

Responding to God's Grace

Genesis 28:16-22

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Introduction:

Last week, we saw the beginning of a new chapter in Jacob's life.

- He has, for perhaps the first time, left home, being sent to find a wife for himself in Padan Aram,
 - and of course his impetus for leaving at this time was that his brother Esau wants to kill him.
- To be sure, it was not a very comfortable time for him...
 - venturing out, insecure, troubled in conscience for the vile way he had behaved, but yet having some hope in the blessing that belonged to his household.
- He had trod along for several days and darkness had forced him to stop for the night in an open field...
 - And it was here, in this desolate place, alone with himself as far as he knew, that the LORD revealed that He was with him!
 - It was a wonderful revelation of a ladder—a great stairway—with its top in heaven and its bottom at the place where Jacob lay...
 - there were angels going up and down and the LORD was at the top of the ladder!
 - It was at this time that, for the first time as far as we know, the LORD appeared to Jacob.
 - And the Lord not only revealed to Jacob this vision, but He also explained to him the significance of the ladder...
 - It was all to give Jacob a revelation of His invisible presence and protection of him—that heaven was busy about him...
 - That He would fulfill through him and his seed all the promises that had been made to Abraham and Isaac, his fathers...
 - That through their seed and now through his seed, a son would be born who would bless their family as well as all the families of the earth.
 - God would be with Jacob to protect him in order that this amazing promise might be fulfilled.
 - We also looked at the further revelation that Jesus gives us about this ladder in John chapter 1 where, speaking to Nathanael,
 - Jesus reveals that Nathanael will soon see that Jesus Himself is the ladder with angels going up and down that connects the elect people of God to God...
 - This, of course, would be revealed when Jesus was crucified as the Lord who redeems His people.
 - It is a scandalous thing for the LORD to bless the likes of Jacob or Nathanael or any of us if it were not for Jesus crucified because we are all sinners...
 - But with a crucified Saviour given for us, we are able to receive the remission of sins—that is how Christ, the *son of promise* blesses the families of the earth!
 - That is how it can be that God is with us to bless us though we be sinners.

- Jacob, of course, could not see all of this that we can see, but he could see that the LORD was with him to bless him even though he was a sinful man...
- And he knew that God had promised that the foundation of this blessing was to be found in the seed that God promised to give to him and his fathers.
- And now the Lord had shown him in this time of uncertainty that He was with him to preserve him that he and his seed might bring forth this salvation in the earth.
 - What a great comfort it must have been to poor Jacob at this time!

As we move along this week, we come to Genesis 28:16 where Jacob responds to the LORD after experiencing this vision.

- In verse 16, we find him waking up from the vision and responding to God.
 - And here we find much to show us how God's elect people respond when God reveals His purpose of grace concerning them.
 - Of course there is much variation, partly due to the different times in which we live (whether before Moses, after Moses, after David, or after Christ), partly due to the different ways that the Lord presents the revelation of His grace to us (sometimes bit by bit, sometimes all at once), and partly due to our own differences in personality and faithfulness (some are calm and some are more demonstrative, and some respond properly and some not so properly)...
 - but in essence, the way we respond when God's grace truly does come to us is the same.
 - And because it is, we are able to look at what happens to a person when God's grace comes to them...we are able to see how a person changes when God has truly converted them.

Let's go to our scripture reading in Genesis 28...

- I will begin in verse 10—even though we looked at verse 10-15 last week—to give us the context.
- So please give attention to God's word, beginning in Genesis 28:10:

Genesis 28:10-22: Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west

and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it*." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!" ¹⁸ Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been

Luz previously. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father’s house in

peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

May the LORD richly bless the reading of His holy Word.

As you can see, verse 16-22 shows us how Jacob responds.

- Here we see what you will do when God reveals to you that you are connected to heaven by Jesus the ladder...
- How does it affect you, how does it change you, what happens to you?

We will look at three things:

- First, that you that it is God Himself who has spoken to you.
- Second, that you worship God
- Third, that you commit yourself to worship Him forever (to take Him as your God).

So let’s look at each of these points...

I. First of all, when God reveals His gracious purpose to you, you know that it is the LORD Himself who has spoken to you.

A. This is something that is really impossible to prove to anyone else...but God makes it clear to us that it is He who has spoken.

1. Jacob is certain of this when he wakes up.

- He was actually asleep when the vision was given to him, but as soon as he wakes up, he immediately says, “**Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.**”
- Jacob was absolutely convinced that what he had experienced during his sleep was an encounter with the LORD Himself.
- All of God’s prophets seem to be able to tell without a doubt when God has spoken to them—He has ways of making it plain to them.

2. We ought not to expect God to speak to us in visions and dreams today because we have something better...

- Now with the coming of Jesus Christ, we have His full revelation given to us in the Holy Scriptures.
- We are much better off than Jacob was because now we see who the ladder is and what He did for us—all is revealed with Jesus Christ.
- Hebrews 1 speaks of a development of God’s revelation in this way:
 - **Hebrews 1:1-2: God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things...**
- And what is more, the Lord always joined with His special revelation to prophets various signs and confirmations...so that others could trust that they spoke for God...
 - For example, with Abraham, there was the miraculous birth of Isaac, and there was the revelation of the destruction of Sodom...

- And then there was the fulfilment of the promise about them going to Egypt and then coming out after four centuries and inheriting the land.
 - And likewise, Moses was given all sorts of signs and prophecies so that everyone would know that he was a true prophet...
 - Just think about all the plagues that he announced before they occurred and how he parted the Red Sea before the people.
 - And of course the disciples of Jesus were given all sorts of signs and wonders to confirm that they were speaking the Word of the Lord.
- So these signs were given to prophets as a confirmation to others that they were speaking the Word,
- but they themselves already knew that they had heard from God—somehow, God made it quite clear to them so that none of them doubted that they were actually speaking the Word.
 - They assert this in their writings, for example, when Paul says to the Thessalonians: **1Th 2:13: For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.**
3. But this raises another point—that not only the prophets knew that their visions and revelations were from the LORD,
- but that when we hear the Word—I mean when those who are God’s elect people hear it—we too are convinced that it is the very Word of God.
 - As we just heard Paul say—**you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.**
 - We might think of many examples of this...
 - There is the woman at the well in Samaria—who—after speaking to Jesus is convinced that He is a prophet...and when her friends hear him, they too are convinced...
 - And there is Lydia whose heart, we are told, was opened when Paul preached to gospel at her prayer meeting in Philippi.
 - This is a work that God’s Spirit does, of bearing witness with our spirits that the Word of God is the Word. We know that it is from God.
 - In a way it is a miracle, and in another way it is not.
 - It is not a miracle because the truth is actually self-authenticating—in other words, it is very obvious and cannot be denied...
 - For example, when God’s word declares that we are sinners and such guilty ones that we deserve to go to hell—it is self-evident even though we may desperately want to deny it.
 - And this is where the miracle comes in—we are spiritually blind and cannot receive the things of God because of our sin,
 - But the Spirit reveals them to us—and He does it by washing away our corruption that causes us to resist the truth and reject it.
 - This is how the Bible describes it:

- **1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**
- But just before that it says of those who believe:
 - **1 Cor 2:10: But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.**
- Jesus Himself explained that after He went away, the apostles would have more power in their preaching because He would send out His Spirit who would convince the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement...
 - In other words, the Holy Spirit would open peoples' blind eyes and change their stubborn hearts so that they would receive God's Word as God's Word.
- But of course it is only the elect that experience this.
 - Others can hear the same sermon or read the same scriptures and not see that it is the very Word of the LORD.
- The truth is there, and they ought to see it, but without the Holy Spirit, sin keeps them from being able to receive it as God's Word.

TRANS> Once we have received God's Word, whether as a prophet like Jacob, or a person today hearing the Word,

- We realise that the LORD was there all along and we did not know it...He was in those scriptures, or in Jacob's case, in that place, and we did not know it...
 - Like Jacob, we say, **"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."**

B. And now everything has changed because now we know that God has spoken to us!

1. You can see this change with Jacob...

- He is awe struck!
 - Verse 17 says: **And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"**
 - This verse might say of us when God speaks to us by His Spirit through the Word, that we are afraid and say, "How awesome is this book! These are none other than the oracles of God, and this is the gate of heaven."
- Sometimes unbelieving churchmen who have not yet recognised that the Bible as the word of God accuse believers of bibleolatry—
 - They say that we worship the Bible because we speak of it the way David does in the Psalms—
 - For example in Psalm 19:7-10 when he says: **The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**

- These churchman may be very smart men, but they cannot understand the work of the Spirit in the heart of a believer.
 - We do not worship the Bible, but we truly hear God speaking to us through its pages.
2. But once you have received God's revelation, there is that holy fear in you towards God's Word!
- a. It is a fear that comforts you (because God has revealed that He is gracious toward you), but still a fear that terrifies you at the same time.
 - You realise that God is holy and that you are not, and you realise that He has the power and good reason to cast you into Hell...
 - It is terrifying to have that One speak to you.
 - But it is comforting because what He has revealed is His grace!
 - He has spoken words of mercy and of grace and assured you that He is with you to bless you—His threats are real, but so are covenant promises of salvation!
 - b. You can never be the same once you have truly received God's Word as God's Word...
 - I love the way the Westminster Confession explains how faith—believing the testimony that God has given us in His Word—affects us...
 - It says (XIV-II) “By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come.
 - You can't help but be humbled and made reverent before the Lord's Word...
 - No longer can you dismiss what God says about things...
 - Now, instead, you dismiss whatever anyone says, no matter how great their credentials, that is contrary to the Word.
 - It is not that you understand everything that God says, or that there are no passages that you have trouble believing...
 - But that from now on, they come to you with an authority that cannot be questioned...as the very Word of God.
 - c. What gratitude you have!
 - What amazement!
 - What conviction!
 - What comfort!
 - What assurance!
 - What love and admiration for your gracious God who has spoken to you!

TRANS> And that brings us to second thing that happens when God has revealed His grace to you!

II. You worship Him!

A. You are constrained to worship Him!

1. You have seen His glory revealed through His gracious words that you have received, and you cannot but worship Him!
 - You were trying to avoid Him before the gospel came to you, and you refused to acknowledge His glory.
 - You did not know that He would or could ever be so gracious to you...
 - But now He has spoken peace to you—and you have seen His glory in Jesus Christ!
2. Do you know how God's glory is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ?
 - It is this...
 - When you truly embrace the gospel, you see how terribly holy God is—so holy that He cannot look upon sin or sinners with favour...
 - He cannot be just and justify you—or forgive you or accept you...
 - not unless His very own Son become a sin offering in your place.
 - You can face reality now about this purity and this holiness of God, because you see that He has sent His Son from heaven to be an offering for your sin.
 - You see that He is merciful and gracious beyond all measure...it is unfathomable to you that such a holy God could be so merciful...
 - You stand before His glory in wondering amazement!
3. And so you do not worship Him merely as a duty,
 - But you worship Him because you must—because His love constrains you!
 - He must be worshipped and your children must worship Him too!
 - Nobody has to drag you along to church—there is fire in your soul for God.
 - Oh yes, you still neglect His worship to be sure, but it is no longer because you are fearing what the preacher or the other worshippers or your spouse will think if you miss...
 - Now it is because you have dealings with God!
 - Remember what we looked at in the Song of Solomon recently—where the woman who represents a true believer rebuffed Christ when He came knocking at the door...and with regret, she went out in the night to find Him?
 - She did not go out looking for Him again because the daughters of Jerusalem came to get her!
 - She went looking for Him because she loved Him and she wanted to be with Him! Her soul yearned for Him.

B. When He has spoken grace to you, you do what you can to bring worship to Him.

1. You can see this with Jacob in our text...
 - a. He is constrained to worship, but what does he have?
 - He is all alone. He has no church to go to.
 - He is far from home.

- His father sent him away without servants and cattle, probably because he wanted to make sure that he returned to obtain his inheritance.
 - Jacob does not have the means to build an altar.
 - And even if he did, what would he offer on it?
 - b. But he *must* worship because God has appeared to him, so what does he do?
 - He takes what he has—the stone that he put beside his head, and the oil that he has in his bags...as verse 18 says...
 - **Gn 28:18: Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.**
 - It is a makeshift altar.
 - He worships God as Abraham and Isaac did when God had appeared to them...but he is all alone with God...
 - He does not have the provision and he does not have a company of people, but still he worships with what he has.
 - It is clear that he is not doing this to impress others—he is alone with God.
 - c. This stone is a monument—that here, at this place, heaven was opened to him...
 - It was here (at this place) that God’s house was brought down to him and here (at this place) that he had access to the Most High.
 - Thus he names the monument *Bethel* which means *house of God*.
 - The city that was either there at this time or built later was called *Luz*, but this place where God appeared to Jacob was called *Bethel* so that in later years when Israel returned from Egypt and took this city from the Canaanites, the city they called *Luz* was renamed *Bethel*.
 - But do you see what Jacob is doing with this monument?
 - He is declaring God’s mercy in opening heaven to him and in revealing His acceptance of him!
 - It is a declaration of God’s name, of His grace, of the gospel!
 - God’s house has come down to him and by establishing this monument, Jacob declares what God has done,
 - just as in our worship we declare the gospel in the assembly, telling what God has done.
2. That is what you will do when you have received the grace of God.
- a. You declare the gospel!
 - You declare that God is reconciled to you through Jesus—you declare it however you can!
 - You declare that He has accepted you into His house.
 - b. And in your case, you are not ordinarily alone...
 - You are able to join in an assembly of Christians where the gospel is publicly declared and where a minister leads...

- You are able to be baptised, if you have not been (Jacob was already circumcised) and you are able to publically profess your faith in the assembly.
 - Jacob would have done this if he could, but he was alone
- You are able to encourage others and to sing praises to your God.
- You are able to gather for the preaching of the word and to receive the sacrament...
 - You do this with profound admiration for God and with love in your soul and with gratitude for what He has done.
- c. And if you are ever cut off from public worship,
 - You still do what you can—like Jacob—you pray and give thanks where you are for what God has done. You declare what God has done.
 - If you are in prison, you sing psalms of praise to God from your cell.
 - No one can keep you from worshipping the Lord.

TRANS> But when God's grace has come to you, you not only worship Him on the day that His grace is revealed to you...

III. You also commit yourself to continue worshipping Him forever.

A. Here with Jacob we have a pattern that we find again and again in scripture.

1. Those who receive the grace of God make vows to God.
 - Vows worked like this as we find them in the Bible...
 - a. A person would be praying for something that they really wanted from God...
 - and as they thought about it, they would think about how grateful they would be if God answered them—
 - and how much they would want to give thanks to Him...
 - and how they would want to tell others what God had done and to get them to celebrate with them before God.
 - But there was also a reality check that—you know how we all are—that if God did answer them, they would forget to thank Him.
 - Remember when Jesus healed the ten lepers, and afterward, He pointed out that only one returned to give thanks?
 - If you had spoken to them when they still had leprosy and had asked them what they would do if Jesus healed them, they would say that they would serve Him forever!
 - But when healing comes, it is easy to forget the one who healed you.
 - b. A vow is a remedy to keep a person from forgetting to return to give thanks.
 - With a vow, the person would obligate themselves to do what they ought to have done anyway.
 - But now they had a binding solemn obligation that they had made before God to keep them on track.
 - Usually the vow involved a commitment to offer sacrifices to God and to gather friends and neighbours and the poor together to feast and celebrate before God and to declare to the assembly what God had done!

- To use the language of Psalm 118, a vow was a way of binding the sacrifice of praise with cords to the horns of the altar...
 - A thing that was done with animals that were to be sacrificed so that they would not run away.
 - We bind our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the horns of the altar with the cords or ropes of a vow before God.
2. And so it was that in Jacob's case, that he made the vow we find in verse 20.
- He made this vow because God had revealed His gracious commitment to be his God and to bring His promised salvation to the world through him!
 - a. Jacob knew that if God preserved him and brought him back to the land in order that he might indeed be the one who would bring forth the promised seed—especially when he was feeling uncertain of his life,
 - that it would only be right for him to thank God!
 - And not just that he felt obligated to do this, but that it was something he wanted to do after this wonderful revelation of God's grace.
 - He was in the mode of one who was saying to God, in response to what God had done, "I love you and I will serve you forever!"
 - And so in verse 20 & 21 it says,
 - **Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God."**
 - In saying, "the LORD shall be my God," Jacob is saying that he will serve God forever!
 - To have God as your God means that you are devoted to Him as God.
 - So you see that it was not a vow that obligated him to some strange action that he would take—it was a vow that held him to what was already his duty.
 - That is the way vows ought to be.
 - b. And then you see how Jacob also promises a fitting gift that he will offer here at Bethel, the place he has named *the house of God*...
 - He promises that he will give a tithe, which is one tenth, of all that God gives to him.
 - In v.22 it says: **"And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."**
 - There would be an assembly called out to join in feasting before the Lord.
 - If he had family, they would join him, and he would invite the poor and whoever would come...
 - And he would give glory to God for His faithfulness and goodness.
3. Vows such as this are very pleasing to God!
- They are spoken of frequently in the law of Moses where regulations are prescribed for the making and fulfilling of vows.
 - And they are mentioned a lot in the Psalms—

- Psalm 61, our Psalm of Focus, speaks of fulfilling vows when God has answered our prayers...
- And I like the way the way Psalm 65 anticipates that praise will surely be coming God's way because He is so faithful in answering prayers that those who have made vows will be coming to thank Him!
 - It says: **Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; and to You the vow shall be performed. O You who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come.**

TRANS> And now I want you to see something marvellous.

- The greatest act of mercy that God has ever done was to give His Son to die for our sins and to accept Jesus' sacrifice when He offered Himself for our sins.

B. And it is such a marvellous thing that the worship of the entire church is in response to the vow that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour made from the cross.

- As we saw when we studied Psalm 61 a couple of weeks ago,
 1. When Jesus was on the cross He made a vow to God!
 - a. You know what He was doing on the cross, don't you?
 - He was there for one reason—to bear the sins of His people.
 - He became sin for us—not that He ever sinned—never would He or could He...
 - but that as our Head, He voluntarily took responsibility for the sins of the entire church,
 - It was as if He had committed them all before the Father...
 - He took the shame for all of them, He bore the guilt for all of them, He suffered the curse for all of them.
 - that God might not hold our sins against us and still be a holy and righteous judge.
 - b. We cannot begin to conceive of how hard it was for our LORD to do this thing!
 - He who, even in human flesh, was still the person of God's Son—and so utterly abhorred sin—more than we can possibly understand...
 - And yet for us, to the cross He went to bear it all!
 - c. And while there, He yearned for the moment when His Father would say, “It is enough—justice has been satisfied—the entire debt is paid—the whole church is justified...”
 - It was in relation to the cross that, as it says in Hebrews 5:7. He **offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear.**
 - In Psalm 22, which is a prophetic revelation of His suffering on the cross, He cries out in agony until verse 21,
 - and it is then, at the end of verse 21, that He is heard!
 - He knows that God has accepted Him and the whole church by receiving His sacrifice.
 2. And it is, of course, in relation to being heard that Jesus refers to His vow!
 - a. What did He oblige Himself to do if God heard Him from the cross?

- Our LORD promised to gather the whole church (the great assembly—Ps 22:25) together and (as He says) “pay my vows (Ps 22:25)”
 - He would “declare God’s name to them and how the father did not despise nor abhor his affliction but heard Him when He made this offering (Ps 22:24)”
 - That the Father had accepted His sacrifice for our sins...
 - And then He would lead them in singing praise to God (Ps 22:25)!
 - b. And He speaks of how this praise will spread to “all the ends of the world (Ps 22:27)” and to “the families of the nations (Ps 22:27)” as had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...
 - And of how it will continue to all generations so that “a posterity will serve Him!” (Ps 22:30).
 - He sees the whole world joining in the praise of His saints that God is reconciled to them through the blood of the cross!
3. That is what our weekly worship is about!
- a. Jesus calls us together to rejoice in what God has done each Lord’s Day.
 - The matter of God hearing Jesus when He was bearing our sins is such a huge, eternal, marvellous, blessing,
 - that it calls for continual praise and thanksgiving from the church in every age!
 - And that is what Jesus vowed that He would lead us to do, and that is what He does do each Sunday...
 - He calls us together and He commands that the gospel be preached and that praise be offered up to God...
 - b. And so it is that whenever anyone comes to the Lord, we ask them to take vows in which they obligate themselves to be God’s worshippers.
 - We have them profess that God will be their God and that they will be faithful to continue in His worship,
 - and to support the church’s worship,
 - and to submit to the elders who lead the church and who keep them accountable to their vows...
 - In essence we are saying, “This is what the LORD has done for me, therefore, I will serve Him forever.
 - The LORD will be my God, I will follow Him and serve Him forever.”

Conclusion: I tell you, if we understand even the hundredth part of what the Lord has done for us, it is our highest privilege to return thanks for it!

- What a delight to come together with our LORD Jesus who paid for our sins and to rejoice in the salvation that He procured for us by His marvellous grace!
 - He calls us His children, saying to God the Father: (Heb 2:13) **“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”**
 - And He calls us His brothers and says to God the Father: (Heb 2:12) **“I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”**
- Jesus is the One who has opened heaven for us!
 - He is the ladder that brings heavens blessing down to us sinners!

- The assembly, the church, is Bethel, the house of God, the dwelling place of God, His temple, with Jesus as the foundation...
 - Like Jacob, Jesus calls us Bethel and anoints us with the oil of the Holy Spirit so that we might continue in the worship of God.
 - What powerful obligations are upon us!
 - What grace!
 - How His love constrains us!