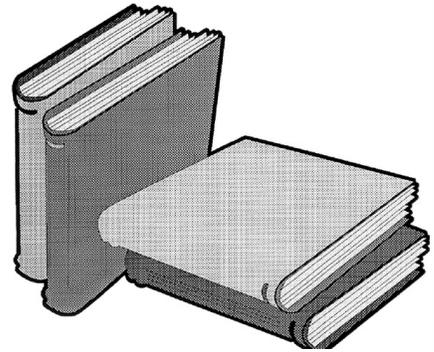


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,
collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1035

External Worship. On Public Hearing the Word.

Prayer should go before it. Such who are desirous of hearing the word to profit and advantage, should pray **for the minister**, that he may be directed to what may be suitable for their cases, be assisted in his work, and be greatly blessed to their souls good. **And [should pray] for themselves**, that they might have their minds disposed to hear the word, and be kept from wanderings under it, and that they may understand what they hear, and receive it in the love of it. ...

There are some things **necessary whilst hearing the word**. A man should **try what he hears** [for its truth], and whilst hearing; for the ear tries words by their own experience and by the word of God. A man **should take to himself what he hears**, and whilst hearing it. Some hear not for themselves but for others. They should **observe what is for doctrine, for reproof for sin, for correction** of conduct and conversation, and **for instruction in righteousness**, in any branch of duty that concerns them, **so** when they hear of Christ as a Saviour, and of the great salvation by him, and of the blessings and promises of grace, they are to **take these to themselves by faith as belonging to them**.

After hearing the word some things are to be done. There should be **a recollection of what has been heard**. ... Persons should retire privately and meditate upon what they have heard. ... When two or more meet together after hearing the word, and converse together, it may be to much profit and advantage to refresh each other's memories. What one has forgotten another may remember, or what has appeared difficult to one may be explained by another.

John Gill, *A Complete Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity*, 1770,
from the 1819 edition, p. 937-938,
with slight changes in wording for the modern reader.

Gill was a Reformed Baptist Minister pastoring the congregation that
in 1854 called the 19 year old Charles Spurgeon to its pulpit.