

do not turn your backs, do not let the devil hurry you away be not afraid of conviction. Do not think worse of the doctrine, because preached without the church-walls. Our Lord, in the days of his flesh, preached on a mount, a ship, a field; and I am persuaded many have felt his gracious presence here. Indeed we speak what we know. Oh, do not reject the kingdom of God against yourselves! be so wise as to receive our witness. I cannot, I will not let you go. Stay a while, and let us reason together. However lightly you may esteem your souls, I know our Lord has an unspeakable value for them. He thought them worthy of his precious blood: I beseech you therefore, O sinners, be ye reconciled to God. I hope you do not fear being accepted in the beloved. Behold he calls you; behold he prevents and follows you with his mercy.

And because many of you would not come to a church, behold he has sent forth his servants into the highways and hedges, to compel you to come in. Remember then, that, at such an hour of such a day, in such a year, in this place, you were all told what you ought to think concerning Jesus Christ. If you now perish, it will not be for lack of knowledge. I am free from the blood of you all. You cannot say I have been preaching damnation to you. You cannot say I have, like legal preachers, been requiring you to make brick without straw. I have not bid you make yourselves saints, and then come to God; but I have offered you salvation on as cheap terms as you can desire. I have offered you Christ's whole wisdom, Christ's whole righteousness, Christ's whole sanctification and eternal redemption, if you will but believe in him. If you say you cannot believe, you say right; for faith, as well as every other blessing, is the gift of God. But then it is free to all that confess themselves sinners, and sincerely ask it in his dear Son's name. Ask, then, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and a door of mercy shall be opened unto you. For if Christ has given himself, will he not give you faith, whereby alone his merits can be applied to your hearts?