

The Sinfulness of Sin & The Greatness of God's Grace

Puritan Conference 2022

Dr. Michael Riccardi



Key Resources on Sin

- Beeke & Jones, *Puritan Theology*, esp. p. 203n3
- John Owen Volume 6
 - *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*
 - *Of Temptation: The Nature and Power of It*
 - *Indwelling Sin in Believers*
- Thomas Goodwin, *The Unregenerate Man's Guiltiness Before God* (Works, vol 10)
- Anthony Burgess, *Original Sin*
- *The Sinfulness of Sin*: S. Bolton, Burroughs, Reynolds, Venning



Key Resources on Grace

- Beeke & Jones, *Puritan Theology*
- John Owen, *The Person of Christ*
- John Owen, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*
- Thomas Goodwin, *Of Christ the Mediator*
- William Perkins, *Predestination*
- John Flavel, *The Fountain of Life Opened*



The Sinfulness of Sin & The Greatness of God's Grace

“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



— Romans 5:20–21

I. The Sinfulness of Sin

1. The Usefulness of Studying Sin
2. The Supreme Wickedness of Sin
3. The Loathsomeness of Sin
4. Sin is Contrary to the Glory of God
5. Sin is Contrary to the Good of Man
6. The Deceitfulness of Sin
7. The Wretched End of Sin
8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



I. The Sinfulness of Sin

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1. Usefulness of Studying Sin

“It cannot but be extremely useful to let men see what sin is: how prodigiously vile, how deadly mischievous, and therefore how monstrously ugly and odious a thing sin is. Thus a way may be made (1) For **admiring** the free and rich grace of God. (2) For **believing** in our Lord Jesus Christ. ...



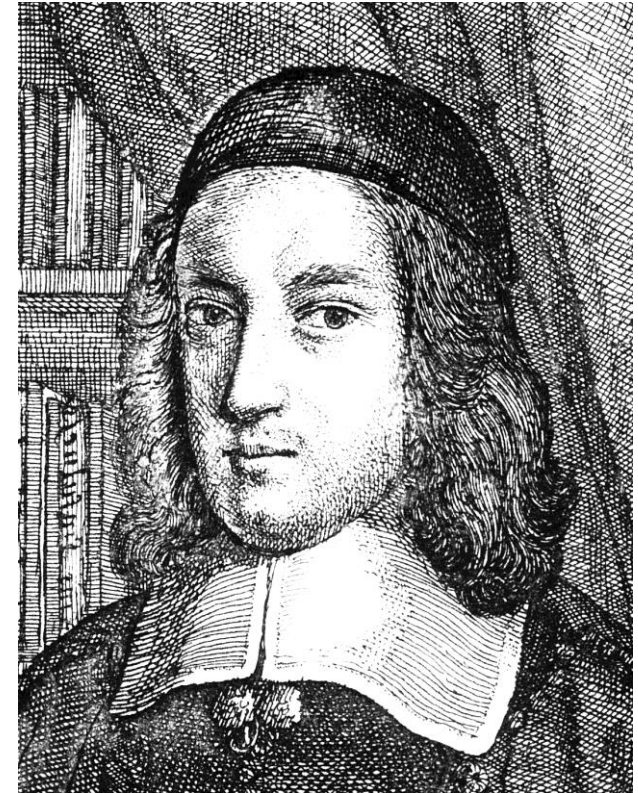
Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 18



1. Usefulness of Studying Sin

“...(3) For **vindicating** the holy, just and good law of God, and his condemnation of sinners for breaking it. (4)

For **hating** sin, and **repenting** for and from it, thereby taking a holy, just and good revenge on it and ourselves. ...

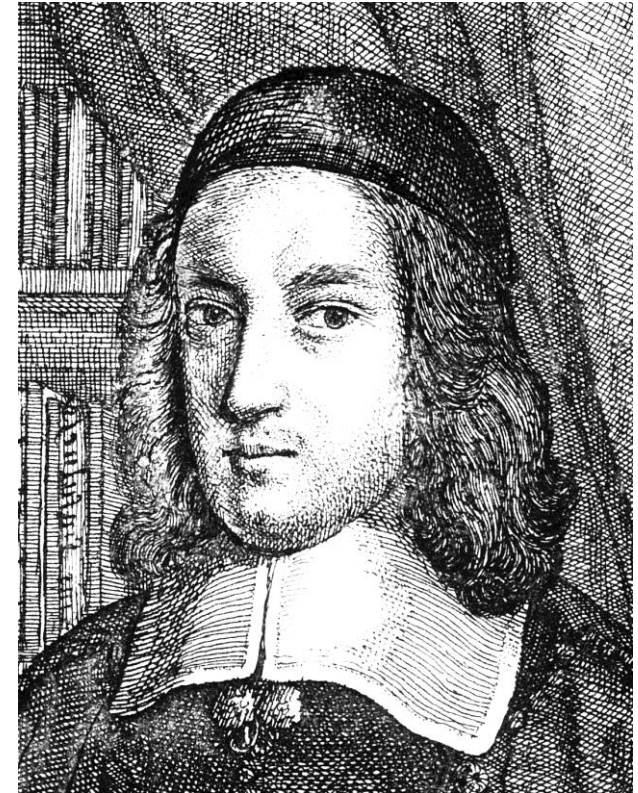


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 18



1. Usefulness of Studying Sin

“...(5) That we may **love** and **serve** God at a better rate than we ever did in the little and short time of innocence itself. (6) And, lastly, that this black spot may serve to set off the admirable, incomparable, and transcendent **beauty of holiness.**”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 18



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2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin

Romans 7:13 “denotes the malignant, pestilent and pernicious nature and operation of sin, **its own name being the worst** that can be given to it.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 19



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin

“As God is holy, all holy, only holy, altogether holy, and always holy, so sin is sinful, all sinful, only sinful, altogether sinful, and always sinful. ... As in God there is no evil, so in sin there is no good.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 31



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin

Sin “is the master of
misrule, the author of
sedition, the builder of
Babel, the troubler of
Israel and all
mankind.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 32



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin



“All misery
calleth sin
mother.”

George Swinnock, *The Door of Salvation
Opened*, Works, 5:179



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin

“Sin has the devil for its father, shame for its companion, and death and damnation for its wages.”



Thomas Watson,
The Way of Salvation



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin



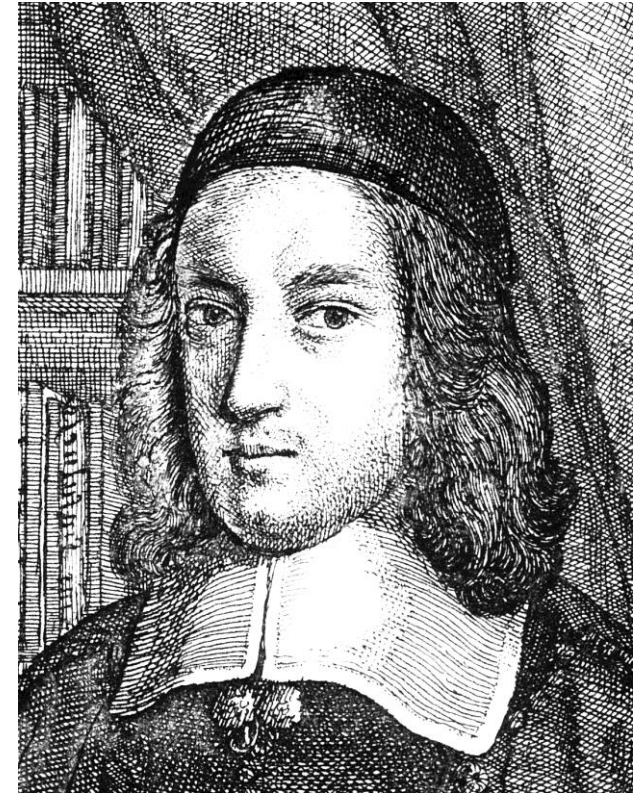
John Bunyan,
“Mr. John Bunyan’s Dying Sayings,” 79

“Sin is the dare of
God’s justice, the rape
of his mercy, the jeer
of his patience, the
slight of his power, the
contempt of his love.”



2. Supreme Wickedness of Sin

“We may go on and say,
it is the **upbraiding** of
his **providence** (Psalm
50), the **scoff** of his
promise (2 Peter 3:3–4),
[and] the **reproach** of his
wisdom (Isaiah 29:16).”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 32



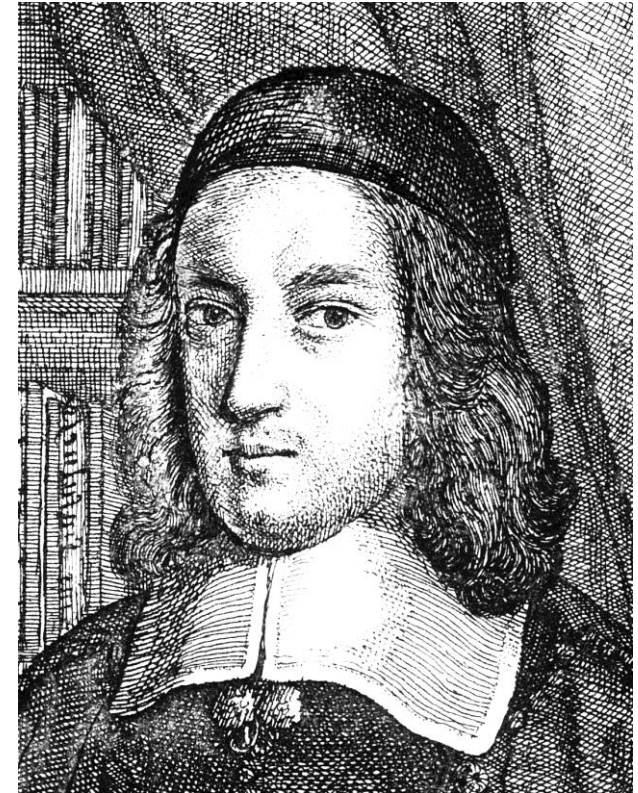
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3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“...Sin is likened to the **rot**, to the **filth** and **corruption** of the foulest disease, which is so foul and rotten that one would not touch it with a pair of tongs, as the proverb goes. The Apostle tells us that some, like Jannes and Jambres, resist the truth; he calls them men of **corrupt** or **rotten** minds. ...

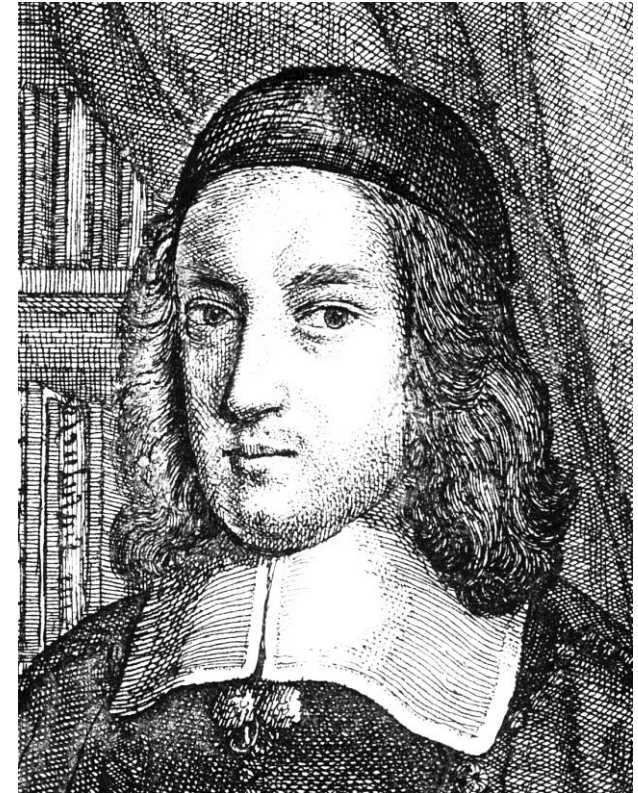


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“...And Solomon would have us know that just as a sound heart is the life of the flesh, so envy (anything opposed to the sound heart) is the **rottenness of the bones** (Proverbs 14:30). Indeed, sin is likened to the **plague** from which everyone flies. It is so offensive and loathsome that it separates the nearest relations. ...

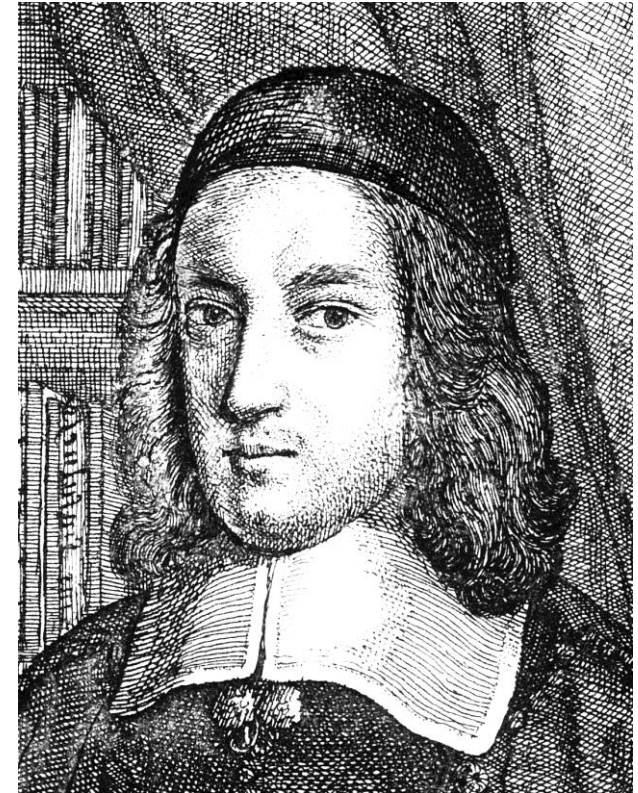


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“...Now sin is called **the plague of the heart** (1 Kings 8:38, 39) which is much worse than any sore of the body. And this is not all. Sin is not only likened to the most loathsome diseases, but also to the other most loathsome things there are. It is likened to **the blood in which infants are born**, which is loathsome (Ezekiel 16:5,6). ...

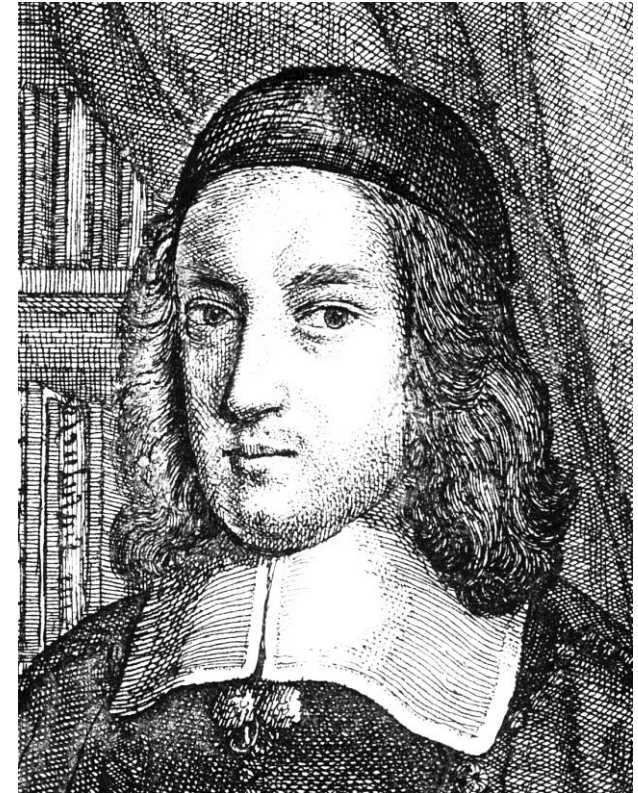


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



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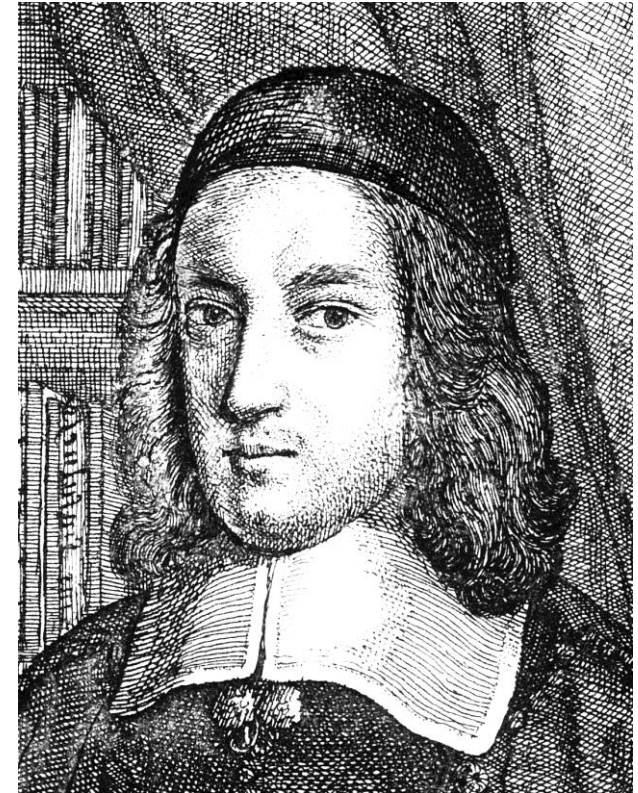


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“...It is likened to mire and dung, to the very excrements that lie in ditches and sewers in which sows and swine wallow, and even to the vomit of dogs (2 Peter 2:22). It is compared to the putrefaction of graves and sepulchres (Matthew 23:27, 28), which stink, as Martha said of Lazarus when he had been some days dead (John 11:39). ...

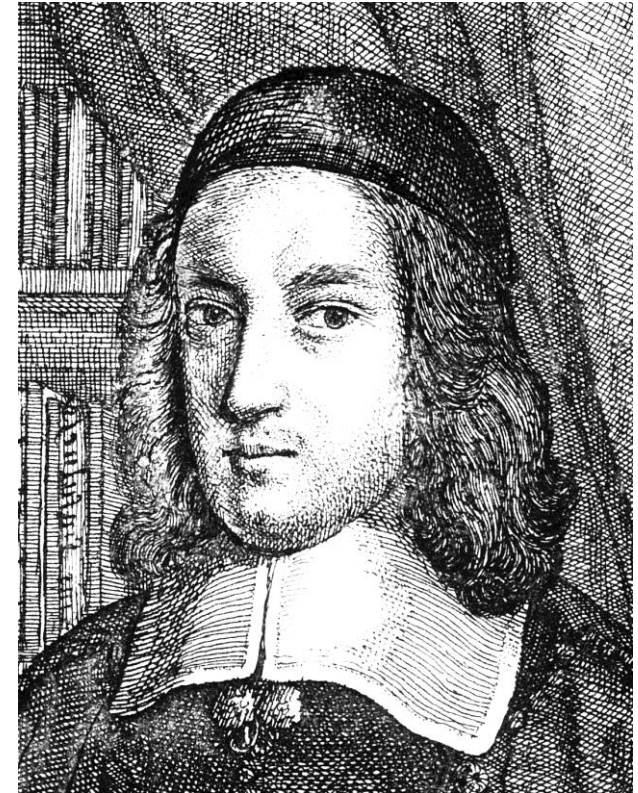


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“...It is also likened to **poison** (Romans 3:13). All these things, and others which I shall not name, are loathsome things at which men stop their noses and from which they hide their eyes.”

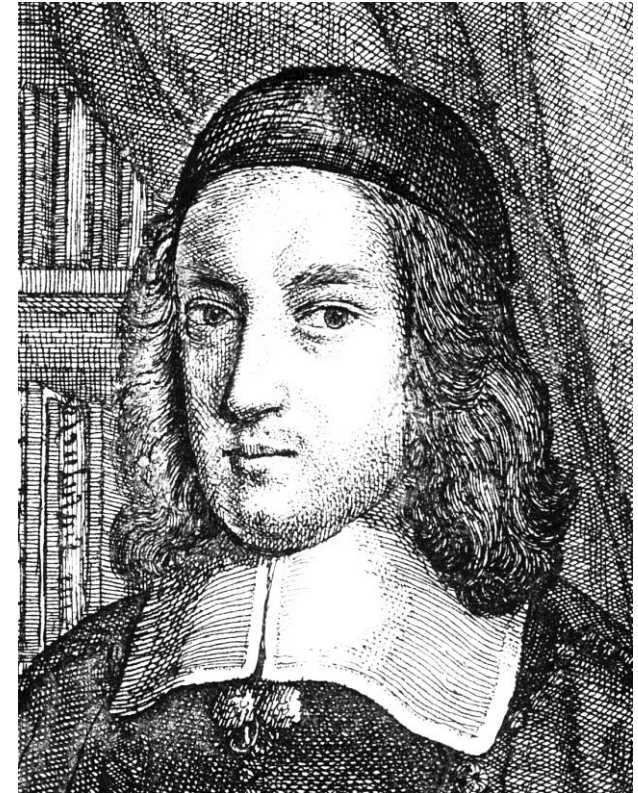


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 161



3. Loathsomeness of Sin

“Now all the former examples reach only to the body and do not defile the man. But sin reaches to and seizes on soul and spirit, and defiles the man (Matthew 15:19, 20). This is the **canker**, the **rottenness**, the **plague**, the **poison** of the **soul**, and sin is not only worse than any, but than all of these. ... Truly **filthy** beyond expression or imagination.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 162



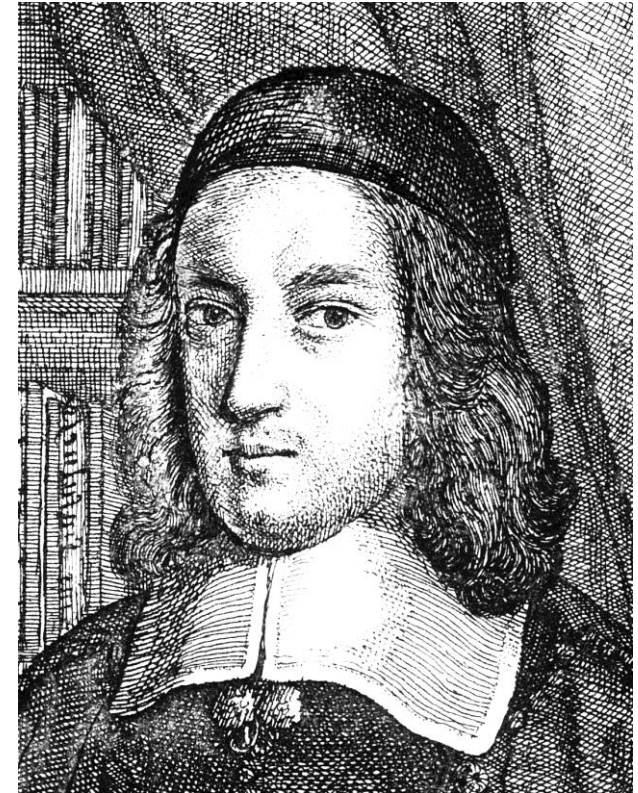
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4. Contrary to the Glory of God

“It goes about to ungod
God, and is by some of
the ancients called
Deicidium, God-
murder or God-killing.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 30



4. Contrary to the Glory of God



Joseph Alleine,
Heaven Opened, 190

“Sin is the **insurrection** and **rebellion** of the heart against God. It turns from Him and turns against Him; it runs over to the camp of the enemy and there takes up arms against God. Sin is a running from God and a fighting against God; ...



4. Contrary to the Glory of God



Joseph Alleine,
Heaven Opened, 190

“...it would spoil the Lord of all the jewels of His crown. It **opposes** the sovereignty of God. A sinful heart would set up itself in God’s throne; **it would be king in His stead** and have the command of all. Sinners would be their own gods.”



4. Contrary to the Glory of God

“Poor soul! Can you find it in your heart to hug and embrace such a monster as this? Will you love that which hates God, and which God hates? God forbid! Will you join yourself to that which is nothing but contrariety to God, and all that is good? ...



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 36



4. Contrary to the Glory of God

“Oh, say to this idol, this devil, get hence, what have I to do with you, you (Elymas) sorcerer, you full of all malignity and mischief; you child, yea father of the Devil, you who are the founder of Hell, an enemy to all righteousness, who ceases not to pervert the right ways of the Lord, and to reproach the living God! ...



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 36



4. Contrary to the Glory of God

“Away! away! Shall I be
seduced by you to **grieve** the
God of all my **joy**, to
displease the God of all my
comfort, to **vex** the God of all
my **contentment**, to do **evil**
against a **good** God, by whom
I live, move, and have my
being? Oh no!”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 36



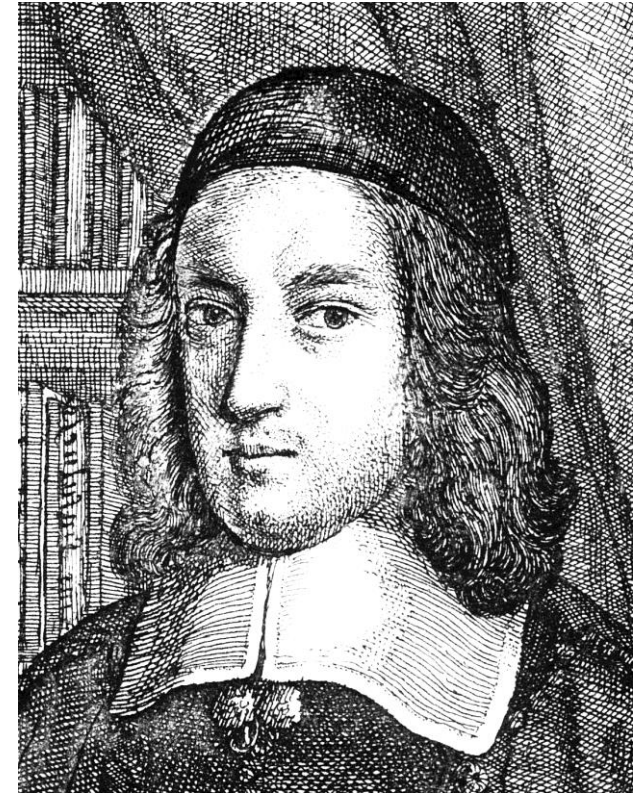
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5. Contrary to the Good of Man

“Inevitably, that must be evil to man, which is evil against God, who is **the chiefest good of man**. Communion with, and conformity to God **is man’s felicity**, his heaven upon earth and in heaven too, without which it would not be worth his while to have a being. ...

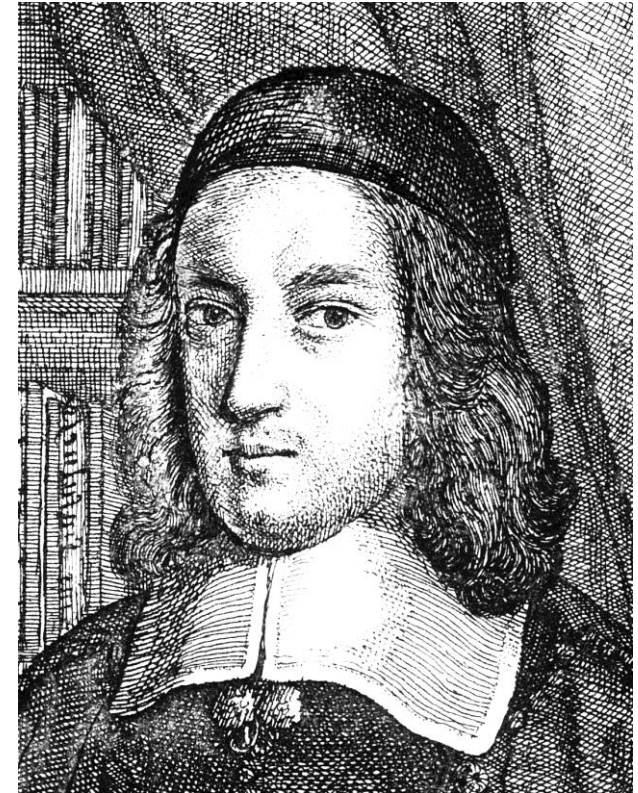


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 37



5. Contrary to the Good of Man

“...Now since sin is a
separation between God
and man, an interruption
of this communion and
conformity, it must needs
be prejudicial and hurtful
to him.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 37



5. Contrary to the Good of Man

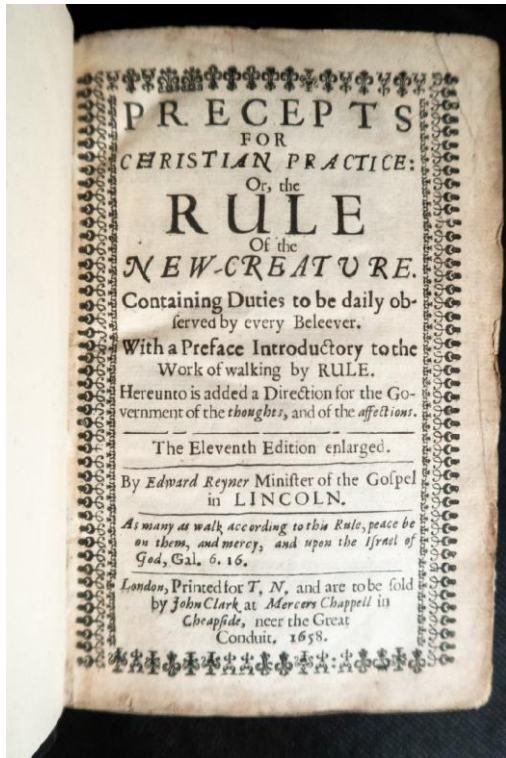
“Seeing then that man’s happiness lies so much in seeing God, what a great mischief has sin done to man in separating him from the sight of God! Man cannot see God and live, whereas the best life is in seeing God.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 66



5. Contrary to the Good of Man

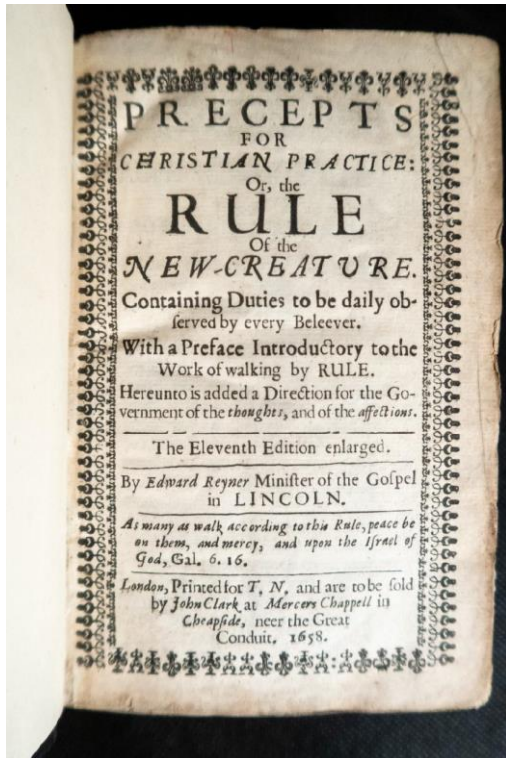


Edwards Reyner,
Precepts for Christian Practice, 58

“Sin sets up a **partition wall**,
or **separates** between Christ
and the soul, and keeps
them at a **distance** that the
soul cannot come nigh Him
to take Him. ...



5. Contrary to the Good of Man



Edwards Reyner,
Precepts for Christian Practice, 58

“Sin darkens and blinds the eye that should behold Christ; withers the hand that should receive Christ; and shuts the heart that should entertain Him. While you will keep sin, you neither will nor can take Christ nor open your hearts to let the King of glory come in.”



5. Contrary to the Good of Man

“Sin clips the wings of
prayer so that it will
not fly to the throne of
grace.”

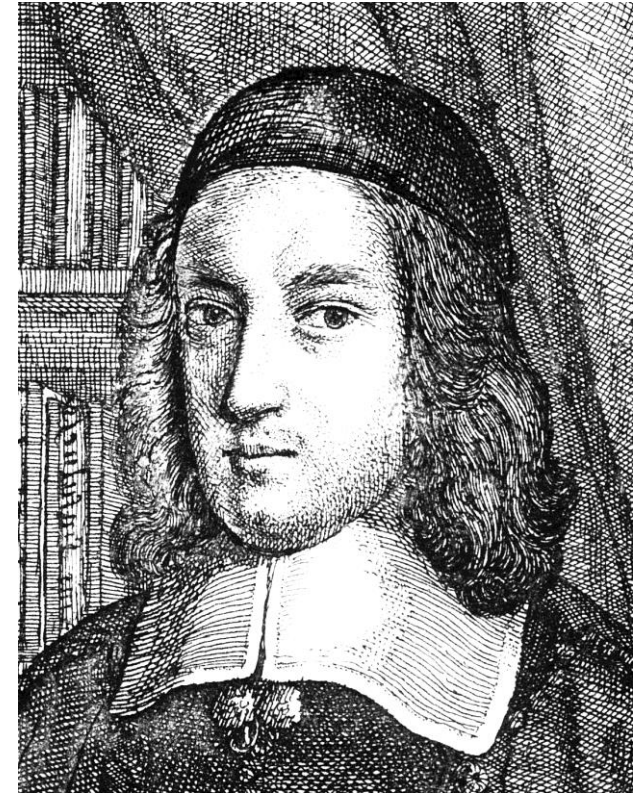


Thomas Watson,
The Mischief of Sin, 58



5. Contrary to the Good of Man

“Did men consider what they are doing when they sin, they would abhor it; for who would **rush to his own ruin**? Who would **drink poison**? None but fools or madmen! Did men consider that the wages of sin is death, that wrath and hell attend sin, they would surely be more wary.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 58



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6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 29

“Device 1: To present the bait and hide the hook; to present the golden cup, and hide the poison; to present the sweet, the pleasure, and the profit that may flow in upon the soul by yielding to sin, and by hiding from the soul the wrath and misery that will certainly follow the committing of sin.”



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 30

“Satan with ease puts fallacies upon us by his golden baits, and then he leads us and leaves us in a fool’s paradise. He **promises** the soul honour, pleasure, profit, **but pays** the soul with the greatest contempt, shame, and loss that can be.”



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin

“The precious substance promised by sin ends in a pernicious shadow, and the spoils we get by sin only spoil us. Sin promises like a God but pays like a Devil. ... Sin’s performance is altogether contrary to its promises; it promises gold and pays dross.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 170



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 35–36

“Remedy (3). To look on sin with that eye [with] which within a few hours we shall see it. Ah, souls! when you shall lie upon a dying bed, and stand before a judgment-seat, sin shall be **unmasked**, and its dress and robes shall then be taken off, and then it shall appear more vile, filthy, and terrible than hell itself; ...



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 35–36

“...then, that which formerly appeared most sweet will appear most **bitter**, and that which appeared most beautiful will appear most **ugly**, and that which appeared most delightful will appear most **dreadful** to the soul. ... O souls! the day is at hand when the devil will pull off the paint and garnish that he hath put upon sin, ...



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 35–36

“...and present that monster, sin, in such a monstrous shape to your souls, that will cause your thoughts to be troubled, your countenance to be changed, the joints of your loins to be loosed, and your knees to be dashed one against another, and your hearts to be so terrified, ...



6. The Deceitfulness of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 35–36

“...that you will be ready, with Ahithophel and Judas, to strangle and hang your bodies on earth, and your souls in hell, if the Lord hath not more mercy on you than he had on them. Oh! therefore, **look upon sin now as you must look upon it to all eternity**, and as God, conscience, and Satan will present it to you another day!”



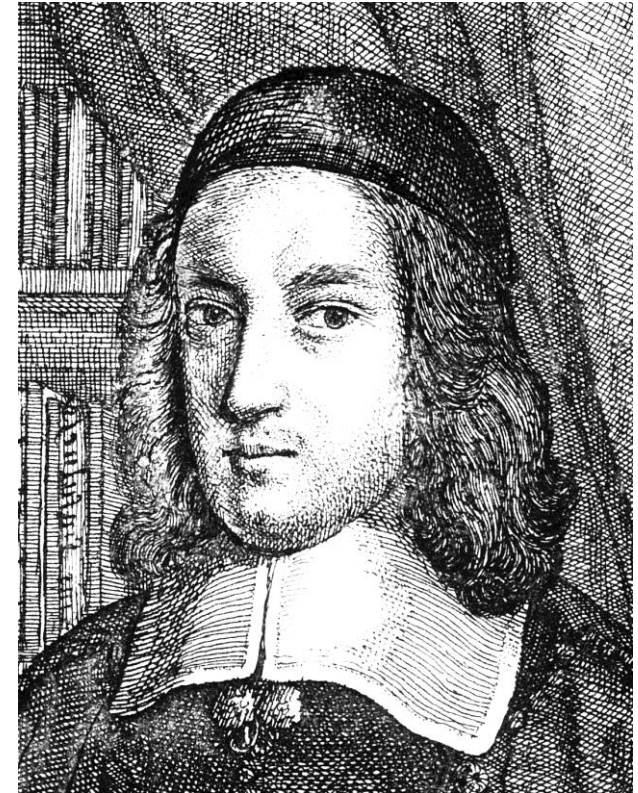
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7. The Wretched End of Sin

“It is the design and work
of sin to make man
eternally miserable, and to
undo him, soul and body,
for ever.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 78



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.”

— Matthew 25:41 —



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“It is as if sinners should say to God in the day of judgment, ‘Lord have mercy upon us!’ ‘Have mercy upon you!’ says God. ‘No, I will have no mercy on you. There was a time when you might have had mercy without judgment, but now you will have **judgment without mercy**. Depart! Depart!’ ...

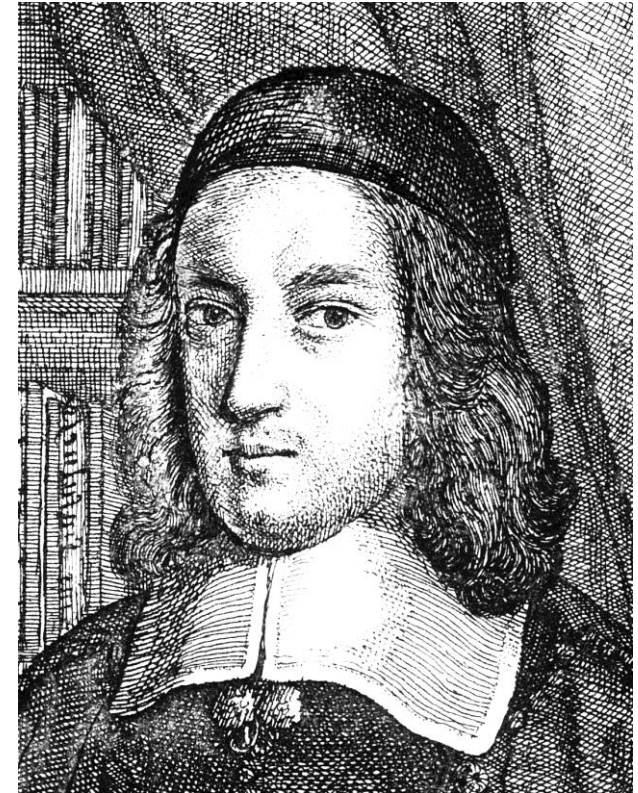


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 72



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“...If they should then beg and say, ‘Lord, if we must depart, let it be from thy throne of judgment but not from thee.’ ‘No,’ says the Lord, ‘depart from me; depart from my presence in which is joy. Depart and go to Hell.’ ...

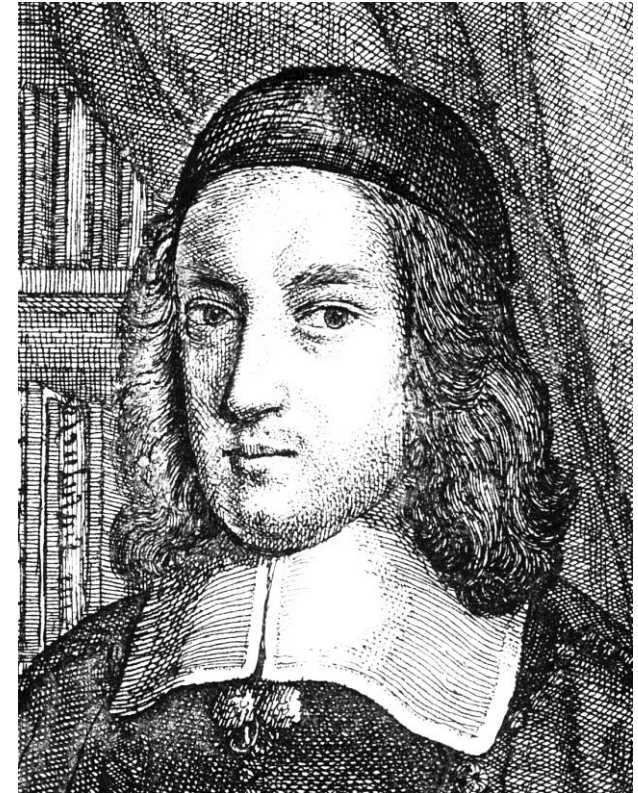


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 72



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“...‘Lord,’ they say, ‘seeing we must be gone, bless us before we go so that thy blessing may be upon us.’ ‘Oh no,’ says God, ‘**go with a curse**; depart, ye cursed.’ ‘Oh Lord, if we must go from thee, let us not go into the place of torment, but appoint some place, if not of pleasure, then of ease.’ ‘No, depart **into fire**, burning and tormenting flames.’ ...



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 72



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“...‘Oh Lord, if into fire, let it be only for a little while; let the fire soon be out or us soon out of it, for who can dwell in everlasting burnings?’ ‘No, neither you nor the fire shall know an end; be gone into **everlasting fire**.’ ‘Lord, then let it be long before we go there.’ ‘No, depart **immediately**; the sentence shall be immediately put in execution.’ ...



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 72



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“...‘Ah! Lord! let us at least have good company who will pity us though they cannot help us.’ ‘No, you shall have none but **tormenting devils**; those whom you obeyed when they were tempters you shall be with as tormentors.’ What misery sin has brought on man! to bring him to hear this dreadful doom!”

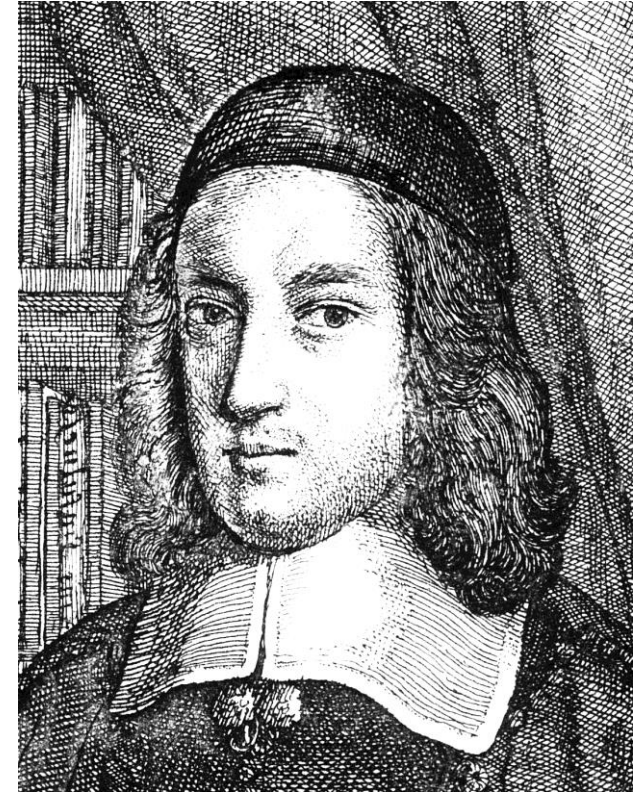


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 72



7. The Wretched End of Sin

“That can be no little
matter for which God
brings on men such grave
damnation.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 100



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8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:128

“Oh the depth of the evil of sin!
If ever you wish to see how great
and horrid and evil sin is,
measure it in your thoughts,
either by **the infinite holiness
and excellency of God**, who is
wronged by it, or by **the infinite
sufferings of Christ**, who died to
satisfy for it, and then you will
have deeper apprehensions of
the evil of sin.”



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:26

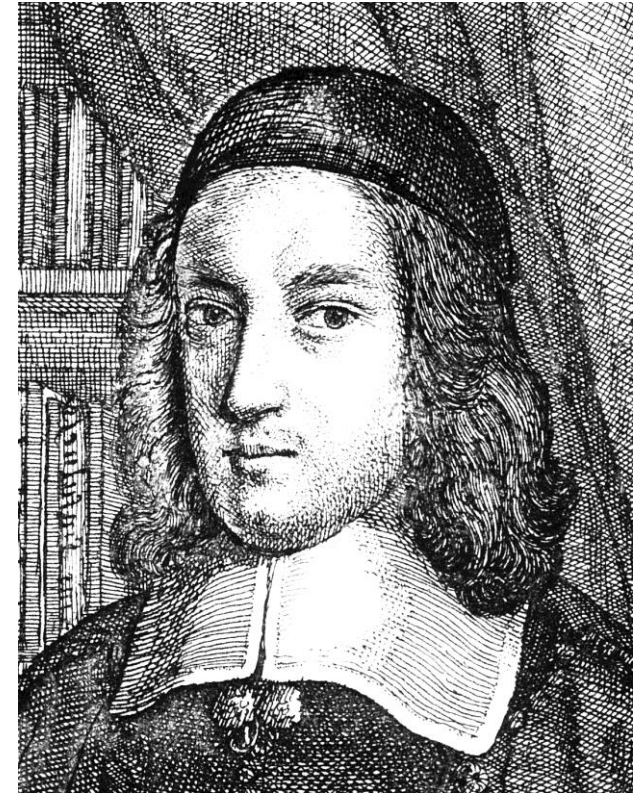
“Oh, methinks as thou art reading the deep humiliation, and unspeakable sorrows Christ underwent for the expiating of sin, thou shouldest thenceforth look upon sin as a tender child would look upon that knife that stabbed his father to the heart! thou shouldst never whet and sharpen it again to wound the Son of God afresh.”



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin

“The greatness of Christ’s sufferings is a full witness against the sinfulness of sin. What an odious thing sin must be to God!

He will pardon none without blood (Hebrews 9:22). God would accept **no blood but the blood of his Son**; not that of bulls and goats (Hebrews 9:13), but that of his Son (1 Peter 1:18,19). ...



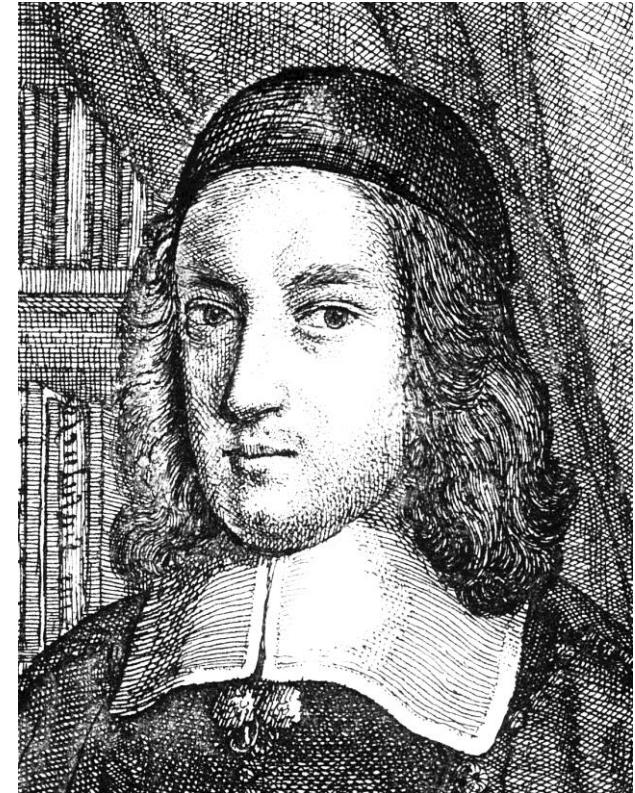
Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 110



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin

“What a hell of wickedness that must be which none but God can expiate and purge! God does not do it except by taking human nature.

The God-man could not do it without suffering. No suffering will serve but death. And no death but an accursed one. What an evil odious evil is sin that must have blood, the blood of God, to take it away!”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 110



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
Works, 1:172–73

“I remember I have read of a harlot that killed her child, and said that it smiled upon her when she went to stab it. Sinner, doth not Christ smile upon thee in the gospel? And wilt thou, as it were, **stab him to the heart** by thine infidelity?”



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“...that the God of strength should be weary, the Judge of all flesh **condemned**, the God of life put to death; that he that is one with his Father should cry out of misery, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’ (Matt 27:46); ...



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“...that he that had the keys of hell and death at his girdle should lie imprisoned in the sepulchre of another, having in his lifetime nowhere to lay his head, nor after death to lay his body; that that **head**, before which the angels do cast down their crowns, should be crowned with thorns, and those **eyes**, purer than the sun, put out by the darkness of death; ...



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“...those ears, which hear nothing but hallelujahs of saints and angels, to hear the blasphemies of the multitude; that face, that was fairer than the sons of men, to be spit on by those beastly wretched Jews; that mouth and tongue, that spake as never man spake, accused for blasphemy; ...



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“...those **hands**, that freely swayed the sceptre of heaven, nailed to the cross; those **feet**, ‘like unto fine brass,’ nailed to the cross for man’s sins; each sense annoyed: his **feeling** or touching, with a spear and nails; his **smell**, with stinking flavour, being crucified about Golgotha, the place of skulls;



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“...his **taste**, with vinegar and gall; his **hearing**, with reproaches, and **sight** of his mother and disciples bemoaning him; his **soul**, comfortless and forsaken; and all this for those very sins that Satan paints and puts fine colours upon! ...



8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 36–37

“Oh! How should the consideration of this stir up the soul against it, and work the soul to fly from it, and to use all holy means whereby sin may be subdued and destroyed!”



I. The Sinfulness of Sin

1. The Usefulness of Studying Sin
2. The Supreme Wickedness of Sin
3. The Loathsomeness of Sin
4. Sin is Contrary to the Glory of God
5. Sin is Contrary to the Good of Man
6. The Deceitfulness of Sin
7. The Wretched End of Sin
8. The Greatest Tragedy of Sin



II. The Greatness of Grace

“What a **welcome**, then, should Christ and his gospel have! They come with **saving health** to cure us of the worst of diseases and plagues, that of sin. Surely we should press with violence, and be so violent as to besiege heaven and take it by force!”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 216



II. The Greatness of Grace



George Swinnock, *The Incomparableness of God*, Works, 4:432

“Man was a child of wrath, had plunged himself into an ocean of evils and fury, and this required an ocean of love and pity. But the Creator had **infinite grace** for infinite guilt, and **infinite mercy** for infinite misery.”



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
2. The Bounty of God's Grace
3. The Father's Free Love
4. The Father's Willingness to Deliver Christ to Death
5. The Son's Self-Humbling
6. Grace Proceeds from Seeing Christ
7. Communion with the Beautiful Christ



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

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1. God's Willing Graciousness

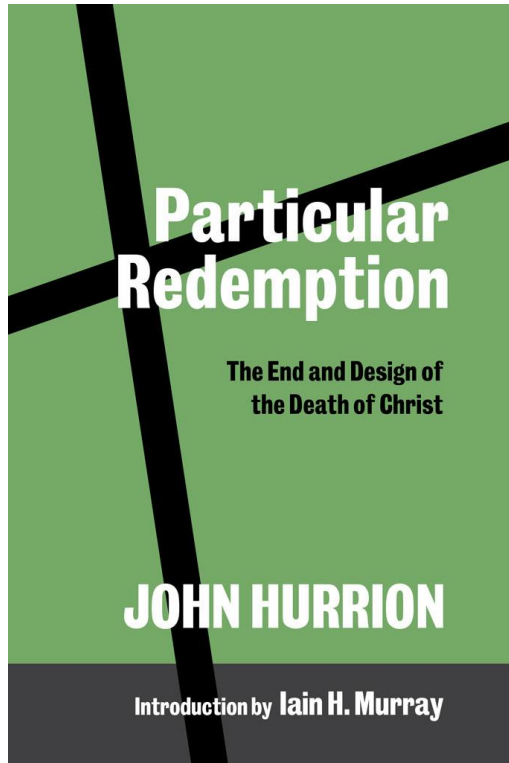


John Bunyan,
Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners

“Sinner, thou thinkest that because of thy sins and infirmities I cannot save thy soul, but behold My Son is by Me, and **upon Him I look and not on thee**, and will deal with thee according as I am pleased with Him.”



1. God's Willing Graciousness



John Hurrion,
Particular Redemption

“Does our heinous guilt cry strongly against us for condemnation? The Christian should comfort himself in this, that **the Word of Christ cries louder** in the ears of God for pardon and forgiveness.”



1. God's Willing Graciousness

“And what goodness is it that he puts us to **no greater penance than repentance** (Jer 3.13)! God might have said, ‘You must lie in hell so many thousand years to feel the smart of your sin.’ If he had bid you do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more when he says, Wash and be clean.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 218



1. God's Willing Graciousness



John Bunyan,
Pilgrim's Progress

“Christian: Sir, what think you? **Is there hope?** ... May my sin be forgiven?”

Evangelist: Thy sin is very great, ... yet will the man at the gate receive thee, for **he has good-will for men.**”



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
2. **The Bounty of God's Grace**
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2. The Bounty of God's Grace



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“O amazing love! What,
we set on **thrones**, while
as good as we by nature
howl in **flames**! O what
manner of love is this!”



2. The Bounty of God's Grace

“The storm has been
His, and the safety
shall be [ours].”



John Owen,
The Death of Death in the Death of Christ



2. The Bounty of God's Grace



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“Reader, let me beg thee, if
thou be one of this
pardoned number, to look
over the cancelled bonds,
and see what vast sums
are remitted to thee.

Remember what thou wast
in thy natural estate: ...



2. The Bounty of God's Grace



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“What, and yet pardoned! **full and finally pardoned**, and that freely, as to any hand that thou hadst in the procurement of it! what canst thou do less, than fall down at the feet of free grace, and **kiss those feet that moved so freely** towards so vile a sinner?”



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
2. The Bounty of God's Grace
3. **The Father's Free Love**
4. The Father's Willingness to Deliver Christ to Death
5. The Son's Self-Humbling
6. Grace Proceeds from Seeing Christ
7. Communion with the Beautiful Christ



3. The Father's Free Love

The love of the Father “is the love of Him who is in Himself all-sufficient, infinitely satiated with Himself and His own glorious excellencies and perfections; who hath no need to go forth with His love unto others, nor to seek an object of it [outside of] Himself. ...



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God



3. The Father's Free Love

“There might He rest with delight and complacency to eternity. He is sufficient unto his own love. He had His Son, also, His eternal Wisdom, to rejoice and delight Himself in from all eternity. This might take up and satiate the whole delight of the Father; **but He will love His saints also.**”



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
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4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:48–49

“What an astonishing act of love was this then, for the Father **to give the delight, the darling, of his soul**, out of his very bosom, for poor sinners! all tongues must needs pause and falter, that attempt the expressions of his grace, expressions being here swallowed up: ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son’ (John 3:16)...



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:48–49

“...Which of us would deliver a child, the child of our delights, an only child, to death for the greatest inheritance of the world? ... yet surely, never did any child lie so close to a parent’s heart, as Christ did to his Father’s; and yet **he willingly parts with him**, though his only one, the Son of his delights, ...



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:48–49

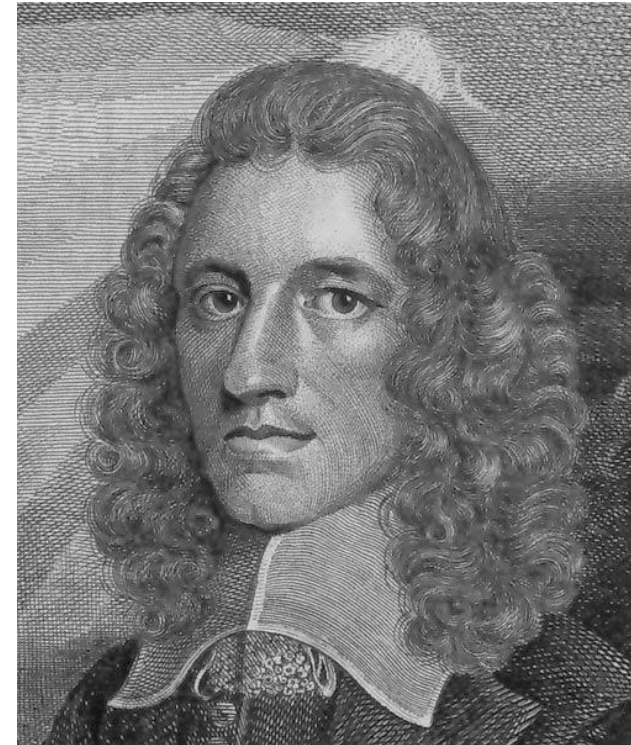
“...and that to death, a
cursed death, for sinners,
for the worst of sinners.

... O the **admirable love** of
God to men! **matchless**
love! a love past finding
out!”



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ

“[The Father] was desirous to hear [the Son] groaning, and see Him bleeding, that we might not groan under His frowns, and bleed under His wrath. He spared not Him that He might spare us; refused not to strike Him, that He might be well pleased with us; ...

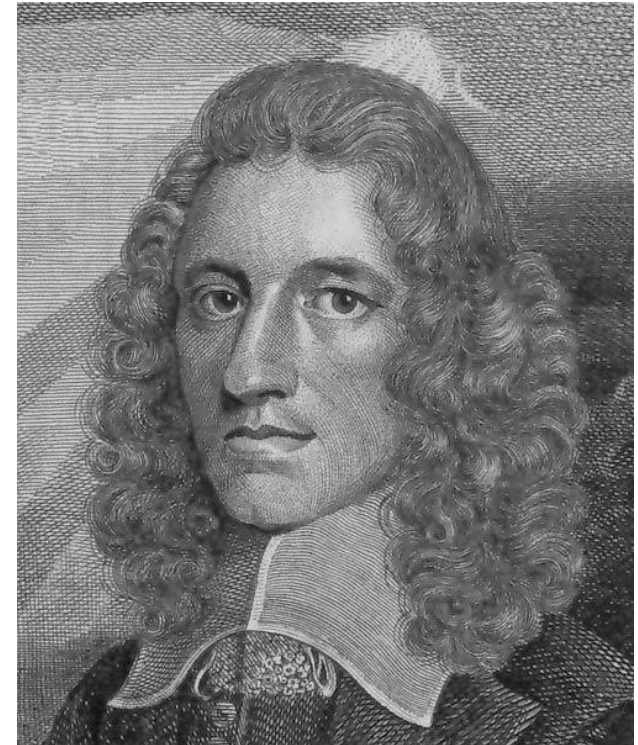


Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ

“...drenched His sword in the blood of His Son, that it might not forever be wet with ours, but that His goodness might forever triumph in our salvation. He was willing to have His Son made man, and die, rather than man should perish, who had delighted to ruin himself.”



Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“The Lord, when the time was come that Christ must suffer, did, as it were, say, O all ye roaring waves of my incensed justice, now swell as high as heaven, and go over his soul and body; sink him to the bottom; let him go, like Jonah, his type, into the belly of hell, unto the roots of the mountains. ...



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“...Come all ye raging storms,
that I have reserved for this day
of wrath, **beat upon him**, that he
may not be able to look up,
(Psalm 40:12). Go justice, **put
him upon the rack, torment him
in every part**, till all his ‘bones
be out of joint, and his heart
within him be melted as wax in
the midst of his bowels’ (Psalm
22:14). ...



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“...And ye assembly of the wicked Jews and Gentiles, that have so long gaped for his blood, now he is delivered into your hands; **you are permitted to execute your malice to the full:** I now loose your chain, and into your hand and power he is delivered.”



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“Our dearest children are but as strangers to us, in comparison of the unspeakable dearness that was between the Father and Christ! ... It melts our bowels, it breaks our heart, to behold our children striving in the pangs of death: but the Lord beheld His Son struggling under agonies that never any felt before Him. ...



4. Willingness to Deliver Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened

“...That He should ever be content to part with a Son, and such an only One, is such a manifestation of love, as will be admired to all eternity!”



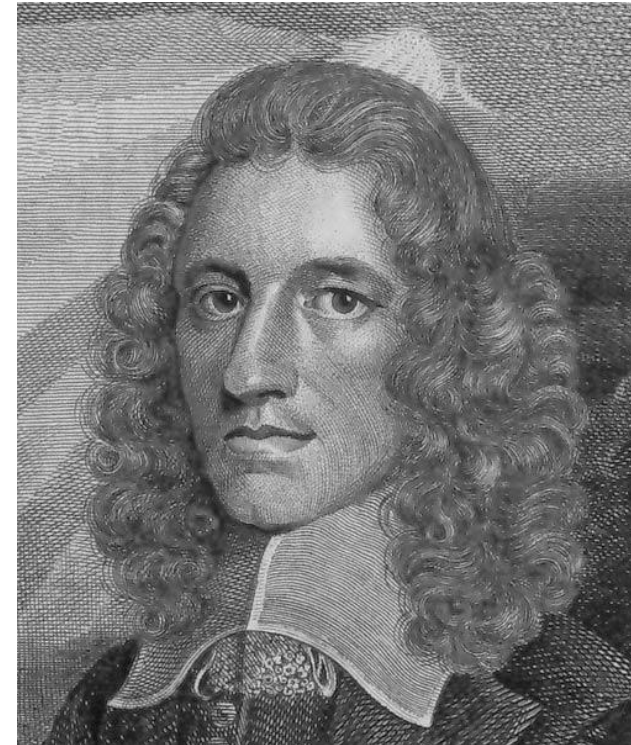
II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
2. The Bounty of God's Grace
3. The Father's Free Love
4. The Father's Willingness to Deliver Christ to Death
5. **The Son's Self-Humbling**
6. Grace Proceeds from Seeing Christ
7. Communion with the Beautiful Christ



5. The Son's Self-Humbling

“[The] Son eclipses his choicest glory. For this, God must be made man, Eternity must suffer death, the Lord of angels must weep in a cradle, and the Creator of the world must hang like a slave; he must be in a manger in Bethlehem, and die upon a cross on Calvary; ...

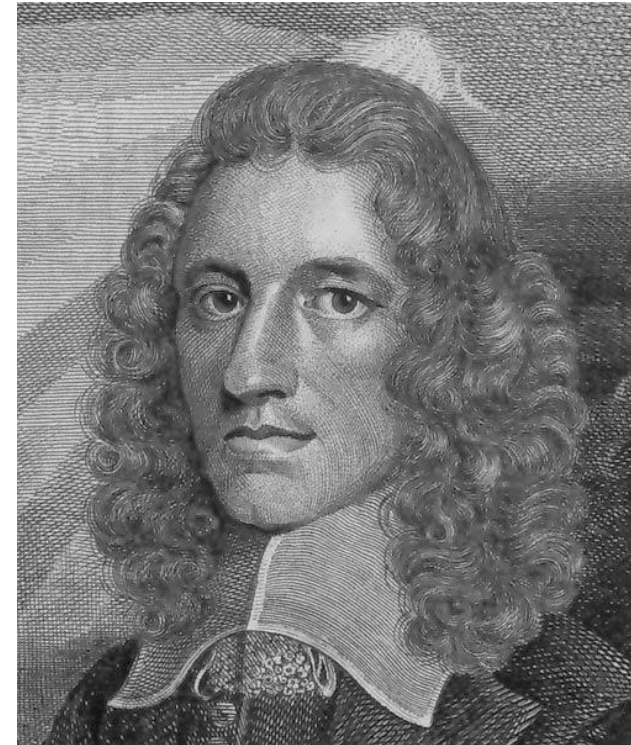


Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



5. The Son's Self-Humbling

“...unspotted righteousness must be made sin, and **unblemished blessedness be made a curse**. He was at no other expense than the breath of his mouth to form man; the fruits of the earth could have maintained innocent man without any other cost; but his broken nature cannot be healed without the invaluable medicine of **the blood of God**. ...

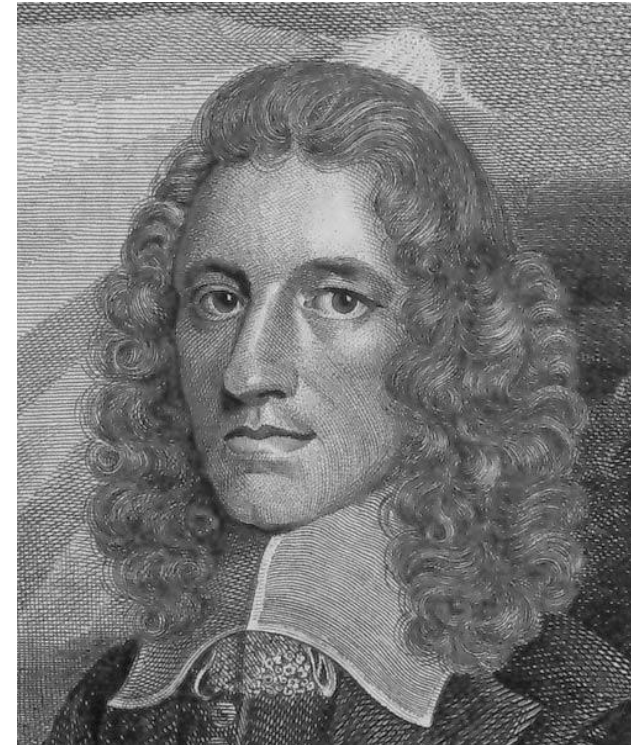


Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



5. The Son's Self-Humbling

“...View Christ in the womb
and in the manger, in his
weary steps and hungry
bowels, in his prostrations in
the garden, and in his clotted
drops of bloody sweat; view
his head pierced with a crown
of thorns, and his face
besmeared with the soldiers’
slabber; ...

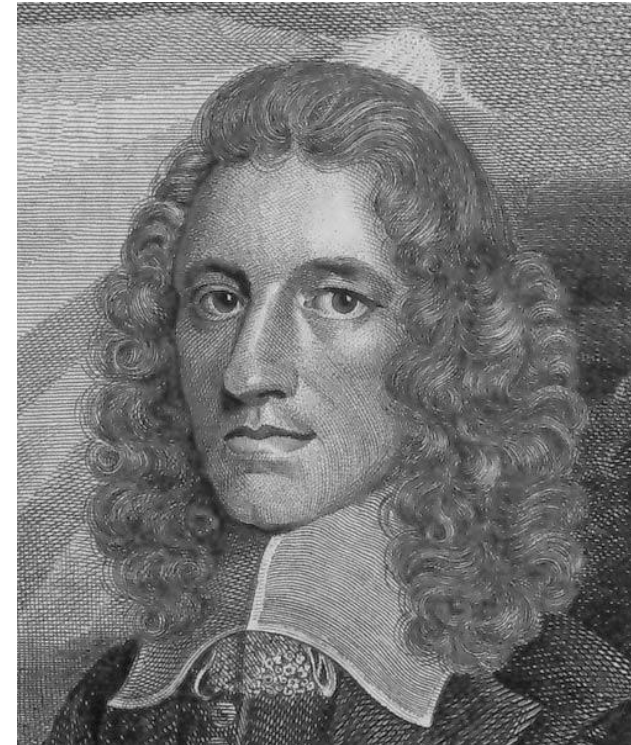


Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



5. The Son's Self-Humbling

“...view him in his march to Calvary, and his elevation on the painful cross, with his head hanged down, and his side streaming blood; view him pelted with the scoffs of the governors, and the derisions of the rabble; and see, in all this, what cost Goodness was at for man's redemption! ...

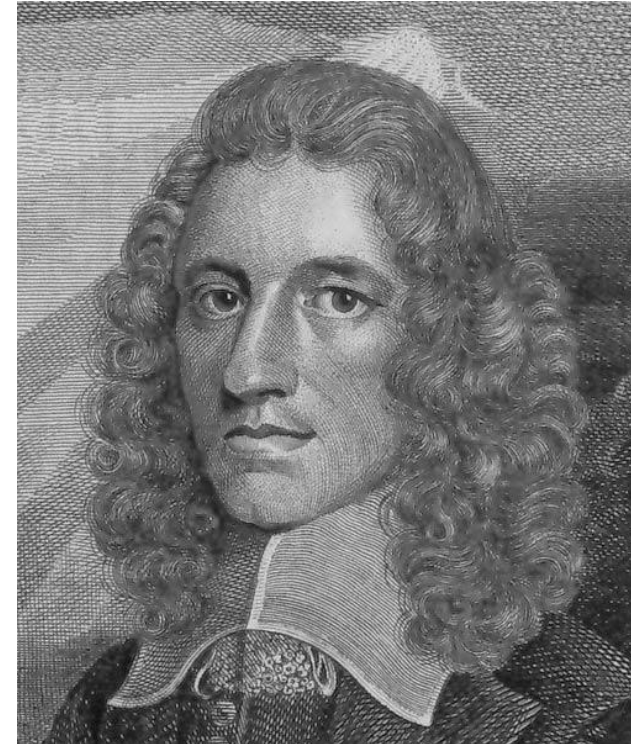


Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



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Stephen Charnock,
On the Goodness of God



5. The Son's Self-Humbling



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:316

“Ah! Christian, canst thou look upon Jesus as standing in thy room, to bear the wrath of a Deity for thee? **Canst thou think on it, and not melt?** That when thou, like Isaac, wast bound to the altar, to be offered up to justice, Christ, like the ram, was caught in the thicket, and offered in thy room. ...



5. The Son's Self-Humbling



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:316

“...When thy sins had raised a fearful tempest, that threatened every moment to entomb thee in a sea of wrath, Jesus Christ was thrown over to appease that storm! Say, reader, **can thy heart dwell one hour upon such a subject as this?** Canst thou with faith, present Christ to thyself, as He was taken down from the cross, ...



5. The Son's Self-Humbling



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:316

“...drenched in His own blood,
and say, ‘These were the wounds
that He received for me; this is
He that loved me, and gave
Himself for me: **out of these
wounds comes that balm that
heals my soul**; out of these
stripes my peace: When He
hanged upon the cross, He bore
my name upon His breast, like
the high priest. ...



5. The Son's Self-Humbling



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:316

“...It was love, pure love, strong love to my poor soul; to the soul of an enemy that drew Him down from heaven, and all the glory He had there, to endure these sorrows in soul and body for me.’ O you cannot hold up your hearts long to the piercing thoughts of this, but your bowels will be pained, and, like Joseph, you will seek a place to vent your hearts in.”



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

1. The Willing Graciousness of God
2. The Bounty of God's Grace
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6. **Grace Proceeds from Seeing Christ**
7. Communion with the Beautiful Christ



6. Proceeds from Seeing Christ

“The great principal and fountain from whence the drawing efficacy and power of grace doth proceed is from the lifting up of Christ.

Drawing grace is manifested in and drawing love proceeds from the sufferings of Jesus Christ on the cross.”

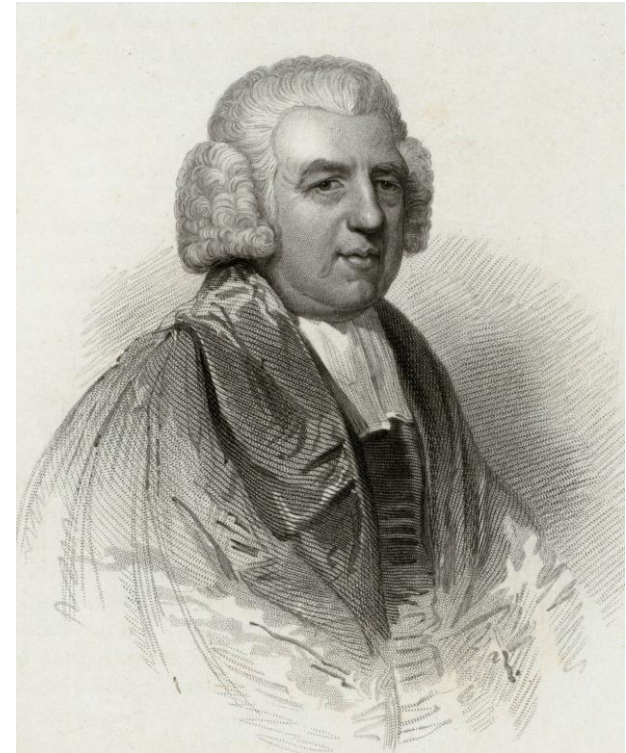


John Owen,
“Discourse on John 12:32,” 189



6. Proceeds from Seeing Christ

“Wonderful are the effects when a crucified, glorious Savior is presented to the eye of faith. This sight destroys the love of sin.”



John Newton,
Letters of John Newton



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

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7. Communion with Christ

“There are infinite plies in his love that the saint will never be able to unfold. I urge upon you a nearer and growing communion with Christ. There are curtains to be drawn back in Christ that we have never seen. There are new foldings of love in him. ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

“...Dig deep, sweat,
labour, and take pains for
him, and set by as much
time in the day for him as
you can; he will be won
with labour. **Live on
Christ's love.**”



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

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labour, and take pains for
him, and set by as much
time in the day for him as
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with labour. **Live on
Christ's love.**”



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

“All goes for Christ;—all
righteousness without
him, all ways of religion—
all goes for that one Pearl.
The glory of his deity, the
excellence of his person,
his all-conquering
desirableness, ineffable
love, ...”



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God,
in *Works*, 2:139



7. Communion with Christ

“...wonderful undertaking,
unspeakable
condescensions, effectual
mediation, complete
righteousness: [all] lie in
[believers’] eyes, **ravish
their hearts**, fill their
affections, and possess
their souls.”



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God,
in *Works*, 2:139



7. Communion with Christ

“If there were ten thousand thousand millions of worlds, and as many heavens full of men and angels, Christ would not be pinched to supply all our wants, and to fill us all. Christ is a well of life; but who knoweth how deep it is to the bottom? ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

“...This soul of ours hath love, and cannot but love some fair one. And oh, what a **fair** One, what an **Only** one, what an **excellent, lovely, ravishing** One, is Jesus! Put the beauty of ten thousand thousand worlds of paradises, like the garden of Eden, in one; ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

“...put all trees, all flowers,
all smells, all colors, all
tastes, all joys, all
sweetnesses, all loveliness, in
one: oh, what a fair and
excellent thing would that be!
And yet it would be less to
that fair and dearest Well-
beloved, Christ, ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ

“...than one drop of rain to the whole seas, rivers, lakes, and fountains of ten thousand earths. Oh, but Christ is heaven’s wonder, and earth’s wonder!”



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



7. Communion with Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:270

“When the saints shall have fed their eyes upon him in heaven, thousands and millions of years, **he shall be as fresh, beautiful, and orient as at the beginning.** Other beauties have their prime, and their fading time; but Christ abides eternally. ...



7. Communion with Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:270

“...Our delight in creatures is often most at first acquaintance; when we come nearer to them, and see more of them, the edge of our delight is abated: but **the longer you know Christ**, and the nearer you come to him, **still the more do you see of his glory.** ...



7. Communion with Christ

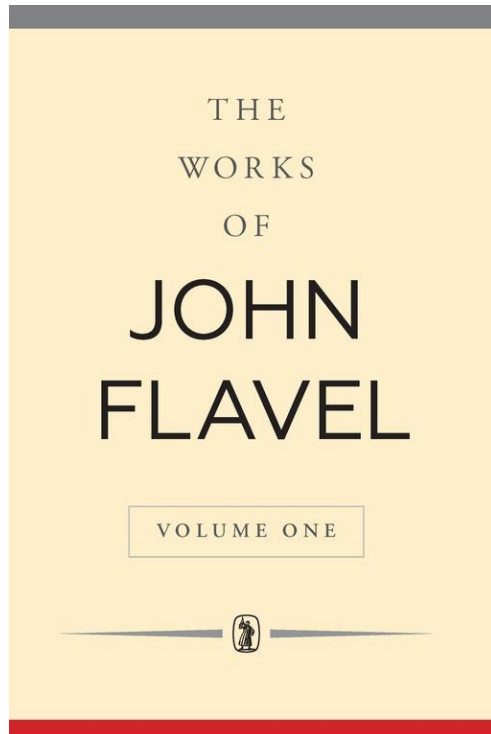


John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:270

“...Every farther prospect of Christ entertains the mind with fresh delight. He is as it were a new Christ every day, and yet the same Christ still.”



7. Communion with Christ

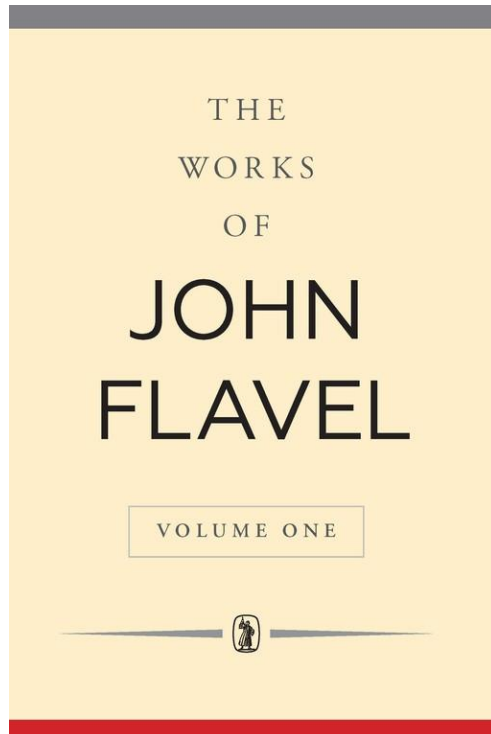


Anonymous, as in Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:196

“O what would I give to have a
bed made to my wearied soul
in Christ’s bosom? I cannot
tell you what sweet pain and
delightful torments are in his
love; I often challenge time for
holding us asunder; I profess
to you, I have no rest till I be
over head and ears in love’s
ocean. ...



7. Communion with Christ

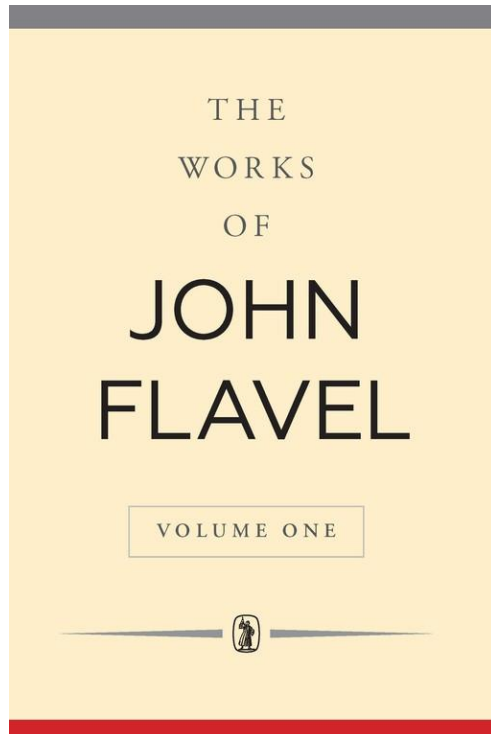


Anonymous, as in Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:196

“...If Christ’s love (that fountain
of delights) were laid open to me
as I would wish, O how
overcome would this my soul be!
I half call his absence cruel; and
the mask and vail on his face a
cruel covering, that hideth such
a fair, fair face from a sick soul.
I dare not challenge himself, but
**his absence is a mountain of
iron upon my heavy heart.** ...



7. Communion with Christ

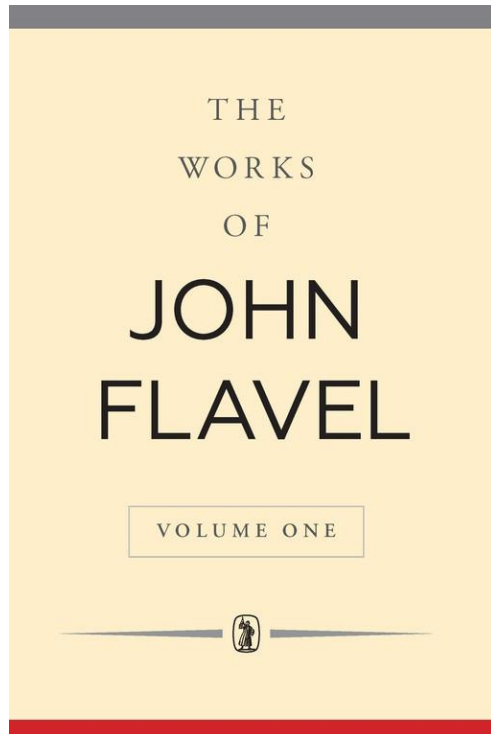


Anonymous, as in Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:196

“...O when shall we meet!
How long is the dawning of
the marriage-day! O sweet
Lord Jesus, take wide steps!
O my Lord, come over
mountains at one stride! O
my beloved, flee like a roe, or
young hart upon the
mountains of separation! ...



7. Communion with Christ



Anonymous, as in Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:196

“...O if he would fold the
heavens together like an old
cloak, and shovel time and
days out of the way, and
make ready in haste the
Lamb’s wife for her
husband! Since he looked
upon me, my heart is not
mine own.”



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

8. **The Intercession of Christ**

9. The Security of the Believer

10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight

11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

12. Grace Makes Death a Delight

13. The Glory of Heaven



8. The Intercession of Christ

“Suppose a king’s son should get out of a besieged city where he had left his wife and children, whom he loves as his own soul, and these all ready to die by sword or famine if supply came not the sooner. Could this prince, when he arrived at his father’s house, please himself with he delights of the court and forget the distress of his family? ...



William Gurnall,
The Christian in Complete Armor



8. The Intercession of Christ

“Or rather would he not come post to his father, having their cries and groans always in his ears, and before he eat or drink do his errand to his father and entreat him, if ever he loved him, that he would send all the force of his kingdom to raise the siege rather than any of his dear relations should perish?”



William Gurnall,
The Christian in Complete Armor



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

8. The Intercession of Christ

9. **The Security of the Believer**

10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight

11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

12. Grace Makes Death a Delight

13. The Glory of Heaven



9. The Security of the Believer



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:521; 377

“The **enemy** under His feet
shall not destroy the **children**
in His arms.”

“Doubt it not, but He who
receives **enemies** into His
bosom, will much more
receive and embrace **children**,
though offending ones.”



9. The Security of the Believer

“Come with your burdens;
come, thou poor soul, with
thy guilt of sin.’ Why? what
to do? ‘Why, this is mine,’
saith Christ; ‘this
agreement I made with my
Father, that I should come,
and take thy sins, and bear
them away: ...



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God,
in *Works*, 2:194



9. The Security of the Believer

“...they were my lot. Give me thy burden, give me all thy sins. Thou knowest not what to do with them; I know how to dispose of them well enough, so that God shall be glorified, and thy soul delivered.””



John Owen,
Communion with the Triune God,
in *Works*, 2:194



9. The Security of the Believer

“You who have but
a weak faith
have
a strong Christ.”



John Owen,
“The Strength of Faith,”
in *Works*, 9:29



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

- 8. The Intercession of Christ
- 9. The Security of the Believer
- 10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight**
- 11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight
- 12. Grace Makes Death a Delight
- 13. The Glory of Heaven



10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight

“Love
makes duty
a pleasure.”



Thomas Watson,
A Divine Cordial



10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight



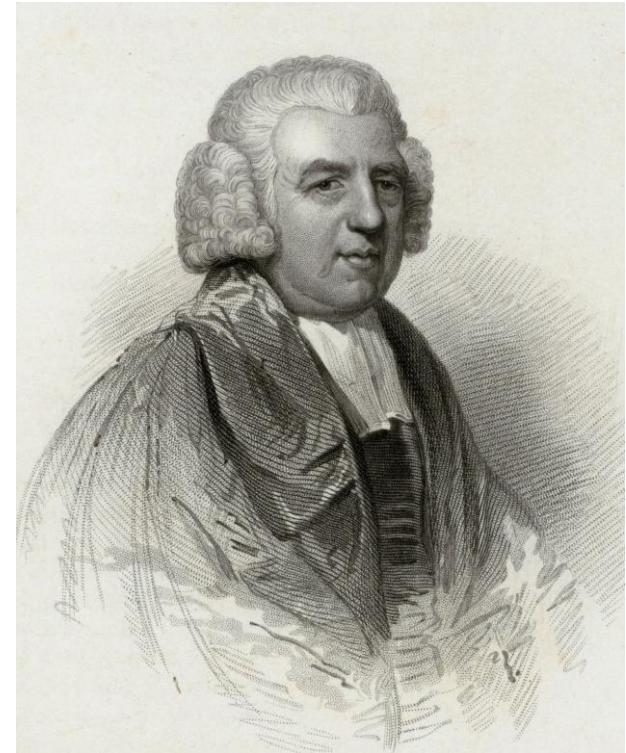
Richard Sibbes,
The Bruised Reed,
in *Works*, 1:79

“When we feel ourselves cold in affection and duty, the best way is to warm ourselves at this fire of his love and mercy in giving himself for us... . Christ rules us by a spirit of love, from a sense of his love, whereby his commandments are easy to us.”



10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight

“Our pleasure and our duty,
Though opposite before,
Since we have seen His beauty,
Are joined to part no more:
It is our highest pleasure,
No less than duty’s call,
To love Him beyond measure,
And serve Him with our all.”



John Newton,
Olney Hymns



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

- 8. The Intercession of Christ
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- 11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight**
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11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:35

“Let Christ but manifest himself, and dart the beams of his light into [believers’] souls, it will make them kiss the stakes, sing in the flames, and shout in the pangs of death, as men that divide the spoil.”



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“If your Lord calls you to suffering, do not be dismayed, for He will provide a deeper portion of Christ in your suffering. The softest pillow will be placed under your head though you must set your bare feet among thorns. Do not be afraid at suffering for Christ, for He has a sweet peace for a sufferer. ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“...God has called you to Christ’s side, and if the wind is now in His face, you cannot expect to rest on the sheltered side of the hill. You cannot be above your Master who received many an innocent stroke. The greatest temptation out of hell is to live without trials. A pool of standing water will turn stagnant. ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“...A pool of standing water will turn stagnant. Faith grows more with the sharp winter storm in its face. Grace withers without adversity. **You cannot sneak quietly into heaven without a cross.** Crosses form us into His image. They cut away the pieces of our corruption. Lord cut, carve, wound; Lord do anything to perfect Your image in us and make us fit for glory! ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“...O what I owe to the file,
hammer, and furnace! Why
should I be surprised at the
plough that makes such deep
furrows in my soul? Whatever
direction the wind blows, it will
blow us to the Lord. His hand
will direct us safely to the
heavenly shore to find the
weight of eternal glory. ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“...As we look back to our pains and suffering, we shall see that suffering is not worthy to be compared to our first night’s welcome home in heaven. If we could smell of heaven and our country above, our crosses would not bite us. ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight

“...Lay all your loads by faith on Christ, ease yourself, and let Him bear all. He can, He does, and He will bear you. Whether God comes with a rod or a crown, **He comes with Himself.**

‘Have courage, I am your salvation!’

Welcome, welcome Jesus!”



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



II. The Greatness of God's Grace

- 8. The Intercession of Christ
- 9. The Security of the Believer
- 10. Grace Makes Duty a Delight
- 11. Grace Makes Suffering a Delight
- 12. Grace Makes Death a Delight**
- 13. The Glory of Heaven



12. Grace Makes Death a Delight



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:282

“The bitterness of death was all squeezed into Christ’s cup. He was made to drink up the very dregs of it, that so our death might be the sweeter to us. Alas! **there is nothing now left in death that is frightful or troublesome**, beside the pain of dissolution, that natural evil of it. ...



12. Grace Makes Death a Delight



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:282

“...I remember it is storied of one of the martyrs, that being observed to be exceeding jocund and merry when he came to the stake, one asked him, **What was the reason his heart was so light**, when death, (and that in such a terrible form too) was before him? ...



12. Grace Makes Death a Delight



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened,
in *Works*, 1:282

“...O said he, my heart
is so light at my death,
because Christ’s was so
heavy at his death.”



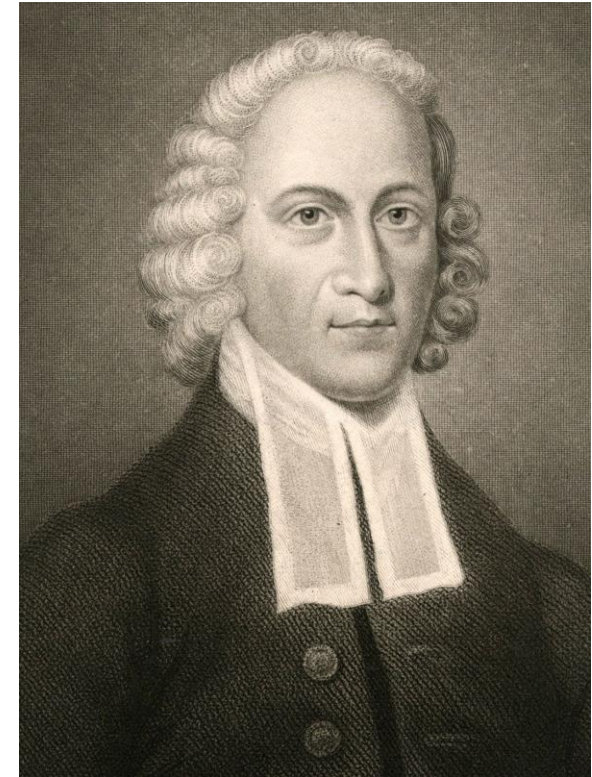
II. The Greatness of God's Grace

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13. The Glory of Heaven

“O how infinitely great will the **privilege** and **happiness** of such be, who at that time shall go to be with Christ in his glory.” It is “the privilege of being with Christ in heaven, where he sits on the right hand of God, in the glory of the King and God of the angels, and of the whole universe, shining forth as the great light, the bright sun of that world of glory, there to dwell in the **full, constant, and everlasting view of his beauty and brightness, ...**”

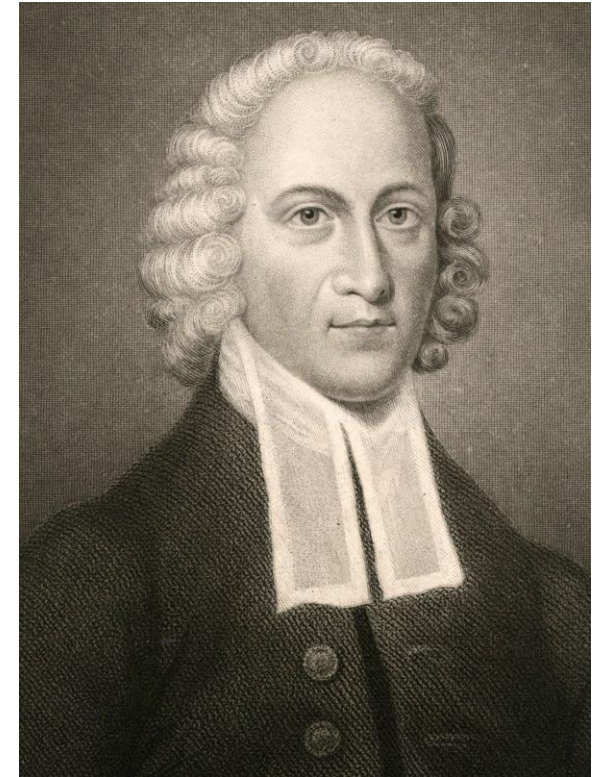


Jonathan Edwards
“David Brainerd’s Funeral Sermon,”
WJE, 25:243–44



13. The Glory of Heaven

“...there most freely and intimately to converse with him, and **fully to enjoy his love**, as his friends and spouse, there to have fellowship with him in the **infinite pleasure and joy** he has in the enjoyment of his Father, there to sit with him on his throne, and reign with him in the possession of all things, ...

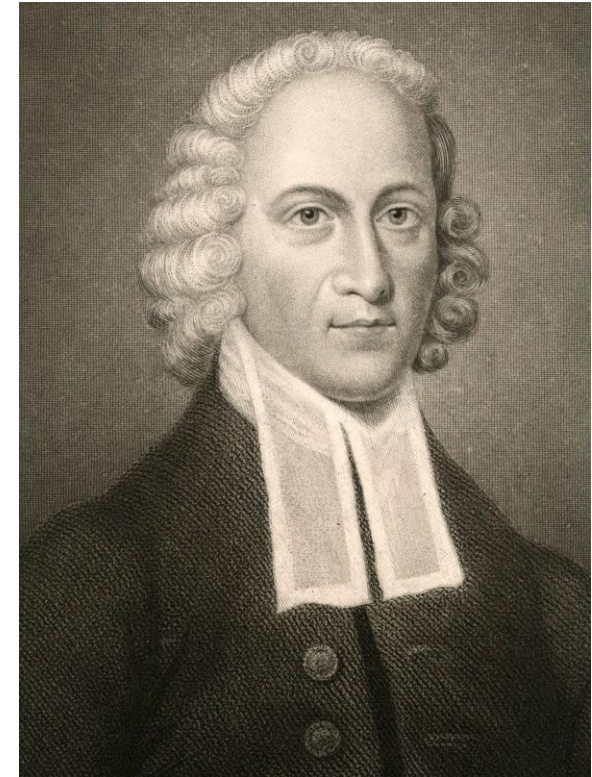


Jonathan Edwards
“David Brainerd’s Funeral Sermon,”
WJE, 25:243–44



13. The Glory of Heaven

“...and partake with him in
the joy and glory of his
victory over his enemies, and
the advancement of his in the
world, and to join with him in
joyful songs of praise, to his
Father and their Father, to
his God and their God,
forever and ever.”



Jonathan Edwards
“David Brainerd’s Funeral Sermon,”
WJE, 25:243–44



13. The Glory of Heaven



Thomas Brooks,
Precious Remedies, 7

“Remember this: that your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore faint not: hold on and hold up in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all.”



The Sinfulness of Sin & The Greatness of God's Grace

Puritan Conference 2022

Dr. Michael Riccardi

