

Yielded Bodies

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CHAPTER EIGHT

THE FEET OF THE HUMAN BODY

"Ponder the path of thy feet . . . Remove thy foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:26-27).

"Make straight paths for your feet" (Hebrews 12:13).

"I have refrained my feet from every evil way" (Psalm 119:101).

"He . . . set my feet upon a rock" (Psalm 40:2).

I would have you think just now of

DOCTRINES AND DUTIES

The doctrines of Christianity relates to such subjects as the nature and attributes of GOD, the relations in which GOD stands to man, the relations in which man stands to GOD, and man's past history, present condition, and eternal destiny. And every true doctrine is only the assertion of a fact in regard to one or more of these subjects.

Concerning GOD we have this doctrine: "GOD is infinite, eternal, unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, truth." And this doctrine is a *fact*.

Concerning man we have this doctrine: "Man fell from his high estate in which he was created by sinning against GOD and became spiritually totally depraved." And this doctrine is a *fact*.

Concerning JESUS we have this doctrine: "**There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.**" And this doctrine is a *fact*.

Concerning the Bible we have this doctrine: "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.**" The Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of GOD -- infinite in scope, universal in interest, personal in application, regenerative in power, inexhaustible in adequacy, the miracle Book of diversity in unity. But this doctrine is also a *fact*. And that is true of all true doctrines. The doctrines of Christianity are nothing more, nothing less than the *facts* of Christianity. Thus they lie at its foundation. Doctrinal facts and factual doctrines furnish the basis for Christianity.

Now there is a relation that exists between doctrines and duties. Doctrines make for duties. Why is it my duty to love GOD? Certain doctrines about GOD being glorious in Himself and this

Bestower of many blessings answer this question. If these doctrines concerning GOD are not facts, would there rest on our hearts the slightest obligation to fix our supreme affections on Him?

Why is it my duty to believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST? Bible doctrine says that I am a lost and helpless sinner, that JESUS is the only SAVIOUR, that JESUS commands me to believe on Him, that JESUS is worthy of all my confidence, that only by believing on Him and in Him can I be brought into that spiritual condition in which I shall be able to render to Him the worship and service of which He is infinitely worthy. And if these doctrines were not facts, would there be any reason whatever why I should give Him the supreme confidence of my soul?

The doctrines of Christianity make Christianity's duties. There is no duty imposed upon us in GOD's Word that is not created by one or more of the doctrines found therein. The doctrines of Christianity give rise to the Christian's duties. The duties of the Christian flow from the doctrines of Christianity.

Now in the Book of Romans, even as in all his other epistles, Paul presents doctrines and duties. In the chapters previous to the twelfth chapter, he establishes a number of doctrines -- among them being the doctrine that GOD is infinitely merciful and has bestowed infinite mercies on the human race through the LORD JESUS CHRIST. And now, in the first verse of the twelfth chapter, he beseeches those to whom he has been writing to perform the great duty to which those mercies give rise:

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

These words are in harmony with the words in the sixth chapter:

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof . . . but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

That means, of course, that every power of the body is to be His --

the eyes His to "survey His glory in His word and in His works";
the ears His to listen to His commands;
the mouth His to proclaim His name and celebrate His praise;
the hands His to labor for the promotion of CHRIST's causes;
the heart His to love GOD and our neighbors as ourselves;
the feet His to run in the way of His commandments;
the whole body His to serve Him in every way GOD shall require.

That is what Paul mean when he said: **"Glorify God in your body."**

I know not how to characterize the conduct of the man who is the beneficiary of GOD's daily mercies and still deliberately goes on in sin against Him. Such may be illustrated by an historical incident. At the battle of Alma, in 1854, a wounded Russian soldier fell into the hands of the

English and was piteously crying for water. An English captain stepped aside from the ranks of a passing regiment and ministered to his wants, and then hastened on to join his command. The wounded man was much refreshed, and struggling up in the use of the strength which that captain's kindness had brought to him, picked up his gun, deliberately took aim, and shot him as he passed away in the distance.

We are amazed at such base ingratitude. We are indignant. And some would say surely such a story is fiction and not fact -- such a thing was never really done. But such is a fact in the person and life of every man who uses the strength that GOD every hour confers on him in service to the Devil, in indulgence of the flesh, in loving the things of the world. While GOD is invulnerable and no mortal wound can be inflicted on Him by any man, still there are men who use the very breath GOD gives them to breathe out before GOD words offensive to GOD's purity and insulting to GOD's majesty. The very powers of body and mind that GOD bequeaths, they employ in violating GOD's law -- and the body to which GOD has given such powers, they move up and down on the earth right before GOD's face in the constant attitude of rebellion against GOD's authority.

But we talk today of the feet of the human body. The foot is not merely the end of the leg. It is an organ which only GOD could conceive and create.

A man may know all about the rocks and his heart remain as hard as they. He may know all about the winds and be the sport of passions as fierce as they.

He may know all about the stars and be as a meteor, whose end, after a brief and brilliant career, is to be quenched in eternal night.

He may know all about the sea, and his soul resemble its troubled waters which can not rest.

He may know all about the flowers and be as a hedge of thorns in the work that uplifts humanity.

So also a man may know much about his body and use it as an instrument of unrighteousness in the service of the Devil! He may know all about the make-up of his feet and yet walk where he dishonors GOD and fails humanity in some day of real need! That I may help to prevent this I speak on "the feet" -- powers that carry us as instruments of progress.

Now let us notice some

FACTS ABOUT FEET

The human foot is one of the most important parts of the body -- structurally beautiful and extremely efficient -- and just as amazing in its workings as the body cells, the wonders of respiration, the manifestations of the hands, the ductless glands, the blood vessels, and the greatest pump in the world, the heart. Wonderful are the movements of the feet -- with their tarsal and metatarsal bones, phalanges, the mystery of muscle contraction, cushion system, automatic oiling system, and powers to move up and down, with heel movement and tip toe movement, whether in running or walking.

Doctor Dudley J. Morton, who spent over twenty-five years studying the foot, says that, medically speaking, the foot is the most neglected part of the human frame. No such neglect does the foot deserve. Aside from its practical value, the foot has a structural beauty as wonderful as any suspension bridge man ever built. And engineers who have studied the foot go into ecstasies about its ability to absorb shocks, endure strains, bear weights out of all proportion to its size.

Each foot consists of twenty-six bones -- so joined and arched as to make an extremely resilient flexible structure. Some ligaments hold the bones together. Tendons and muscles control their motion. The joints, tendon channels and little sacs called bursae containing a lubricating fluid which keeps the working parts properly oiled.

Physiologists describe the foot by telling us of the real section with its seven irregularly shaped bones dovetailed -- the largest one, the heel bone, resting firmly on the floor while the other six bones rise to form an arch. Beyond are the five metatarsals -- long bones that you can feel in front of your foot. The heads of these five metatarsals which form the ball of the foot, rest on round when you walk. Extending beyond the metatarsal heads are the shorter ones, called phalanges, which form the framework of the toes. The heel bones and the metatarsals -- not the toes -- are responsible for the tremendous job of bearing the body's weight.

So marvelously is the foot mechanism adjusted that these small and delicate metatarsal bones can carry burdens that would stagger a piano mover. The four smaller metatarsals are no thicker than lead pencils -- the largest, lying behind the big toe, being about the width of a slim cigar. When you stand, your weight is equally divided between these bones and the heels. In walking and running, however, there is an instant when one foot swings in the air, and the heel of the other foot is lifted off the ground. Then five slender bones bear your 110 pounds or your 200 pounds or your 250 pounds all by themselves.

We leave the physiological path now and come back to the Scriptures. Directly and indirectly feet are mentioned in the Bible. We read therein of feet stained with blood, feet in the mire, on the rock, in the pit, on the stairway, in the fire, in the stocks, in shoes. We read of naked feet, shod feet, wounded feet, bruised feet, broken feet, kissed feet, anointed feet, washed feet, dirty feet, impotent feet, mincing feet, destructive feet; of feet walking in ways of darkness, in the wilderness, in bypaths, in highways, in statutes of the heathen, in ways of men, in vanity, in counsels of evil hearts, in the spirit, in love, in honesty, in uprightness, in the law, in the fear of GOD, in a straight way, in the counsel of the ungodly. We read of feet walking with wise men, with integrity, with craftiness, with slander, with scoffers, with irreverence.

Let us notice now -- thinking upon the necessity of our feet to be yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness -- some paths to ponder. I would ask you to ponder the path of your feet as to

THE LORD'S DAY

GOD says:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:).

"And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the

Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day" (Deuteronomy 5:15).

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thing own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13-14).

"The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

And the Sabbath which GOD forbade people to profane belonged to the old dispensation. As an holy institution it was transferred from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week on the day of CHRIST's resurrection, and was henceforth to be known as the LORD's Day, which we are to keep holy in commemoration of CHRIST's finished redemptive work just as the seventh day was kept in commemoration of GOD's finished creation.

The seventh day was, by the wisdom of GOD, a Jewish institution. The first day is, by the purpose of GOD, a Christian institution. And as often as we observe the first day instead of the seventh as a day of rest and worship, we declare the superiority of the Christian to the Jewish dispensation; we declare that the resurrection of CHRIST was a greater fact in the world's history than was the creation of the earth. We, if we yield our feet to GOD as instruments of righteousness to run in the way of his commandments, will not turn away our feet from the LORD's Day, from doing GOD's pleasure on GOD's holy day.

Yet, violation, desecration and disintegration of the LORD's Day are all about us. We have become lax and complacent in legislation. We have become evil in practice concerning the LORD's Day. No LORD's Day means no church. No church means no worship. No worship means the triumph of wrong. **"The Sabbath was made for man"** -- not for one nation, one age, but for all time and for the whole race. It is not a burden imposed. It is rather a universal privilege and a universal and merciful appointment for the good of man forever. But little by little, inch by inch, bit by bit, nations and peoples and families and church members have become slack concerning the LORD's Day -- until now their feet are removed from its observance, and there is widespread desecration of its holiness.

The girls of Simmons College, Boston, Mass., have arranged the Ten Commandments in what they think is the order of importance. The Roman numerals indicate the number of each commandment as given in Exodus 20:

- V. Honor thy father and thy mother.
- VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
- III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD in vain.
- II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- X. Thou shalt not covet.
- IV. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

Think of the feet, going not on necessary errands, walking not and running not on errands of mercy, turned away from the LORD's Day -- feet headed for picnic grounds and ball parks, feet trudging over golf courses, feet splashing in swimming pools, feet idle in loafing, feet going to the homes of others in disregard of the church habits of others, feet tramping unnecessarily in places of business, feet tramping around over rental property, feet running to places of amusement, feet on auto clutches, driving from one hot dog stand to another, feet not yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

Ponder the path of your feet as to

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

David said:

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth . . . My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord" (Psalm 26:8, 12).

Do your feet find their way to the house of GOD at all? Are you one of the never-attenders? If so, you will be shamed, unless you have lost all power to blush, to read of what took place in Poland some years ago. Many men and women and young people walked fifty to two hundred miles to attend a preaching service. Many rode bicycles for three hundred miles. Still others came many miles in horse-drawn wagons.

Do you attend GOD's house with becoming and praiseworthy regularity? Is your testimony the testimony of the Psalmist: **"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord"**? Do you married people in a worthy way "take sweet counsel together and walk to the house of GOD in company"? Do you waver, when Sunday comes, between your house and GOD's house? Do you hesitate between the wisdom of the Word and the wisdom of the world? Do your feet stay at home or turn away while you say: "Well, I do not go to church on Sunday because I was never taught to go when I was young, so I did not form the habit"? Or do you keep your feet at home before the fire or in bed or in bedroom slippers while you say, "Well, I do not go to church on Sunday because I was made to go when I was young and it grew distasteful to me"?

Everything deteriorates in this world. The violin drops a tone. The razor loses its edge. The spark plug gathers carbon. The battery weakens. The watch runs down. We need a regular tuning, a repeated sharpening, a constant winding up. The house of GOD is the place in which these things are done. It is more than one less in crusade when you turn your feet from GOD's house on the LORD's Day. It is one more exposed to the very dangers that preaching and Christian precept and example are trying to obliterate.

Ponder the path of thy feet as to

WALKING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

"Remove thy foot from evil." "I have refrained my foot from every evil way." So make thy feet **"run in the way of Thy commandments"** that you can say:

"Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, so that my feet did not slip" (II Samuel 22:37).

"My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined" (Job 23:11).

"For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" (Psalm 56:13).

So walk in paths of righteousness that **"thy foot shall not stumble"** (Proverbs 3:23), that the LORD **"shall keep thy foot from being taken"** (Proverbs 3:26), that you may show wisdom in withholding your foot from being unshod (Jeremiah 2:25) -- remembering that GOD will **"guide our feet into the way of peace"** (Luke 1:79), remembering that without GOD's help **"he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself"** (Amos 2:15), making sure that you have **"your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"** (Ephesians 6:15), never forgetting **"how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things"** (Romans 10:15).

Feet yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness will be found in the way of GOD's commandments. Feet yielded to paths. Tragedies result when people turn aside from paths of rectitude.

In II Samuel 2:18-23, we read:

"And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe. And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am. And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him. And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother? Howbeit he refused to turn aside; wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still."

But greater tragedies than this recorded in Holy Writ are read of in our newspapers every day, because people walk in paths and run in courses that displease GOD.

How sad for a strong man to lose a foot, or two feet. How sad for a graceful woman to have both feet mangled, or just one part of a foot crushed. How sad to see people once strong now hobbling on crutches or pushed in wheel chairs. How sad to see a man feel for a lifetime the handicap of a club foot. But sadder far and far more tragic it is to see people with two good, well-shod feet running with the Devil's crowd, running with the God-hating, church-forsaking crowd, all the while blind to the fact that they are running from the sunrise toward the midnight, from liberty to jail, from the throne of GOD to Satan's gallows, from calm to storm, from riches to rags, from life to death.

Atalanta was a great athlete. She felt herself to be the swiftest runner in the land. She had many suitors, for she was very beautiful. But having been warned that marriage would be her ruin, she saw her way of escape in offering her hand to that suitor who would beat her in a footrace. Said she, "I will be the prize of him who will conquer me in a race; but death must be the penalty of all who try and fail."

Scores of young men entered the contest in spite of the hard condition. One after another they were defeated, and they were put to death without mercy. Hippomenes, a splendid and most handsome youth, thought it very rash that anyone should risk so much for a wife, but when he saw Atalanta he changed his mind and offered himself for the contest, although it did not look as though he had any chance of winning.

The race started, and the contestants flew around the course. Atalanta easily out-distanced her competitor, although she almost wished he might defeat her, for he was so young and handsome. Now Hippomenes had calculated more wisely than Atalanta knew. He had taken with him into the race, three golden apples, which he carried in concealment. He spun one of the apples along the course in front of the maiden. Atalanta was all amazement; she wanted the glittering thing. Thinking she had an easy victory, she stopped to pick it up, and Hippomenes shot ahead of her. The spectators cheered him on, but Atalanta was soon in advance once more. He threw a second apple, this time off a little to one side, and a second time the maiden determined to secure the apple, and left the course to do it. Again her suitor ran ahead, but again Atalanta came up and passed. But now the goal was near. Atalanta was weighted with the two apples, and Hippomenes was correspondingly lighter. He threw the last golden apple. She looked at it and hesitated, but again did the lust of greed take possession of her, and she stopped to gather up the third golden ball. Hippomenes, lightened by the absence of the weight, taking advantage of Atalanta's delay, flew away in advance to the goal that was just before. He won the race; he won a bride; and the story says her kingdom went with her.

But it was a union Atalanta despised. She would rather have embraced death than a husband. Many a maiden and many a youth has entered the course of life full of beauty and powers, but has trifled with sin, has let his or her feet follow the world-thrown apples of enticement and evil indulgences.

What say I now? I say the world, the flesh, the Devil will try to entice you to run in evil ways. The golden apples will glitter before you. There is but one thing to do. Ponder the path of thy feet. Keep your eye on the goal. -- Looking unto JESUS the Author and Finisher of our faith, "so run that ye may obtain."

Ponder the path of the feet as to the

ALLUREMENTS OF UNCHRISTIAN WOMEN

Notice this which was written about Solomon:

"Among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: Nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin" (Nehemiah 13:26).

And Solomon, speaking from the depths of bitter experience says:

"Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: that they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words" (Proverbs 7:4-5).

Solomon knew what he was talking about when, grown old, **"his wives turned away his heart after other gods,"** he said: **"Give not thy strength unto women"** (Proverbs 31:3). No foolish words to be laughed at said he when he warned **"The adulteress will hunt for the precious life."** Wisely spake he, as one burned by fire taken into his bosom, when he said of the man whose feet follow after the evil woman: **"But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell"** (Proverbs 9:18).

Though we may wince under some of the plain language Solomon uses, we should be wise as to his words when he pictures a young man turning his feet in the path of the strange woman who ever is **"a deep ditch"** and a **"narrow pit,"** **"who increaseth the transgressors among men"** (Proverbs 23:27-29).

Listen to Proverbs 7:21-27:

"With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death."

To which we would add the poet's insistently sober words:

A woman is waiting for you, my lad --
Ride past!
Her cheeks are soft and her mouth is glad --
Ride past!
For the flash of her glance is the light of bane,
And the touch of her lips is the key to pain,
And she calls to the wise man -- all in vain!
But youth is strong and will find no wrong
In the lilting lure of her ancient song.
And the thing that's art, and things that's heart,
Only the knowing can tell apart;
And the price of the knowledge is black with stain,
And the seed of the wisdom, bad.

She would barter her love for your own, my lad --
Ride past!

But your love is good and her love is bad --
Ride past!
She offers the fruit of the bitter tree,
Her kiss is the promise of misery,
Of death and of woe; let her be! let her be!
Youth is bold and of eager mold,
And brass in the ken of youth is gold,
And the acid of grief is the only test
For the tawdry tinsel within her breast --
Which only the eyes of the wise can see --
And the eyes of the wise are sad!

And now, let us without levity and undue severity, ponder the path of our feet as to

THE DANCE

I do not want to condemn anyone, but to convince. I speak not to destroy but to save, not to shun one of the issues of the day but to face facts as they are, not to intrude on anyone's "rights," but to see the righteousness of GOD. But lovingly, yet with frankness, I say that if our feet are yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness, they will not be dancing feet. No matter what objection such words meet with, no matter by what arguments assaulted, I say the dance is not Christian. You cannot make it Christian by chaperones or environment. You cannot make it spiritual by holding it in a church. You cannot hitch a dancing body and spiritual life together anymore than you can hitch a wolf and a lamb or a serpent and a lion to the same carriage. I want to see you young people attain the highest heights, have and hold the best treasure, possess spiritual power, have sweetest joys. This you can never have if your feet become entangled in the dance net or go to places where filth is felt. Spiritual power and dancing do not go together, no matter how decently the dance may be conducted. The modern dance of today is an enemy of the home, an enemy of the church, and an enemy of civilization.

Attorney General Clifford G. Ross of Chicago has said: "Perhaps more girls have traveled to their ruin over the smooth glistening floor of the innocent-looking dance halls than any other!"

Feet yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness are careful to walk in the ways of righteousness. Feet that bear the marks of the LORD JESUS are careful where they walk. It is not without significance that only parts of the body JESUS washed were the feet of His disciples; and feet that have been washed by JESUS can never move amid the slime of the world.

Someone asks: "Preacher, don't you know some ladies that dance?" Yes -- some sweet, lovely little ladies, but not one of them I know has power as a soul-winner! "Do you not know some gentlemen who dance?" Yes, but I do not know one with Heaven-sent blessed spiritual power. There may be some; but I say I do not know them! And I have the privilege of saying, as a physician who gives bitter medicine, that I do not believe that spiritual power in the home and spiritual power in the church and the dance travel together! Much dance in the heels is evidence of little real spiritual power in the life! "The greatest shield to virtue is modesty, the greatest destroyer of modesty is sex familiarity, and in no society outside of a brothel is such familiarity tolerated as in the dance."

To say that spirituality goes along with so-called high-class dances is like saying a pig pen is a good place for lilies. To say that there are high class dances is like saying there is high class liquor drinking. The Devil gets his work done through serge and silk as well as through calico and overalls. He tries every means to deceive you, and one of his favorite ways is to blindfold parents to believe their sons and daughters are above reproach and just a bit better than the unfortunates who have fallen morally and spiritually.

There are dances and *dances*, we admit. That some dances are not as vile and vicious as others is an axiomatic fact. But there is poison and poison -- and I do not want to make a mistake and take any of it. There are snakes and snakes, but I have no use for any kind of snakes. There may be and are, I doubt not, those who may dance without dancing being their downfall. But your example may lead others into the dance whose will power is not so great, whose innocence is more easily imperiled, and whose endowment of stamina of character is not so marked.

Forget not that it is the function of the strong to protect the weak. Will an active Christian have time to dance? Will not a sensible Christian find something better to do than to dance? Will not a loving Christian feel that he cannot dance? Will a spiritually minded and soul-winning Christian have any desire to dance? **"Ponder the path of thy feet."**

But I would ask you now to ponder the path of thy feet as to

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF MAN'S WHEREABOUTS

Stand in awe as David speaks of this knowledge:

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:1-4).

"If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:11-13).

The Bible says much about where a man should walk and how he should walk. Job asks this question: **"Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?"** (Job. 31:4).

If our feet, yielded to Satan as instruments of unrighteousness, go to the saloon, GOD counts their steps.

Be it to the dance hall -- He counts.

Be it to the house of evil -- He counts.

Be it to the gambler's den -- He counts.

Be it to visit the sick -- He counts.

Be it to the battlefield -- He counts.

Be it to a funeral -- He counts.

If we walk staggeringly in drunkenness, GOD counts.
If we walk strugglingly as an athlete in strenuous combat, GOD counts.
If we walk swiftly as in the swirls of the waltz, GOD counts.
If we walk cowardly away from duty, GOD counts.
If we walk stealthily to haunts where virtue is an outlaw and debauchery holds orgies, GOD counts.
If we walk to visit the sick, GOD counts.

And all our footsteps will testify in our behalf or testify against us in that day when we stand before GOD to give an account of the deeds done in the body.

I beg you that you yield your feet to GOD as instruments of righteousness so that you will not be ashamed of the record made on earth and known in Heaven. As to your feet, as to the enticements of evil paths, let them be, as said Sir Francis Burnand of his friend: "His feet were like icicles in refrigerator stockings."

Look you, with your two good feet, at the man on crutches or in the wheel chair or limping through life -- and ask GOD if you are grateful that you do not have to go halt through life. You who go to wrong places, would you do so if you were crippled? If you were crippled, would you promise GOD you would go to the movie on Sunday night or to the evil place if only He would give you feet and enable you to walk? Would you? Would you dare to pray like that? Look at that club foot and ask yourself if you would promise GOD you would run away from church if He would heal it, were it your foot.

Now ponder the path of thy feet as to

THE BIBLE

The Psalmist said: "**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path**" (Psalm 119:105).

We need to remember what a dying infidel said as he laid his trembling and emaciated hand on the Bible: "The only objection against this book is a bad life."

The Bible, a true record of GOD's dealings with men, is an infallible guide. The Bible, inbreathed of GOD, furnishes for childhood the most satisfactory spiritual truth, understandable of the child mind. The stories of the Bible and the Gospel furnish the most developing lines of teaching possible to child life. Character formation, experienced earlier than many people believe, is assisted, if not assured, for the young by Bible reading and study.

For older people, nothing can possibly furnish the incentive to honorable conduct, to high thinking, to holy living that manifests the life of JESUS in the mortal body that the Bible does. No matter what a man's condition may be, no matter what the occupation may be, the Bible speaks with a directness that leaves no uncertainty as to the duty and no doubt as to destiny.

The Bible meets the crises of life with unquestioned success.

The Bible, never to be outgrown, is never out-of-date. The most up-to-date book in any library, the Bible is forever inexhaustive in adequacy. Meaningless -- comparatively -- would be the world's libraries without its teaching.

There are no problems it cannot solve,
no burdens it does not lighten,
no trouble it does not lessen,
no doubt assailing Christian faith it does not vanquish.

There is no weariness the Bible does not help remove,
no grief it cannot console,
no sin it does not condemn,
no righteous deed it does not commend,
no defilement it cannot cleanse.

The softest pillow for the dying,
the mightiest spur to the living,
it furnishes to the weak power,
to the strong greater strength,
to the hopeless renewed assurance.

Not one of its promises can ever fail,
not one of its fires ever die out.

The guarantees it gives of eternal life are unequivocal and entirely reliable.

Let us be able to say what the Psalmist said: "**I... turned my feet unto thy testimonies**" (Psalm 119:59).

Finally, let all men ponder the path of their feet as to

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

The feet of JESUS were serving feet. JESUS "**went about doing good.**" He walked where David rode, where Solomon rode, where Ahab rode, where Jehu rode, where kings of earth rode. But, walking the dusty highway, He traveled the best -- journeyed as journeys GOD. Ask the blind if that be not true. Ask the beggars. Ask the deaf. Ask the sick. Ask others in distress. They will tell you that He who walked in doing good to others, journeyed more gloriously than kings who rode for selfish pleasure in pomp and power.

Faithful feet His in visiting the sanctuary. "**as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day.**" He loved to walk the meadows where the green grass blades were emerald strings on which the south winds played resurrection melodies. He loved to walk the roads through little towns. He loved to walk by the white shores of blue Galilee. He loved to walk the desert paths that led away from the haunts of men. He loved to walk among the woods where He could get alone with GOD. He loved to walk the bulging billows of the stormy lake. But He loved much more to walk the paths that led to the village synagogues and the roads that led to

the temple in Jerusalem. As to attending the sanctuary of GOD, many feet among us need to be yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

Frequently the feet of JESUS found the ways that led to those in trouble. To the house of Jairus they went, for great grief was there. To the home at Bethany they went, for the shadows of death were there. To the little town of Nain they went, for bereavement because of death was there. To the sea where the winds and waves buffeted His disciples they went. To the well of Sychar where a woman -- dirty toy of dirty men -- was, they went. His feet were feet of visitation. Our feet need to be that kind, going with a readiness which is born of Gospel urgency as heat is born of the sun, going with a readiness to take the highways and the bypaths, broad streets and narrow streets, tenement stairways and muddy road, to carry the message of hope and love, being swift and jubilant to go anywhere to those in spiritual bondage, in shadows of trouble, in the gloom of despondency, in the maimings of sin, in the brokenness of defeat, in the pathos of self-disparagement, in the furnace of pain.

There are those who need their lamps replenished with the oil of joy and relit with the flame of hope. Those there are who need their hearthstones renewed with fires of blessed warmth and confidence. Those there are who need to hear a new dawning and of radiant tomorrows. How beautiful upon the mountains, in the valleys, in the slums, in the kitchens, in the fields, in the cities, are the feet of them that bring oil to empty lamps, fuel to dying fires, and cheer to the cold haunts of despair. The feet of JESUS went to the Cross -- and there with the cruel nails were torn. On Calvary I hear the mockers mocking. I hear the sound of hammers. I hear the drip of blood.

See from His hands, His head, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Never!

And now let me put this urge upon your heart.

By His feet that went to the house of mourning,
by His feet that shunned not to stop for the poor and lame,
by His feet that walked to the house where slept the dead,
by His feet blistered by the mountain way,
by His feet that paused while He gave sight to the blind,
by His feet wearied by Judea's roads,
by His feet dust-covered in roads where the king's chariot whirled,
by His feet waded in Galilee's waters,
by His feet kissed by a woman and wiped with the hair of her head,
by His feet that found their way to the garden of prayer,
by His feet that walked amid His enemies in the courts of the Temple,
by His feet at which the disciples in worship kneeled,
by His feet that walked the last foot of the rough steps of Calvary,
by His feet punctured with nails and fastened to the Cross,

I beg you to make your feet instruments of righteousness in His service.

Pray to GOD, saying:

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

GOD has promised to be with us and keep us in all places, to walk with us to the last foot of the last mile of Life's journey. Treasure these words:

"The Lord God is a sun and shield . . . no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

"Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth."

"He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly."

"They that wait upon the Lord shall . . . walk and not faint."

"He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

"He that walketh uprightly walketh surely."

And looking beyond this world with its sickness to the world where sickness is never known,
beyond this world with its darkness to the world where there is no night,
beyond this world with its sin and shame to the world where nothing that defileth ever entereth,
beyond this world with its death to the world where no death enters,

let us yield our feet unto Him as instruments of righteousness so that when we shall see JESUS
we shall know all He means when He says: **"They shall walk with me in white."**

~ end of chapter 8 ~
