

George Whitefield—A Voice Like A Trumpet

One of the most interesting characters of the great Methodist revival of the eighteenth century was Rev. George Whitefield of whom the historian Lecky has the following to say:

"His preaching combined almost the highest perfection of acting, with the most burning fervor of conviction . . . His gestures were faultless in their beauty and propriety, while his voice was so powerful that Franklin, who was the most accurate of men, ascertained by experiment that it could be heard distinctly in the open air by thirty thousand persons. It was at the same time eminently sweet, musical and varied, and it was managed with perfect skill . . . With the exception of a slight squint of one eye which was much dwelt on by his satirists, his person was unusually graceful and imposing, and like Chatham, the piercing glance of a singularly brilliant eye contributed in no small measure to the force of his appeals.

"To these gifts we must add a large command of vivid homely and picturesque English, and an extraordinary measure of tact which enabled a practiced orator to adapt himself to the character and dispositions of his audience. We must add, above all, a contagious fervor of enthusiasm, which, like a resistless torrent, bore down every obstacle. Of no other preacher could it be more truly said that he preached 'as a dying man to dying men.' His favorite maxim was that 'a preacher, whenever he entered the pulpit, should look upon it as the last time he might preach, and the last time his people might hear.' To his vivid imagination heaven and hell, death and judgment appeared palpably present. His voice was sometimes choked with tears; he stamped vehemently on the pulpit floor; every nerve was strained; his whole frame was convulsed with passion. One who heard him described how, during the whole remainder of his life, he was haunted by the recollection of the tone of piercing pathos with which Whitefield once interrupted the course of his remarks, as if overpowered by a sudden thought: "O my hearers, the wrath to come! the wrath to come!"

The quotations that follow are selected from one of his sermons. They afford a remarkable combination of exhortation, personal experience and Scriptural statements

"The great burden laid upon my soul this day is to proclaim the Gospel of peace to sinners. Many are busy in our days, as in the days of old, saying to sinners, 'Peace, peace: when there is no peace', and are thus sending them to sleep upon the very brink of hell. When I look abroad on this great multitude my heart burns within me; I am constrained to lift up my voice like a trumpet. I know by sad experience what it is to be lulled to sleep by a false peace. Long did I think myself a Christian when I knew nothing of the Lord Jesus. I used to pray nine times a day. I used to receive the sacrament every Lord's Day; yet I knew nothing of Christ in my heart. I was not a new creature in Christ; I had not been born again.

"Oh awake ye church professors who have a name to live; arouse ye from a false security! You may perhaps have honest and outwardly moral lives, but if you depend on that morality, or join your works with your faith in order to justify you before God, you are making yourselves your own savior.

"Some may be beginning to think they have been building on a false foundation. Perhaps the devil may strike in and bid you despair of ever being saved. But fear not, there is a Savior for sinners Jesus came. "This

The King's Highway

Facing The Sunset Glow

By Leon E. Cogswell, Ft. Fairfield, Me.

Let us sing of that beautiful city,
As we sang in the dear days of old;
Of the walls that are like unto jasper
And the streets that are bright as pure gold.

I am sure that I'm facing that city,
As I travel this vale here below,
For I see on the distant horizon:
A beautiful sunset glow.

I have had many sad disappointments,
Temptations have threatened my way
But I'm sure they are just His appointments,
To help me grow stronger each day.

As I walk in communion with Jesus
And trust Him to guide me, I know
At the end of life's journey He'll lead me,
Through the beautiful sunset glow.

Let us all march along together:
We have loved ones and friends over there
And I know they are watching and waiting,
At the gate of that city, so fair.

What a blessed and joyful reunion
While the rivers of pleasure o'erflow,
As they open their arms to receive us
When we pass through the sunset glow.

I respectfully dedicate the above verses to the memory of my friend Burrell F. Kimball who "passed through the sunset glow" just a few hours after they were written.

is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' And if you realize yourself the chief of sinners, verily Jesus Christ came into the world to save you. When Joseph was called out of that prison-house to Pharaoh's court, we are told he stayed some time to prepare himself. But do you come with all your prison clothes?

"Let there be joy in heaven over some of you believing. Let me not go back to my Master and say, 'Lord, they will not believe my report.' Why should I despair of any? I can despair of no one, when I consider that Jesus Christ has had mercy on such a wretch as I am. He saw me in my blindness. He passed by me and said to me, 'Live!' And the same grace which has saved me is ready to save you also, if you will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ whom God has sent. Look up by faith and see Him whom your sins have pierced! Behold Him bleeding, dying! Behold Him with arms stretched out ready to receive you! Only believe, and the Lord Jesus Christ shall be your salvation.

"But, it may be asked, can any who are born in a reformed country be unbelievers? Do not mistake historical belief for a true faith in the heart. Merely to believe that there was such a person as Jesus Christ, and such a book as the Bible, is not faith any more than to believe there was a Caesar or an Alexander the Great. Faith lays hold on Jesus Christ for personal salvation; it says, 'My Savior, my Lord, and my God!' It believes God's record; it receives His word even if reason and all else go contrary to it. This is the faith that brings the soul to God—to salvation and peace."

—God's Revivalist

Pray for Beulah Camp