sends a pastoral letter to them, and bids them take great care to live according to the doctrine he had preached unto them; he exhorts them to keep up a close walk with God: And, as I am just going to leave you, and this may be the last Sermon I may preach in this

world

5

world, I cannot part better, than speaking to the words of the text. If God hath wrought on your souls, devils and wicked men will wait for you halting. It is much on my soul, least any of you should walk disorderly, after you have had converting Grace, and should shew the world you had only a common work. And how shall I rise in judgment against you? It is with much concern on my soul that I would use the words of the text, where you have four particulars;

First, *He would have them keep up a Gospel walk with God*; Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ.

Secondly, *He recommends Unity and love*; Stand fast in one spirit, in one mind.

Thirdly, *He recommends Zeal*; Striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Fourth,

6

Fourth, *Is a caution, not to be terrified for our enemies*; And in nothing terrified by our adversaries.

I shall then take the words in their order; you must keep up a close walk with God, *Let your conversation be such as becometh the gospel of Christ.* The gospel is glad tidings of great joy to those that believe; *whosoever believeth in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life:* But far be it from me to say, That you must do sin that Grace may abound. I do now exhort you that your conversation be such as becomes to Gospel of Christ; let your behaviour be such in common life, as in going to church and sacrament. All your actions must square with your profession; we are no further devote than we are habitually so, devotion is a habite in the heart; you must be the same in the house as in the church.

You Masters and Mistresses, let your conversation be such; remember to

have

7

have a church in your houses, you must take care of your children, as ministers of their parishioners. *Let you conversation be such;* let your walk be so close with God, that all may know that this preaching hath made an alteration in your lives; that some may not say, It has only tended to rack people's passions, and again to return to the world. Let the world see that the Gospel hath made a change on your conversation. You must be much in secret prayer, for Christ loves secret prayer. If *your conversation is such,* you will love publick prayer; you will be glad to attend on holy ordinances. The lectures here have been sadly neglected; if God hath stirred up any of your hearts, shew your zeal by attending on ordinances and the holy Sacrament; you will take care to have family-prayer, you will abstain from the appearance of evil. God forbid that any should joyn with the cursed Assembly this winter. I charge you, that if any have been wrought upon to abstain from

those

8

those damnable things, that you stand fast in your resolution. It cuts my heart to think how many hours I have spent in those things; it is a thousand to one but you will lose all the good impressions you have got.

I would speak to you, Little children, *Let your conversation be such, as becometh the gospel of Christ.* God is working on many little children, do you take care to let your conversation be such. Blessed be God that there

is an alteration in the Hospitals, take care that those impressions wear not off; it will be sad, first to come to God, and then to fly away from him. O be often talking of God, and exhort one another to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

You servants, *Let your conversation be such, not only for us, but for conscience sake.* Take care that you serve with singleness of heart; whether you *eat or drink*, you must do all *to the glory of God.* If you act from this principle, then

9

then will your conversation be such. I exhort you that you have a more polite station in the world; take care of false politeness; take care of fine dressing, take care, that you do not spend too much on your bodies, that it hinder you from doing good to your poor souls; take care that you get the raiment of a quiet spirit. I would exhort you to have your conversation such. There will be few rich saved, but strive to be among the happy few.

2dly, The Apostle recommends unity. *Stand fast* every one of you that have heard me preach. I preach catholick love, not so as to confound order, God forbid that I should introduce confusion. As people differ in things that are not essential to religion, it is a degree of impiety, it is contrary to the Spirit of Jesus. The catholick spirit that I preach up, is to bear and to forbear with one another in love; if we cannot agree in all things, if we can agree in this, That we love the

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Lord

10

Lord Jesus Christ, let us love his followers also. Some will say, I am of *Paul*, I am of *Appollos*; let us unite with one another, and see which can do most for Christ: But if you are made to please the devil, you will quarrel enough. *Arians* can join against Christ, and why may not we join against the devil? Let us take all possible care to inform our consciences, and let us leave them to God; do not let us quarrel one with another.

3rdly, He recommends zeal, *Striving for the faith of the gospel*; as if you were in an agony you must strive. I pray God you may have zeal, and that it be imparted with wisdom. Zeal is an excellent gift; we ought to strive for the faith of the gospel; the best way to strive is to live as Christ lived, and to walk as he walked. This is the way that one took to make

a drunkard sober, by the power of God. Most people strive more for victory than for truth; a humble walk with God is

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11

the best way to recommend out religion.

4th. A caution not to be terrified by our adversaries. I have preached up the doctrine of the cross; I look for nothing but crosses, I expect nothing but death for Christ's sake. It is impossible to live godly in Christ Jesus, and not to suffer persecution; 'tis impossible, nor can it otherwise be, unless the devil be a christian; if we could reconcile heaven and hell together, than we might reconcile heaven and the world. There is a measure of sufferings which the christian must share in this world Christ learned obedience by his sufferings, *the world will hate you*. Never was there a work carried on, but there were many adversaries, I hope he hath lost some of his prosylites, he will come down, and he hath a short time to reign. Remember that I have not flattered you; you must not think to have a good name, but you must be hated by men; your

lives

12

lives must be always in your hands, as if you were to die for Christ every day. God will try you always with afflictions; O! the devils want you, that they may sift you as wheat. Take care of seeing so many instances on others; you had better never known the way of life than to fall from it after knowledge. The Apostle supposes the believers to be in danger of being terrified; they were afraid of persecution. You must receive the word with gladness, but time will show that it will be dreadful to hear the word, and receive it with joy, and yet be a brand of the devil. Give up the world, and the devil can do nothing to you; and if you have renounced the world, the devil will lose you. Do not be terrified for your adversaries; many, if they were to speak out their thoughts, I verily believe they thirst for my heart's blood. I could willingly die for your sakes, for I expect to swim through a sea of blood to my Friend. Be quiet;

be

13

be still; be easy; commit your souls to the hand of God as to the hand of a faithful creator; they cannot hurt you, when God bids them stop, then they shall stop. Think of the opposition you must meet with, and

prepare for it. I have yesterday morning put a preface to a book, entituled, *Christ triumphing, and Satan raging*, which will be printed to-morrow. Your good name must be lost for Christ, you must be sick of honours; be nothing terrified by your adversaries, for they do me a great deal of good, they call me to keep close to Christ; my friends often flatter me, but I have no such comfort as when my enemies are doing me evil. Do not be terrified, do not give way to them, do not fear the devil; for it is a token of perdition, it is a sign they are strangers to God, when they can oppose the work of God. Many think I am a mad man, all this I think is the work of the devil; but how can persons that are wicked be made right? It is a

 sin

14

sin against the holy Ghost. Does the devil make people holy? They said Christ cast out devils by the prince of devils. You therefore that have felt God's work, take care what you do; let those people alone. O that you wou'd take advice! I wish I may see you all setting at the right hand of God in glory! This will not be till you kiss the son, and submit to the foolishness of preaching, and are willing to take up your cross and follow him. What shall I say to you? Me thinks I am unwilling to leave you; it wou'd be ingratitude not to render thanks to you, for you have not only attended on the word preached, but you have been very liberal, and I hope you will not be the poorer. I doubt not but God will bless all of you. I pray that he may abide with you always. He hath been pleased to carry me on from day to day, blessed be God who hath wrought on many hearts. Many can bear me testimony that I have preached the go-

 spel

15

spel of Christ; many can say that God hath met them there.

Let me exhort you never to forget what the Lord Jesus Christ hath done for you, still take care to give all the glory to God. take care of looking too much to the creature. Look to the Lord Jesus Christ; I have declared the whole counsel of God unto you. I can say that I have endeavoured to serve with sincerity of heart, and whatsoever favours you have done me, may the Lord Jesus Christ reward you a thousand fold. I am concerned that I can preach no more, nor do no more for precious Christ, he hath done much for me. Still with pleasure I can

part with you, whether I shall see you any more or not I know not, perhaps this will be the last sermon I shall preach, yet I hope I will meet you in heaven. O let us prepare for it, that when we meet we may have a crown of joycing. I can say, I desire the furtherance of the

gospel

16

gospel. Do not be concerned for me, for I care not tho' I were dragged along the street; I hope I can say, that *to me to live* would be *Christ, and to die* would be unspeakable *great gain*. I desire to live for Christ, and to be with Christ; for the world I'm not afraid of, nor for dying, for it will be my eternal gain, *I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better*. And if it be God's will, that your joycing may be for me, whether I will be here or not, draw me by your prayers; and if you will wrestle with God by prayer, then the Lord Jesus Christ may restore me to you; God only knows. Now I leave you in the hands of God, and how did God come down in the hospital? He came down like a mighty rushing wind. O that the holy Ghost may come down amongst you, that you may triumph gloriously! This is the musick that the devil does not love to hear; *That whether I see you, I may hear*

of

17

of your affairs. My friends, you are much on my heart, and God forbid that I should sin against the Lord, in ceasing to pray for you. Remember me at the throne of grace; remember me the chief of sinners, for thousands are waiting for our halting. What then? Pray for me, for God only knows whether I shall meet you here again or not, but we shall certainly meet at the judgment day; *there the wicked cease from trouble*.

And now, what shall I say more? It is not right to go away, and not to speak to the Ministers that have owned me. I did not come but only to bring you to Christ. I thank God that they have owned me; in the name of Christ may they appear bold for their Master, that the poor may be fed. Finally, brethren, farewell. That your souls may be saved in the day of the Lord, see that *your conversation be such a becometh the gospel of Christ*.

C

Farewel,

18

Farewell, you Young men, may you be of the number that will overcome the world. Farewell, you Young women, may your lamps be trimmed, and may you be ready to meet the bridegroom! may Christ give you Grace to mind the one thing needful; may Christ give you to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Farewell, Old men. Maidens, farewell. In glory, farewell. Finally, brethren, farewell, pray for me, that the gospel of Christ may run and be glorious, that it may spread through all the earth. O that we may have a day of the Son of man! I do not care tho' I was to sink down my self. Surely God is in this place. Let devils tremble, *Sing O heavens, and rejoyce, O earth!* Christ is triumphing in *Edinburgh* this morning. God hath visited *Scotland* again, the place of his habitation, where his honour so long dwelt. Now put in for a share in Christ; there is room enough in Christ for you all. Tho' I bid you

farewell

19

farewell, yet I know not how to leave you; my heart is full, may the Lord speak for me, by speaking in your hearts. I commend you therefore to God, and to the word of his Grace which is able to build you up. Forget not this day, he is making a passover with his dear people, he is with us, of a truth. *Praise the Lord, O my soul.* Well may the devils gnash with their teeth. *God will shew greater things than these.* Well, farewell, may the Lord bless you, may the Lord give you the light of his countenance. I may go away, but I shall bear you on my heart, for the devils will attack me after this day; but fear not, let us not be terrified; you pray, and I will fight, and will go on, and Christ will lead us from conquering to conquering. I hope you will mourn, and may God put your tears in his bottle; may his blessed Redeemer wash you in his blood, and may God forgive all such that have

done

20

done me evil and have cursed me. Well then, the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits; to God's Grace I recommend you, that you may have peace and joy in believing. Even so, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FINIS.

THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL



