

# “THE GOSPEL AWAKENING.”

COMPRISING THE

SERMONS AND ADDRESSES,

Prayer Meeting Talks and Bible Readings,

OF THE

GREAT REVIVAL MEETINGS,

CONDUCTED BY

## MOODY AND SANKEY,

IN THE CITIES OF

Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and Boston,

WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

CHRISTIAN CONVENTIONS OF MINISTERS AND LAYMEN.

From Verbatim Reports by our own Phonographer, and those of the New York Tribune, Chicago Inter-Ocean, Boston Journal and Boston Globe.

ALSO THE LIVES OF

D. L. MOODY, I. D. SANKEY, P. P. BLISS, REV. JOSEPH COOK,  
AND FRANCES E. WILLARD.

BY M. LAIRD SIMONS,

*Author of “Companion Articles to the Pictorial Home Bible;” Editor of “Sunday Half-Hours with the Great Preachers;” and “Duyckinck’s Cyclopedia of American Literature.”*

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:

L. T. PALMER & CO.

Philadelphia, WILLIAM FLINT.

St. Louis, SCAMMELL & COMPANY

Springfield, Mass. STAR PUBLISHING CO.

1877.

## CONFESSING CHRIST.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” ROMANS 10:10.

Last night I spoke to you about believing. I want to follow that subject tonight with another subject as important, and that is Confession of Christ; not confessing sin, that is not what I want to talk about tonight, but confessing Christ. In the 10th chapter of Romans, 10th verse—a very little verse—you will find these words: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” I believe there are a great many people who have got into trouble and difficulty right in the middle of that verse, because they do not understand why it is that they do not have the joy they have heard other Christian people talk about. They say they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; they say they trust him, and him alone, for salvation; they say that Christ is their only hope; but there they stop. Now, I say to you that confession is as important as faith. “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Then the next verse says: “For the Scripture sayeth, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Now, if a man really believes in his heart, the next thing he ought to do is to confess Christ; is it not? And you won’t get the blessing until you do. “With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” The fact of the matter is, that we are all moral cowards; we are ashamed to come out and confess Christ, and take our stand on the Lord’s side, and on the side of his religion. It is the only religion in the world that is worth having; it is the only religion in the world that gives life to man; but, strange to say, I believe we are the only people on earth who are ashamed of their religion. You cannot find a man who holds any false doctrine of religion who is not proud of it. If a man has got hold of an error, he is not ashamed to confess it and acknowledge it to all men. A man who is in the service of Satan is not ashamed of it. You hear such men swearing on the street, proclaiming who is their master every day; they seem to be proud of the devil, and to like to have every one know that they are servants of his.

But how do men confess their allegiance to Christ? As disciples of Jesus, what cowards we are! It sometimes happens that those who have gone away from our meetings under the influence of a changed heart, come to me afterward and say that they are still in darkness. I say to them, there is a reason for this; did you confess Christ when you went home? “No; I thought I would wait and see how it would hold out, before I told any one.” But that is not the right way to do. You see it is with the heart man believeth, and the next step is to confess him with the mouth; that is what the mouth is for—to confess

Christ; to tell all that he has done for you. If a man is ashamed to do this, to take his stand on the Lord's side, he will not get the benefit of his conviction. In fact, it is confession unto salvation; salvation comes when we take our stand for Jesus Christ, before all the world. If I belonged to the Republican party, and got tired and sick of it and wanted to join the Democratic party, I should not be ashamed to come out and acknowledge it. You never saw a man leave one party to join another who did not like to come out and let every one know it. They want to use all the influence they can to get their friends to join them. If a man is on the wrong side of this question of religion, and goes over on the Lord's side, ought he not to be just as willing to publish it, and to make every one know that he is on the Lord's side? Isn't it amazing how few there are who are ready to come out boldly and acknowledge to every one that they want to be on the Lord's side?

One thing that made our one o'clock meeting so interesting today was, a young man got up and said: "My sister and my mother are very anxious to have me become a Christian, and I myself want to." I said: "Thank God for that; that man has more courage. He is willing to let the world know that he wants to be on the Lord's side." I never yet have seen a man who came out boldly in that way but that he surely turns out all right at last. Look at the 9th chapter of Luke, the 23d verse: "And he said unto them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." But the cross is what men do not like. They want to get to heaven without taking up the cross—any way but that. If men could buy salvation, they would be willing to pay a good price for it. They would go round the world to get to heaven without the burden of the cross. The way to heaven is straight as an arrow; it is perfectly straight. A man need not be in darkness about the way, if he really wants to know. But on the way to heaven there is a cross; and if you try to go around it, or to step over it, or to do anything else than take it up and bear it onward, you get lost.

When men are ready to follow Christ, to deny themselves; and humble themselves, and take up the cross, then salvation is ready for them. Satan puts a straw across our path and magnifies it, and makes us believe it is a mountain; but all the devil's mountains are mountains of smoke. When you come up to them they are not there, but mere mountains of smoke. Now, there is nothing to hinder this whole audience from coming out on the Lord's side tonight, and confessing Jesus Christ to be their Savior. There is nothing but your will to prevent it. Satan has not the power to keep you from it, if you will. Christ says, "Except a man become converted, and like a little child, he is not fit for the kingdom of God." Pride, I think, is the worst enemy we have. It keeps thousands of people out of the kingdom of God. The idea that we have to humble ourselves and become like a little child is too much for

our pride; but “whoever shall save his life shall lose it, and whoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it;” but “whoever shall be ashamed of me and of my word, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory and in his power, and amid all the angels.” Ashamed of him! A young convert got up in one of our meetings and tried to preach; he could not preach very well either, but he did the best he could. But some one stood up and said: “Young man, you cannot preach; you ought to be ashamed of yourself.” Said the young man: “So I am; but I am not ashamed of my Lord.” That is right. Do not be ashamed of Christ—of the Man that bought us with his own blood. Ought we to be ashamed to speak for his cause, to take our stand on his side? He might well be ashamed of us, for ten thousand reasons which I could show. But the idea of a poor, miserable, vile, blind, hell-deserving sinner being ashamed to own Christ! It is the strangest thing in the world. Look in the 12th chapter of Luke, the 8th and 9th verses: “Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God. But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”

During our war, when a general had accomplished some great victory, or had any great success, he thought it was a great honor to have a man stand up in congress and mention his name. But think of having your name mentioned in the courts of heaven; and not only that, but by the Prince of heaven, by the King of kings and Lord of lords! Think of Jesus speaking our names there! He says to us, If you will not be ashamed of me here before men, in this old creation, I will not be ashamed of you in heaven before the angels, in the new creation. You confess me here, I will confess you there. You deny me here, I will deny you there.

Will the Christian people in this room, in this assembly, tonight, take their stand and let every one know in the circle of their family and among their acquaintances that they are on the Lord’s side? Why, if you do, it would be the best meeting, a meeting of more satisfaction than any we have had. The results of such a course, taken by every one here tonight, would bring more to Jesus, and be productive of greater righteousness, than any brought out by any previous assembly. Let you, young converts, tell your experience, take your stand and confess Christ. That is the way to show how strong your conversion is. Be sure you are on the Lord’s side. “If the Lord be God, then follow him; but if Baal be God, then follow him.” It is one of the surest signs of your genuine repentance to come out before men and confess the Lord Jesus Christ. Take your stand, and be a witness to the Lord. “He that confesseth me before men, the same will I also confess before the angels of heaven. But he that denieth me before men, the same will I also deny before my father which is in heaven.” I was in a Boston prayer-meeting, a number

of years ago—but I ought to say that I have lived for a number of years out West, a number of years in Chicago, and you know that that part of the country is made up principally of young men; at any rate the prayer-meetings were for the most part made up of young men—hardly saw a gray-headed man in them at all. So, while I was in Boston, it was quite a treat to see old, gray-headed men in the assemblies. Well, in that meeting, a little tow-headed Norwegian boy stood up. He could hardly speak a word of English, plain; but he got up and came to the front. He trembled all over, and the tears were all trickling down his cheeks; but he spoke out as well as he could, and said: “If I tell the world about Jesus, then will he tell the Father about me.” He then took his seat; and that was all he said; but I tell you in those few words he said more than all of them, old and young together. Those few words went straight down into the heart of every one present. “If I tell the world”—yes, that’s what it means, to confess Christ.

And now are there not hundreds here tonight that are really ashamed of Christ—feel backward about confessing that they are Christians? I heard a story about two young men who came to this city from the country on a visit. They went to the same boardinghouse to stay, and took a room together. Well, when they came to go to bed, each felt ashamed to go down on his knees before his companion first. So there they sat watching each other. In fact, to express the situation in one word, they were both cowards—yes, cowards! But at last one of them mustered up a little courage; but with burning blushes, as if he was about to do something wrong and wicked, he sank down on his knees to say his prayers. As soon as the second saw that, he also knelt. And then, after they had said their prayers, each waited for the other to get up. When they did manage to get up, one said to the other: “I really am glad to see that you knelt; I was afraid of you.” “Well,” said the other, “and I was afraid of you.” So it turned out that both were Christians, and yet they were afraid of each other. You smile at that, but how many times have you done the same thing—perhaps not in this way, but the same thing in effect. Henceforth, then, be not ashamed, but let every one know you are his. And I wish to say to the young converts here, tonight, that if you want peace and joy flowing into your hearts like a river, commence at once and confess him. It is not a work of merit; you are not making God a debtor to you; it is the very least you can do. And those who do so, come out boldly and confess him, preach better and stronger than any minister of his. Each confession is worth more than a sermon. It is like to one raised from the dead.

The most powerful meeting we have ever had was that of last night, the converts came boldly forth and told how they had been saved. I heard many say that it was the best meeting they had attended. Oh, what meetings of sweetness and communion with God we would have if every one would just

come out and do his duty, as God wants him to do! If we boldly took up our cross, and bore it manfully, the world would soon see the influence of these meetings. When I was in Ireland, I heard of a man who got great blessing from God. He was a business man—a landed proprietor. He had a large family, and a great many men to work for him, taking care of his home. He came up to Dublin, and there he found Christ. And he came boldly out, and thought he would go home and confess him. He thought that if Christ had redeemed him with his precious blood, the least he could do would be to confess him, and tell about it sometimes. So he called his family together, and his servants, and with tears running down his cheeks, he poured out his soul to them, and told them what Christ had done for him. He took the Bible down from its resting-place and read a few verses of gospel. Then he went down on his knees to pray, and so greatly was the little gathering blessed, that four or five out of that family were convicted of sin. They forsook the ways of the world, and accepted Christ and eternal life. It was like unto the household of Cornelius, which experienced the like working of the Holy Spirit. And that man and his family were not afraid to follow out their professions.

They were not like a great many men I have seen who accept Christ while there is no cross to bear, and where everything is plain and easy for them. Some men, when they profess to accept Christ, immediately think they must go and join some church right away. So they go down and see the minister, and say: “Mr. So-and-so, I have become a Christian, and I want to take a pew in your church. I would like to be a member of your congregation, but I don’t want to take any active part in the church. Now, don’t ask me, some evening, to get up and tell my experience. I never did anything like that, and would not like to be pointed at so conspicuously.” Well, he does join the church; and that is the last you ever hear of him. Last week, in this building, a man was converted, and he went right off and joined some church. Well, I hope after he did join, he didn’t stop going to church. If a man is converted, I want him to come here and give his experience—let the thousands hear that he is a child of God; let his testimony be given to others, and the result may be that God will use his witnessing to the conversion of many.

Mr. Sankey sang tonight, “Where are the Nine?” So may Christ ask the question, “Where are the Nine?” You have read of the story of the cleansing of the ten lepers; you know how the God of glory had compassion upon them. His command was, “Go show yourselves to the priests;” and so they went—behold, the leprosy was all gone! It must have been a wonderful sight. They are going along the road; all at once one discovers the great change that has been wrought in him, and he stops suddenly. “Brothers, my leprosy is gone,” he cries; “I am perfectly well, look!” And another then sees his altered condition, and he cries out, “And I am well, too.” And another, “Why, see! my

fingers were nearly rotted off; and now the disease is all gone.” So they all look at themselves; and the great truth bursts upon them that they have been made well. Nine of them continue on their journey; but one poor man turns back, and falls at the feet of Jesus, and glorifies God. Perhaps he did not find his Lord right away; perhaps he had to search for him; but find him he did, and gave him the glory. Christ, after seeing him alone at his feet, out of all he had conferred the great boon upon, asked, in astonishment: “Were there not ten cleansed; but where are the nine?” Well, I don’t know what became of them. Perhaps they went and joined some church; at any rate, that is the last we hear of them. So the people think that if they join some church that is all that is required of them. Ha! my friends, “Where are the nine?” If the Lord has cleansed you, why don’t you lift up your voice in his praise, and give thanks? Why do you bury your talents? Why don’t you confess Christ? It is sweet to Christ to have men confess him. One day he said, “Whom do men say that I am?” He wanted them to confess him. But one said, “They say thou art Elias,” and another, “That thou art Jeremiah;” and another—“Thou art John the Baptist.” But he asked, “Whom do you say that I am?”—turning to his disciples. And Peter answers, “Thou art the Son of the living God.” Then our Lord exclaimed, “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona.” Yes; he blessed him right there, because he confessed him to be the Son of God. He was hungry to get someone to confess him.

Then let every one take his stand on the side of the Lord; confess him here on earth, and he will confess you when you get to heaven. He will look around upon you with pride, because you stood up for him here. If you want the blessing of heaven and the peace that passeth all understanding, you must be ready and willing to confess him. Do you know how Peter fell? He fell like ten thousand people fall, because they don’t confess the Son of God; that is the way Peter fell. He saw the people standing all around, and he was ashamed to own his Lord and Master. Am I speaking to any one here tonight who is ashamed to own Christ in his business; ashamed to own him among his circle of acquaintances? Have you been out to some dinner party, the last week, and heard these meetings ridiculed, and heard them scoff and jeer at Christ? If you did, and did not confess him and own him then, how can you expect to be acknowledged before the throne, at the judgment day? If you are not willing to take your stand on the side of the Lord, you need not expect that he will bless you. I can imagine someone saying: “I don’t believe in talking much about myself; and I don’t.” Well, I don’t want you to confess yourselves; I want you to confess Christ. We have had enough of that first kind of work. Confess him; that’s what I want you to do.

Look into that 5th chapter of Mark. It is that man I spoke of the other night, how Christ cast out the legions of devils out of him; and how he prayed

him he might be with him. “No,” he said; “you go home, and tell your friends how the Lord had compassion on you.” The young converts say: “Well, I will go around to the synagogue every Sunday; but I can’t tell any one; I won’t say anything about it.” But this man began to publish it; and it says that all men did marvel. They wouldn’t have it that the Son of God did it. The man had never been to college; I don’t know as he could write his name; I don’t know as he had ever been to school. There was one thing he did know—he knew the Son of God had healed him, and had put a new song into his mouth. Christ says: “Go home, and tell your friends what great things the Lord has done.” Thus he had the highest eloquence. He had the eloquence of heaven. The Spirit of the Lord God was upon him. Yes, but some of these women say; “If I was only a man, I would confess.” Look into the 4th chapter of John. There was a woman that stirred up the whole town. She took one draught of the living water, and when she went to publish it she says: “Come, and see the man that told me everything I ever did; is not this Christ?” And then it says that many believed her testimony, and then they got Christ into town, and he stayed there two or three days; and many more believed on account of his own works. I wish we had a few more women like the woman of Samaria, willing to confess what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for our souls.

Now, there is one man in the 9th chapter of John I want to call your attention to. I do not know his name. I wish I did; because he is one of the men I want to see when I get to heaven. I would like to read the whole chapter, but it is so long, I will just read a few verses—in the 9th verse, or 8th verse. It is that blind man that Christ gave sight to. Here is a whole chapter in John, of forty-one verses, just to tell how the Lord blessed that blind beggar. It was put in this book, I think, just to bring out the confession of that man. “The neighbors, therefore, and they which before had seen him which was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he; others said, He is like him; but he said, I am he.” If it had been our case I think we would have kept still. We would have said: “There is a storm brewing among the Pharisees; and they have said, If any man acknowledges Christ, we will put him out of the synagogue. Now, I don’t want to be put out of the synagogue.” I am afraid we would have said that; that is the way with a good many of the young converts. What did the young convert here? He said, “I am he.” And, bear in mind, he only told what he knew; he knew the man had given him his eyes. “Some said, He is like him, but he said, I am he.” So, young converts, open your lips, and tell what Christ has done for you. If you can’t do more than that, open your lips and do that. “Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus



made clay and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash; and I went and washed, and I received sight.” He said, “He anointed my eyes with clay and I went to the pool and washed; and whereas I had no eyes, I have now got two good eyes.” Some skeptic might ask, “What is the philosophy of it?” but he couldn’t tell that. “Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed and do see.” He wasn’t afraid to tell his experience twice; he had just told it once. “Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.” Now I am afraid if it had been us we would have kept still and said, “There is a storm brewing.” “They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.”

Now, you see, he has got to talking of the Master, and that is a grand good thing. I pity a man or woman that has got an idea that the world can’t got along without him. This man, he began to talk of his Master. “He is a prophet;” that is what I think about him. He knew what he was coming to; because the Pharisees had just said if any man confessed him, he was going to be cast out of the synagogue. It wasn’t like our churches nowadays; for if one church casts a man out, another will take him in if he shows any signs of repentance; but if he was cast out of the synagogue, there were none others there to take him in. “But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying: “Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? How, then, doth he now see?” His parents answered them and said: “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But by what means he now seeth we know not; or who hath opened his eyes we know not. He is of age; ask him; he will speak for himself.” I do not like those parents. They did know. They just dodged the question. They were ashamed to confess. What a blessing they would have got if they had only confessed! “He is of age; ask him.” They had rather sit in the synagogue than have Christ. “Then again called they the man that was blind and said unto him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered and said, “Whether he be a sinner or no I know not. One thing I know, that whereas I was blind now I see.” They couldn’t beat that out of him. This young convert got assurance right away. “I know that, whereas I was blind, now I see.” I had a good deal rather know that one thing than have all the wisdom of the world, and not have that. “Then said they unto him again, what

did he do unto thee? How opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already and ye did not hear; wherefore would ye hear it again? Will ye also be his disciples?" He didn't even know Christ; but he is ready to preach for him. Poor beggar! Unlearned man! If you are willing to be his disciple, I will tell it to you again. Will you do it? I like the faith that young convert had. You do not know what you can do by kindness and forbearance. I remember a family in Chicago who used to hoot at me and my scholars as we passed their house sometimes. One day one of the boys came into the Sunday-school and made light of it. As he went away, I told him I was glad to see him there, and hoped he would come again. He came and still made a noise, but I urged him to come the next time; and finally one day he said, "I wish you would pray for me, boys." That boy came to Christ. He went home and confessed his faith, and it wasn't long before that whole family had found the way into the kingdom of God. Oh, let us confess him tonight, and not be ashamed of our religion!