

**Song of Solomon 4: 9-11; “The Ravishing of Christ’s Heart”, Sermon # 38**  
**in the series – “I am my Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall**  
**On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

The relationship between the believer and Christ is a love relationship. We do not see Christ our Savior-Shepherd-Husband yet; we live our lives by faith in Him. But He is in our heart, intimately interacting with our thoughts and affections. The Apostle Paul prays in Ephesians 1, verse 17 that “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your hearts being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” The saints, taken all together, are the Bride of Christ. They are Christ’s inheritance in which He has joy and delight. They are spiritually espoused to Him and have been given the inestimable privilege of having Him be their heart’s constant companion. Christ expects you, O believer, to develop this heart relationship with Him. You know how it is with lovers who are married; that they have a way of knowing what is in each other’s heart and mind; by one look of the eyes, by one turn of the neck; by the scent of the perfume that is worn; and especially by the words that are spoken. This is what we want to think about here, together this afternoon, in a spiritual sense. The proposition of truth which we would consider is this: Christ is enraptured with the spiritual beauty of the graces in exercise in the heart of His sister; His spouse. The exercise of these graces affects Him greatly because He died to purchase them for you. If His sufferings which He endured were in order to bring grace to your heart; you can see why the exercise of them is something which ravishes His heart. So this afternoon we will consider the graces in you the believer, which when you exercise them, they greatly affect the heart of your spiritual husband, Jesus Christ. There is first described for us here, the exercise of the grace of your faith which is called “one look of your eyes”. Secondly - There is the exercise of the grace of your love, which is to Christ, comparable to perfumes and spices. And thirdly – There is the exercise of the graces of kindness and humility which are sweet and fragrant to Christ. May these words stimulate you to exercise the graces that you have received so that Christ will be ravished by them.

**1<sup>st</sup> – The exercise of your faith, which is called “one look of your eyes”.**  
(verse 9)

“You have ravished my heart, My sister, My spouse; You have ravished My heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace.” Christ calls His Church His sister, His spouse. Christ can call His Bride this because there is a relationship between them which is brotherly, because of His redeeming her for Himself. Because of His redemption believers are brought into the same family. You can see this if you will turn with me to Hebrews Chapter 2, verse 10. “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” “For both

He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’ “And again: ‘I will put My trust in Him.’ “And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.’ “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” You can see here that our becoming spiritual companions with Christ in our walk through this world, which is leading us to glory; is based upon Christ’s having been made perfect through sufferings. Christ took the initiative to become our spiritual brother, first of all, in His incarnation. He partook of our human nature and in this physical sense he is our brother. Then, to accomplish our salvation, He said as He came into the world, “I am my brother’s keeper”. This was far different from Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother Abel. But our Lord Jesus came into this fallen world for our sakes; that men might be saved from their sins and live. He Himself laid down His life for His friends and brethren so that they could be sanctified; set apart by His grace to become holy even as He was holy. And not only would they be set apart in a general sense to this holiness but He would enter their heart and their life and by the effectual working of His powerful grace; over time, as they live their lives to Him, they would really become holy. Christ has a brotherly affection for us in seeing that we become holy. Indeed since He died to bring about this result in our hearts and in our lives, He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Yes, it is with Him as it was with the Apostles when Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9: “Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?” In the original it literally says, “Do we not have a right to take along a sister, a wife?” Well, Christ; because of His incarnation and His redemption of us as believers, does have a right to take us along with Him, as His spiritual sister; through this life, and on into glory. He has not only purchased redemption for us; He has purchased the place in our heart that He now has; to change and to transform us by His grace. Christ is in our hearts as the hope of glory. Therefore, what ravishes His heart now is the exercise of your faith toward Him in relation to what He is doing in your heart and in your life in relation to keeping His commandments. “If you love Me,” He says, “keep My commandments”.

Turn to Matthew 12: 46. “While Jesus was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside seeking to speak with Him.” “Then one said to Him, ‘Look Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to You.’ “But He answered and said to the one who told Him, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ “And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers!’” “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” But you and I know that no one truly does the will of the Father in heaven unless they have faith in Christ. No one is saved from their sins by the works of the Law. Salvation comes to you by faith in the Lord Jesus. Growth in grace comes when you walk by faith and live your life

by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you. You would have thought that Jesus would have been excited that His physical relatives were standing outside the door, and that they wanted to talk to Him. But He is not so much interested in seeing them as He is in being with the person who will follow Him in faith. Let me ask you if you are following the Lord Jesus in faith? If you have faith in Him, you have life. And if you have His life, you have light; for His life is the light of men. If you have never begun to walk on the path of righteousness and truth, this is where you start. Turn to Isaiah Chapter 45. Verse 22 says, "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth!" "For I am God, and there is no other." "I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath." "He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength.'" The Lord Jesus is very willing to save you if you will look to Him for salvation. When you do look to Him, and you take Him as your Savior, you take an oath it says here. You confess that only in Him are righteousness and spiritual strength.

In a coming day, the Lord is going to bring His ancient people the Jews to saving faith in Himself. They are still "beloved for the sake of the fathers", but presently they are enemies to the gospel of Christ. How will their salvation be brought to pass? Zechariah 12: 10 tells us. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced." "Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." This is how God effects the salvation of any person. One look of your spiritual eyes to Christ; one glance looking to Him in faith, that He might do His good work in you, is enough to save. Perhaps you, as a believer do not realize this important truth affects your growth and usefulness to Christ. Christ is ravished with even one glance of your faith toward Him; looking for Him to give you the strength to live to Him, and the wisdom to work for Him. Oh; to do exploits for Christ and His gospel! William Carey when he had been in India a few years and had not seen a single convert yet, he wrote these words, which I think ravished Christ's heart. "When I left England, my hope of India's conversion was very strong; but amongst so many obstacles, it would die, unless upheld by God." "Well, I have God, and His Word is true." "Though the superstitions of the heathen were a thousand times stronger than they are, and the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on that sure Word, would rise above all obstructions and overcome every trial." "God's cause will triumph." And again: "When I reflect on how God has stirred me up to the work, and wrought wonders to prepare my way, I can trust His promises and be at peace." You see, faith is only one link in the necklace of graces which the Bride of Christ wears, but O how important a link is; that it be in exercise and thus ravish Christ's heart. By faith we are saved, and by faith we live to serve God and our Christ.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - There is the exercise of the grace of your love, which is to Christ, comparable to perfumes and spices.** (verse 10)

“How fair is your love, My sister, My spouse!” “How much better than wine is your love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices.” Love is that strong affection of the heart which goes out to Christ for Who He is and what He has done for us, which then translates itself into service unto Christ and love to other Christians. This ravishes His heart. 1 John 4: 10 – “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” And verse 19 of that same chapter: “We love Him because He first loved us.” And 1<sup>st</sup> John 3, verse 16 says, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.” “And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” This is something which many Christians have to learn the hard way. Often a Christian will have sincere desires to serve God, and they will want to do great things for God and for the advancement of Christ’s kingdom, and yet they do not really understand themselves yet; enough to see that it is through love to God and Christ that you come to have love for the souls of people around you. Many think that the wine of pleasing self is better than the love of Christ that leads them into deeper, more meaningful service to Christ. They have a zeal for Christ’s cause, but they do not yet see the integral place of love to becoming effective in His service. It is only when you come to understand the greatness of the love of Christ for you, that you will learn to demonstrate that same kind of love for the brethren; that you will learn to lay down your life for them. That is true service to Christ; when you learn to lay down your life for them, because the love of Christ controls you. 2 Corinthians 5: 12. “For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.” “For if we are beside ourselves it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.” “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

You will recall that the Apostle Peter denied our Lord in that time period after Christ was arrested and taken away to be falsely accused and tried. He had wept bitterly over this fall of his, and when He saw His Lord risen from the dead; at the first of these meetings where they could really sit down and talk, our Lord said to him, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” “He said to Him, ‘Yes Lord; You know that I love You.’” “He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs’.” “He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’” “He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’” “He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’” “And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’” “Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’” “Most assuredly I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” “This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God.” “And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” Now, notice here, that the requirement for Peter’s further serving Jesus was not whether he felt up to the task; whether he felt

strong enough and confident enough in himself now, to try to serve Jesus once again. It was whether or not he loved the Lord Jesus.

That is what ravishes the heart of Christ. That is what is better than wine. He knows that in your own strength that you are going to utterly fail to serve Him in the way that He is commanding you and expecting you to serve Him. But He also knows that if the love of Himself is controlling you and compelling you; that you will be able to serve Him. That was what Jesus was testing Peter on. Once Peter sincerely confessed his love for Jesus; then in 3 repeated answers, Jesus tells him to go about the work that He had originally called Peter to. This work was the work of an Apostle and preacher and teacher. "Feed My lambs". "Tend My sheep." "Feed My sheep." And when that work was finished, then when he was old, he would stretch out his hands (that was what happened when a prisoner was to be crucified; they would stretch out their hands and be bound to the wooden beam of the cross). Christ would give Peter strength, through grace, because of his love for Him, to do that which he had wanted to do when His Master went to the cross. It is this kind of love that ravishes Christ's heart.

**And then 3rdly - There is the exercise of the graces of kindness and humility which are sweet and fragrant to Christ.** (verse 11)

We can couple the last part of verse 10 here with verse 11. "And the scent of your perfumes is better than all spices!" "Your lips, O my spouse, drip as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue; and the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon." Christ is speaking here in these verses of how desirable it is to Him that the believer learn to speak to Him and to speak to others about Him. To speak to Christ should be seen by us as both communion and prayer. There is a purpose in the speaking. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks," Jesus says. And Paul says somewhere, "We believe, therefore we speak." We speak to Christ in our hearts to hold sweet communion with Him; to explain to Him our burdens and cares; to confess our many sins and to ask Him to forgive and to cleanse us; to tell Him of our dreams and holy ambitions to serve Him; and to ask for the grace and power and wisdom to tell others of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 2: 14 Paul says, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." "To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life." "And who is sufficient for these things?"

There are people who may not want to hear the things which we would speak to them about Christ. They may even profess to be Christians and yet not want to talk about spiritual things. But let this not discourage us. We who are speaking with Christ and to Christ about spiritual realities and the things that we hope for; these are a sweet perfume to Christ. You see there are earthly spices and perfumes and ointments which are very satisfying to earthly people. But for spiritually-minded people, there are heavenly fragrances, spices and ointments. There is the balm of Gilead found in Christ's death. There are scents of myrrh and frankincense of the

love that took Him to the cross that we have come to desire to be on our spiritual garments. Myrrh and Aloes and Cassia which come from Christ's garments. God anointed Him with the oil of gladness more than all His companions. And since we are His companions, He shares these spiritual fragrances with us in imparting grace to our hearts and speaking through His Word to our souls. Let us draw near to Him and He will draw near to us. James 5: 16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." John Gill says, "The prayers of the meanest believer are as delightful music in his ears, as sweet-smelling odors in his nostrils, and like the honey or honey-comb to his taste."

When we understand the secret life of communion with Christ in fellowship and prayer then we are able to be kind in our speech and humble in our demeanor in relation to both believers and unbelievers around us. Proverbs 16: 24 says, "Pleasant words are like a honey-comb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." The honey and milk of the Word of God are under the tongue of the believer. Jesus Christ has brought us into land of milk and honey, so that we have a kind word, a good word for people around us. Colossians 4: 6 says, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Believers have the law of kindness under their tongue. It all comes from the sweet fellowship times of partaking of the milk and honey of Christ's Word in their hearts. Christ loves it when your lips drip as the honeycomb; when they speak of Him and these times.