

SMOKING FLAX

A Sermon by Pastor C. H. Spurgeon

The smoking flax, that is quenched in the fire of the Holy Spirit...

I believe that the true cause of these words is not some sin, but a heart that is not truly converted...

Usually these words are understood to mean that Jesus Christ will deal very gently with timid believers...

I am talking of it, at this time, I shall first inquire, what state this metaphor represents...

Dear friend, if you are like the smoking flax, there is something good in you; but that is so sadly little that there is a great deal that is trying about you...

Some are in that state when they are newly saved—when the flax has just been lighted. Those that are to be received into the church...

Being newly converted, they are strange to many things. You have made a host of discoveries. You find more apparently in your heart than you thought there were...

Worldlings had departed. If some of you never have any holy joy, I am not surprised for you are so taken up with the world...

There are many other reasons why we grow dim at times—reasons, but none of them sufficient to be an excuse...

He will not quench you, dear friend, by setting up a high experimental standard. Certain deep divines will say, "You must have felt so much of this, and so much of the other, or else you cannot be a child of God..."

He will not judge you, dear friend, by the amount of knowledge you have. I have known persons who have thought, "If that convert is not better instructed in the doctrine he is not a child of God..."

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Dr. Allen's "Welcome" The chapel was light and warm, and nearly filled with well-dressed people...

John Calvin and John Knox demolished. Our readers may have seen notice in the papers of a young man who recently came to this country from the far East to study theology...

By what might have seemed to some a coincidence, but which the pastor counted a providence, the subject for the evening's previous announcement was "The Good Shepherd." The strange hour at first looked around the room the room curiously...

When he pictured him weary and worn with the search for and blessing with the roughness of the way, calling after the sheep, and sometimes passing so near that the faintest cry of the wanderer, might reach the ear and cause the heart of the tender shepherd to rejoice, the shaggy head was lifted and the dull eyes seemed to brighten...

But one was out on the hills away. Far off from the gates of gold, Away from the mountains wild and bare, Away from the tender shepherd's care,

"Sick and helpless, and ready to die," those near him heard him repeat the words, "Sick and helpless, and ready to die."

The benediction was pronounced, and the people were passing out, but Dr. Allen, who had been sitting by the hand, and a half dozen had stopped to see what had happened next. It was this: Two or three skillfully out questions drew out the poor man's story. It was not a new story, but the old of a ruined and broken home, a steady downward course...

There was just a moment's silence. Then the man said solemnly, as if with effort of the memory, "I will arise and go unto my father. Isn't there something like that in the Book?"

And Knox, too—poor Knox! He had already received enough hard knocks to kill an ox. It was of Knox that Carlyle wrote: "That that Knox did for this nation was more than any other man has done since the death of the great King."

side, and in front "Come in, all are welcome." Dr. Lowry had called it a piece of nonsense, and said, "He didn't believe in advertising a prayer meeting like a show."

And now by a strange providence his own boy had been led back to him and to his heavenly Father through the very means which he has so despised.

Mr. Lowry shook his head "I have learned a lesson," he said, "I thought it scarcely too much of the way of the world, but I see now it was a legitimate means, and God has blessed it to the salvation of my boy—Church and Home"

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