

An Investment That Will Never Disappoint

Matthew 25:14-30

Halifax: 21 January 2007

Introduction:

Junior's uncle had just sent him a new set of Lincoln Logs.

- Junior was having a wonderful time with them!
 - But then he heard his mother call in that kind of voice that says,
 - "Junior, I have something I want you to do that you probably won't be very excited about."
 - He pretended not to hear, but she called again and she was coming closer...
 - "Yes Mom?" he called back...
 - "Junior, I want you to clean up your toys in the living room before supper. We have company coming over tonight and I want it to be nice for them."
 - "Yes Mom, I'll get started right away," Junior replied.
- And he did get started, but then the dog asked to go outside, so Junior took the dog out and then came back in again...
 - Junior knew he should go back to the work his mother had given him to do,
 - but the Lincoln Logs were calling loudly and he was quite sure he would have plenty of time to clean up the toys later...
 - He would go and play with the Logs just a little longer and then he would clean up the toys in the living room.
 - "And" he added triumphantly, being glad that he had thought of it, "I will make sure not to get anything else out."
- Soon it was supper time.
 - Junior's mother came to find him, and as she passed through the living room, she saw that the living room was still not cleaned up.
 - She found Junior in his room still playing with the Lincoln Logs...
 - As soon as Junior heard her voice, he immediately said,
 - "Hi Mom, I am playing with my Lincoln Logs in my room so that I won't make a mess in the living room. I wasn't sure where some of the things went and I was afraid you would be mad if I put them in the wrong place, but I didn't get anything else out. I left is just as it was."
 - "Junior!" his mother replied, "you did not obey me! You should have at least put away the things you knew about and you could have asked about the other things."

- “I’m going to have to chasten you for this. It was more important to you to play with your logs than to do what I told you. You have dishonoured me.”

In the Parable of the Talents,

- Jesus tells the story of a lazy servant who was like Junior...
 - He did not care to obey his Master.
 - He had more important things to do!
 - Jesus also tells about two other servants who *did* obey their Master.
- In this parable He shows us the great sin of doing nothing.
 - People often think that as long as they don’t cause any harm, all is well with them—
 - They think, “How could they be blamed if they I have done no wrong?”
 - But Jesus shows us that it is very wrong for to do nothing...
 - To do nothing is a great evil that will meet with severe judgement.

TRANS> Let us look at this Parable that warns us about doing nothing in more detail...

- First of all, I want you to see that

I. Jesus has given us everything we need to carry on His work until He returns.

A. This is illustrated in the parable:

1. The master was going away on an extended journey, so he left his servants with the responsibility to carry on his affairs while he was gone.
 - a. These men are said to be his own slaves *doulooi* —
 - A *doulos* was a servant that belonged to his master’s household permanently.
 - He had been purchased by a price.
 - In those days, people had all sorts of slaves—
 - some of them were menial labourers, but some of them were highly trained—
 - sometimes they were even more educated than their masters...
 - To be a slave in a wealthy and gracious man’s house was sometimes a most desirable thing—you had a good secure living and were respected in the community.

- Such servants would sometimes be given the power to do business in their master's name...what we call "given the power of attorney."
 - Such was the case with the servants in this parable.
- b. The Master had entrusted each of them with a great sum of money...a talent, which is a unit of measure for gold or silver.
- He fully expected them to carry on his business until he returned.
 - They had served him and they knew how he wanted things to be done.
 - They were to maintain things as he would have them until his return.
2. In the same way, Jesus, after He had completed His work on earth, ascended into Heaven...
- He went away for a long time...
- a. But before He did,
- He fully entrusted His church with His work.
 - He expected them to carry out all things according to His commandments until His return.
 - At the end of the gospels, we have His commissioning of His disciples to lead the way...
 - and He tells them that this work is to continue till the end of the age...
 - It is to go on until His return.
- b. Luke shows us in the book of Acts that Jesus' work did continue after He was gone...
- In the first chapter, he tells us that in His gospel, he had written about all that Jesus **began** both to do and teach...
 - Now He is going to tell about the work that Jesus continued to do through His servants in the church.
- c. Jesus expects His servants to carry on His work according to the instructions He has given to us.
- We, who belong to the visible church, will be judged according to whether we have carried on this work.
 - If we have done nothing, we will be severely punished.

B. But what is His work?

1. Oh brothers and sisters, it is a marvellous work—
- the best work in which one could ever be employed:

- Jesus' work could be summarised as that of promoting the glory of God!

2. Consider that this is so:

- a. Why did He come to the earth in the first place? What was the work that the Father had given Him to do?

1) Well of course it was the work of redemption.

- The whole world had fallen into sin and corruption.
- God's curse had come upon us and we were cut off from Him.
- Jesus came as a man to pay the penalty of our sin so that we might be reconciled to God...

2) But what was the goal of reconciliation?

- Of course the word means to make peace between enemies—to bring together estranged parties in peace...
- But what happens when sinners are restored to God?
 - They are restored to their original purpose—they are made to be God-glorifiers once again.

3) What is a God-glorifier?

- A God-glorifier is a person who first of all himself sees and admires the glory of God!
 - And having seen it, He then promotes it...
 - Beholding and promoting the glory of God becomes his whole life...
 - He becomes a worshipper of God in spirit and truth...
 - He does his work to glorify God...
 - He is completely taken up with this as His very life and purpose.

- b. Now brothers and sisters, the Son of God, in becoming a man, was Himself consumed with the work of promoting the glory of God...

1) That was the reason He went to the cross...

- In the prayer He prayed just before His death that is recorded for us in John 17, you can see that this is the reason He is laying down His life...
 - It is so that His church might be able to see and delight in the glory of God and enter the great work that belongs to the human race—the work of God-glorification!

- Listen to what He says in the opening of that great prayer and see if this is not so:
 - John 17:1-6: Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world..."
 - He could not bear with a dull sleepy world that was blind and dead to the glory of God...
 - He was passionate enough to bear the cross in order to restore us to become God-glorifiers!
- 2) You can see also that this is great focus of the prayer that He taught His servants to pray—the prayer that is commonly called the Lord’s Prayer.
- a) The very first petition is “Hallowed by your name.”
 - God’s name speaks of His reputation—what is known of Him...
 - And the word “hallowed” means “set apart in honour, distinguished.”
 - He is teaching His disciples to pray that God’s glory would be known in all the earth...
 - b) And the second petition is closely related to this...
 - “Thy kingdom come.”
 - This is the prayer that the kingdom of righteousness He came to set up in a sinful world would be established...
 - that is, that a whole kingdom would arise in the world that would be dedicated to the glory and service of God...
 - that a kingdom of worshippers who worship the Father in Spirit and truth would grow up in the earth...
 - that a kingdom bearing fruit that brings glory and pleasure to God would arise, a people who do God’s will.
 - c. Jesus came to call us out of the darkness of sin into this marvellous kingdom of light—the kingdom of God—a people who are true worshippers of God.
 - 1) This was the work that He set in motion by His cross and by the sending of the Holy Spirit to indwell us.

- 2) And this is the work that He told His disciples to continue after He went away—
 - They were to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations— God worshippers...
 - They were to call the people of this world to be baptised, accepting His cleansing through the cross and Spirit by faith, and then to live in this glorious kingdom until its perfection when He returns.
- 3) And this is the work that He has left His church to promote and continue until He returns at the end of the age...
 - It is the work of reconciliation, the work of the kingdom, the work of establishing and being a people who glorify God.

C. What has Jesus given to us carry out His work?

- He has given us everything we need...
1. First, He has given us the gospel with its ordinances...
 - The good news of His finished work on the cross to take away our sins.
 - His commandments about how we are to live in love toward God and toward one another...
 - He has given us the church with its pastors and elders and deacons to shepherd his people...
 - He has given us baptism and the Lord's Supper as signs of seals of His grace.
 - All these are given as tools to reconcile us to God and transform us from sinners to true worshippers of God.
 2. And besides all this, He has also given us the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is given to each one of us to enable us to carry out His work... the work of glorifying God...
 - The foundational work of the Spirit is the changing of sinners hearts so that they become holy—
 - set apart to God as those who are able to see God and who want to glorify Him.
 - Then, the Spirit continues this work in what we call sanctification.
 - He makes us into God-glorifiers.
 - But the Spirit also gives us gifts of ministry by which we are enabled to promote God's glory to one another in the world...

- And to be used of God to lead others to repent and be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.
- Jesus gave the Spirit specifically to enable us to do this.
 - Some are given greater gifts (like that of apostle) and some are given lesser gifts, but each one is to be involved in promoting the glory of God with the gifts he or she has been given.

TRANS> And so you see that though He has gone away into heaven,

- He has given us all we need to continue the great work of promoting the glory of God and of making this world a worshipping place.
 - The Spirit and Word are the great deposit that He has given to His church...
 - These are our talents...
- The great question is:

II. What are you doing with His deposit? with your talents?

- The parable of the talents illustrates two very different actions that result from two very different attitudes...
 - First we will look at the two actions and then at the two attitudes that are at the root of these actions...
- A. The two contrasting actions are diligence and indifference concerning the deposit...
 1. We are told that the servant who received the five talents and the one who received two talents were both diligent...
 - a. They gave themselves to their master's work in such a way that they doubled what He had given them!
 - One of them was given more than twice as much, but they each worked according to what they had been given...
 - One is given a large ministry, the other is given a smaller ministry.
 - But they both exercised the same diligence and made the same gain as a percentage of what had been entrusted to them.
 - Now of course, we cannot measure the increase of the deposit and gifts that Christ has given to us in such a quantitative way as this...
 - that is not the point...
 - b. The point is that you are to be faithful with what God has given you to carry out His work...
 - If you are truly alive in Christ, you will be growing.

- You were given gifts by which you are enabled to worship and glorify God, to serve Him and honour Him...
 - And if you are exercising His gifts and working with this deposit...
 - If you are diligently giving yourself to the means of grace...
 - eagerly receiving His word, listening earnestly to sermons, faithful in real prayer, feeding upon Christ in the sacraments by faith...
 - And if you are making the most of your opportunities to serve...
 - to tell others about Him,
 - to disciple your children,
 - to lead your family in family worship,
 - to encourage and correct those under your care,
 - to submit to those who are over you in the Lord,
 - to help those who are in need and to give of your substance to the Lord's work,
 - to perform your calling with honesty and integrity with love to your neighbour...
 - If you are doing all this with sincerity,
 - you are promoting the glory of God in the world and are making excellent use of your Lord's deposit that He died on Calvary to attain for you!
2. But then there is this other servant...the one who was given only one talent...
- a. He did something that was very commonly done in those days when you wanted to keep something safe...
 - He took and buried his talent in the ground...
 - People often did this when there was the threat of invasion by enemies so that the enemies would not be able to find **all** their valuables.
 - This servant did not waste his master's substance the way the prodigal son wasted his father's inheritance...
 - He did not go out and spend it all on wine, women and song...
 - No, he safely put it away,
 - he went to some trouble to make sure that it was preserved until his master returned.
 - He seems to realise all along that this deposit does not belong to him, but to his master.

- b. This corresponds to the person in Christ's kingdom who does nothing with his deposit—nothing against it and nothing for it.
 - 1) He can boast that he hasn't used God's gifts to promote his own agenda—
 - He has done nothing to harm the kingdom of God or the cause of Christ.
 - He does not speak against Christ or against the Church, he does not give himself to drunkenness or to prodigal living...
 - He goes to church and even gives something to the work of the church...
 - though he is very glad for others who can do a lot more because he has a modest income and the cost of living keeps going up.
 - 2) But as far as actually promoting the glory of God and the kingdom of God...
 - He is quite content to leave that to others who have greater gifts...
 - His wife is better at teaching the children about God...
 - And he is not always quite sure to what say when he gets into a religious conversation...
 - and he doesn't want to mislead anyone—the pastor can take care of that.
 - And he is busy with work and all and doesn't have much time for prayer or personal bible study...

TRANS> He's not a bad fellow as far as it goes—most people don't even go to church as he does...

- It is interesting that Jesus makes the comparison in this way...
 - He does not give us the example of a devil, but rather of a nominal Christian here.
- Now I want you to consider...

B. The two attitudes that correspond to the two actions...

- 1. I would suggest to you that the difference in attitude lies in this...
 - a. The faithful men are personally bound up with the cause of their Master and the unfaithful man is not.
 - The faithful are wholly committed to their master's work and have made it their own.
 - They rejoice in His prosperity—it is their greatest desire to see his work succeed and they have given themselves to do whatever they can.
 - They have taken a personal interest in it.

- b. This can be illustrated by men at war...
 - There are two very different sorts of soldiers...
 - There are those who are hired and there are those who are committed to the cause.
 - The hired men are there because they are being paid, and they are committed to the work in as much as it gives them a living...
 - and there may be a few in this category that also delight in being valiant in order to make a great name for themselves,
 - but they could just about easily fight on one side as the other.
 - They may even be very useful, like a good fighter jet, but they are not particularly supportive of the cause.
 - But the other men are the ones who are fighting because they believe in the cause of the war...
 - They are defending principles and a way of life that will be overrun if they are defeated by the enemy.
 - They would, in fact, prefer to die than surrender their homes and their families to the control of the enemy.
 - They have completely given themselves to the cause and will do whatever they can to promote that cause.
 - Their diligent labour proves that they are wholly committed to the cause.
2. Brothers and sisters, the question is, what does your labour for the kingdom of God indicate about your attitude toward the cause of Christ?
- a. Do you get up in the morning in order to promote the glory of God?
 - Is that they reason you go to worship and to work?
 - Is that your goal with your children?
 - Do you give yourselves diligently to pray that His name would be hallowed and that His kingdom would come—
 - a kingdom of men and women that love God and are committed to His purpose?
 - a kingdom of men and women who are reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ and who do all they can to make His glory known?
 - b. Your devotion to Christ is rooted in your trust in Him!

- 1) You have every reason to have absolute confidence in Him if you know Him...
 - You know Him as the eternal God who is infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection...
 - He is altogether lovely and glorious and majestic!
 - You are sure that everything is gained as you unite to His purpose and lose yourself in service to Him.
 - You know Him also as the one whose grace and benevolence exceed all bounds!
 - You marvel that He, in order that you might come to know God and to live unto Him, gave Himself for your sins...
 - That the glory of God was so marvellous in His eyes that He actually went to the cross to make it possible for you to know it!
 - He was **that** committed to the cause of reconciling men and women to God that He gave is all for us...
 - You know Him to have done this and you have made His cause your cause...
 - If promoting God's glory was that important to Him, and if you trust Him to be one who knows what is important, you would be a fool to be indifferent about it!
- 2) And so you are committed without reservation to His work...
 - Without reservation, that is, except in as much as your flesh rises up in opposition...
 - And how you grieve that it so often does!
 - But you yourself are at war with your flesh—you want to be rid of this body of death—you yearn to have no ambition but to do the will of God...
 - You are prepared to die for him if that would further His work...
 - and if you are to live, it is for Him that you are committed to live.
 - You have no other purpose (except when you are inconsistent with what you know) besides His purpose.
 - As far as you are concerned, there is no other reason to live.

TRANS> Now brothers and sisters,

- I hope you are indeed committed to Christ and His cause...

- I hope you are not as one who can see a Saviour sweat drops of blood in agony at Gethsemane and go to a cross and die to reconcile us to God and care little about reconciliation!
 - Can care little about using the gifts he has given you to promote the glory and kingdom of God—to go on living as if none of this had ever happened!
- He who was so passionate about His work will not be indifferent about what you have done to carry on His work in this world...
 - He does not consider a trivial matter if you are one who considers his work to be trivial! He expects you to give yourself to His cause.
- And so the great question to now consider is this:

III. What will He do with you when He returns?

- Will He find you to be one who has devoted your life to Him and His work (and you can't be devoted to Him if you are not devoted to His work),
 - or will He find you to be one who had been indifferent or even opposed to His work?
- A. If He finds you to have been engaged in His work, committed to His cause as evidenced by your life, He will reward you richly!
 1. He will commend you, saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”
 - a. What a marvellous thing this is!
 - He says this to sinners like us with all our inconsistencies and our weakness...
 - We know ourselves to be unprofitable servants...

TRANS> And yet...

- b. If you have been truly united to His cause and have left all to follow Him—
 - He will not be severe with you—but extremely generous in His judgement.
 - He knows that you are sinner—that is why He came and died...
 - He knows about how his disciples struggle with their sins, how they neglect their duties, how their prayers are so weak and cold, how they day dream in public worship, how they quarrel with one another—
 - He knows all that...
 - But if your heart is turned to Him and you have given yourself to Him, though your work for Him leaves much to be desired...

- If there is a real exchange with Christ—
 - if you have really come to Him to find your life in God and you are trusting in Him to give you that life and have been renewed by His Spirit,
 - He will remember even the cup of cold water given in His name and will commend you for it...
 - He will remember all those times you changed the diapers of his weakest servants for His glory...
 - and all the prayers you wrestled through to get past the ceiling and He will surprise you with His commendation...
 - This is really brought out in the section that follows when his servants ask him when they did all the things He commends them for...
- c. So I hope that no tender conscience will be wounded.
- He is no hard demanding master the way the unprofitable servant characterised Him...
 - You must not think of Him in that way...
 - He is generous in His complements and gracious in His acceptance of all those who look to Him.
 - It seems that He finds things to commend!

TRANS> And after He has commended you...

2. He will give you even greater (far greater) things to do in His glorious kingdom...
- a. He does this for each of His faithful servants...
- To the one who began with two talents and made to more as well as to the one who began with five and made five more, He says:
 - v. 21 & 23: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.
- b. This is a marvellous thing!
- We have seen that the work He has given us to do is to promote the glory of God—to see His great glory and to make it known to others...
 - And this is showing that if you have been faithful to do this on earth, you will be given far greater opportunity do it in heaven!
 - If you have delighted in knowing Him and making Him known to others here,
 - you will be able to continue that work in a far greater way in heaven!

- It is a great work here, but it will be even greater in heaven!
 - Here, there is our dullness that is caused by sin and blindness...
 - We are not able to give glory to God as we could wish, and we are often grieved that others are not able to see God's glory when we try to promote it to them.
 - but in heaven, this will all be changed...
 - We will be able to give Him glory and our neighbours will be able to see His glory and they will promote His glory to us and we will be able to see it through them.
 - We will do greater work than we ever dreamed for Him!

TRANS> And after the LORD has commended you and promised to promote you,

3. He will invite you to enter into His own joy!

- Look at the words at the end of His gracious words to His faithful servants...
 - v. 21 & 23: Enter into the joy of your Lord.
- He is not just telling us to enter into joy, but into **His** joy!
 - If you have made His cause your cause and His work your work, He will make His joy your joy!
 - He is a being of infinite happiness—delighting in His eternal fellowship with the Father and the Son,
 - delighting in His the glorious perfections of Himself as Trinity...
 - And here He invites those who have served Him here—
 - albeit imperfectly—
 - to enter into His joy—this perfect joy of His!
 - How trivial our earthly joys and estates will seem compared to these heavenly joys of paradise!
- One of the reasons Jesus came to this earth and did what He did was in order to bring us into His own joy who were alienated from it by sin...
 - In His High Priestly prayer of John 17, He said to the Father:
 - John 17:13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.
 - How boring and dull earth will seem when we have once tasted of heaven's joys!

TRANS> May you all know the Lord's gracious commendation, generous promotion, and gift of joy at the last day as His servants...

- The apostle had this assurance when he came to the end of his life and encouraged others to expect it who had also served Him...
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8: For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
 - If you are serving Him, this is your assurance also.

- B. But if the Lord Jesus finds you to have been indifferent about His work, as evidenced by your lack of labour for His cause, He will punish you severely...
 1. First, He will call you a wicked a lazy servant...
 - a. You may have thought you were okay because you caused no harm,
 - but He will tell you just what He thinks of you!
 - He will tell you just what you are—a wicked and lazy servant...
 - b. How could it be that you who were given the opportunity to be reconciled to God and to live again for His glory could be indifferent about this?
 - How could it be that you should be lukewarm about what your Master is so passionate about?
 - What wickedness is it that can be brought so near to the glorious God and have no care to enter into His worship?
 - What sloth is it that can see the gates of salvation opened wide at so great a price and find something better to do than enter into life?
 - c. This is surely a case where doing nothing involves extreme wickedness!
 - We might compare it to an air traffic controlled who chooses to go on his coffee break when by staying he could have prevented the collision of two jumbo jets... full of men, women, and children...
 - To do nothing is in such a case a great wickedness...
 - But I want you to understand that doing nothing when you have opportunity to glorify our Creator from whom you have been estranged by sin is a far greater evil!
 - We don't see how great an evil it is because sin has blinded us...
 - We see how wicked it is for that air traffic controller to have so little esteem for the lives of those passengers...
 - but we do not see how wicked it is for a living man to have so little esteem for the glory of God.

- This only shows us how deeply and how seriously sin has affected us.
- Oh my brothers and sisters, try to grasp this!
 - In this, see how generous our Lord is to accept our service as imperfect as it is...
 - And see how perfectly just it is for Him to label the one who does nothing for Him wicked and lazy.

TRANS> This is the first thing He will do to you if you have buried your talent:

- He will call you wicked and lazy...
2. Secondly, he will cut you off from any further possibility of joining in the work of promoting God's glory...
 - In verse 28, the Master orders that the talent be taken away from the wicked servant and given to His faithful servant!
 - a. This is a dreadful thing!
 - On the day of judgement, there will be no more opportunity to do what you should have done on earth...
 - Never ever will this you be given what you need to do the glorious work that will belong to God's servants in Heaven forever.
 - b. It is only just...
 - If you did not want to know the glory of God or to make God's glory known in the earth when you had opportunity to do so,
 - why should you be given further opportunity in heaven?
 - You will be entirely cut off from the possibility of giving glory to God.
 3. And thirdly, the Master will order that you be cast into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth...
 - a. This is a terrible description of Hell...
 - It is a place of isolation from the glory of God—a place of darkness where men will never see the beauty that is heaven's joy...
 - It will be a place of suffering in deep anguish as described by weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - b. In mercy, Jesus tells you this now—so that you can repent before it is too late.
 - Of course it makes us uncomfortable to hear about it,

- but how much better to be made uncomfortable now if it might prevent you from the much greater and everlasting discomfort that is to come!
- And besides, let us see in this dreadful punishment the glory of God!
 - The glory of God that is so marvellous that indifference to Him justly demands such a punishment!
 - The glory of God in that Jesus bore this punishment in love to His people to rescue them and restore them!
 - The very thing that makes indifference to God's glory worthy of such punishment is the thing that makes restoration to His glory so desirable!
 - It is the greatness of the beauty and the majesty of God that makes indifference to is to so great an offence...
 - And it is this same greatness of the beauty and majesty of God that makes the beholding of it and promotion of it so great a joy.

Conclusion:

Brothers and sisters, may you give yourself to the work of our LORD Jesus today that you may be among those who have confidence when He comes to judge the world!

- Our Lord is not promoting works salvation here...
 - He is rather describing the effect of salvation on all who have obtained it...
 - You are reconciled to God through faith in Jesus and His finished work on the cross...
 - but (to put it in very plain language),
 - you are not reconciled unless you are reconciled!
 - There is no such thing as a person who has been reconciled to God who has no interest in the work of Christ—which is to glory the Father, to make His glory known in the earth.
 - This is the very thing that His salvation restores you to do...
 - And if you are not doing this, then it is a clear indication that you have not been saved.
 - You cannot be reconciled to one so glorious and have no interest in promoting that glory.
- If you find yourself a stranger to this work,
 - there is only one thing for you to do!
 - Repent and turn to Christ for forgiveness and for grace to begin today!
 - And all of you, I trust,
 - realise from this great parable how much more work there is for you to do!
 - We all come short of the glory of God—
 - we do not see it as we should, not do we promote it as we should...
 - But let us also look to Christ to lead us further into this great work.