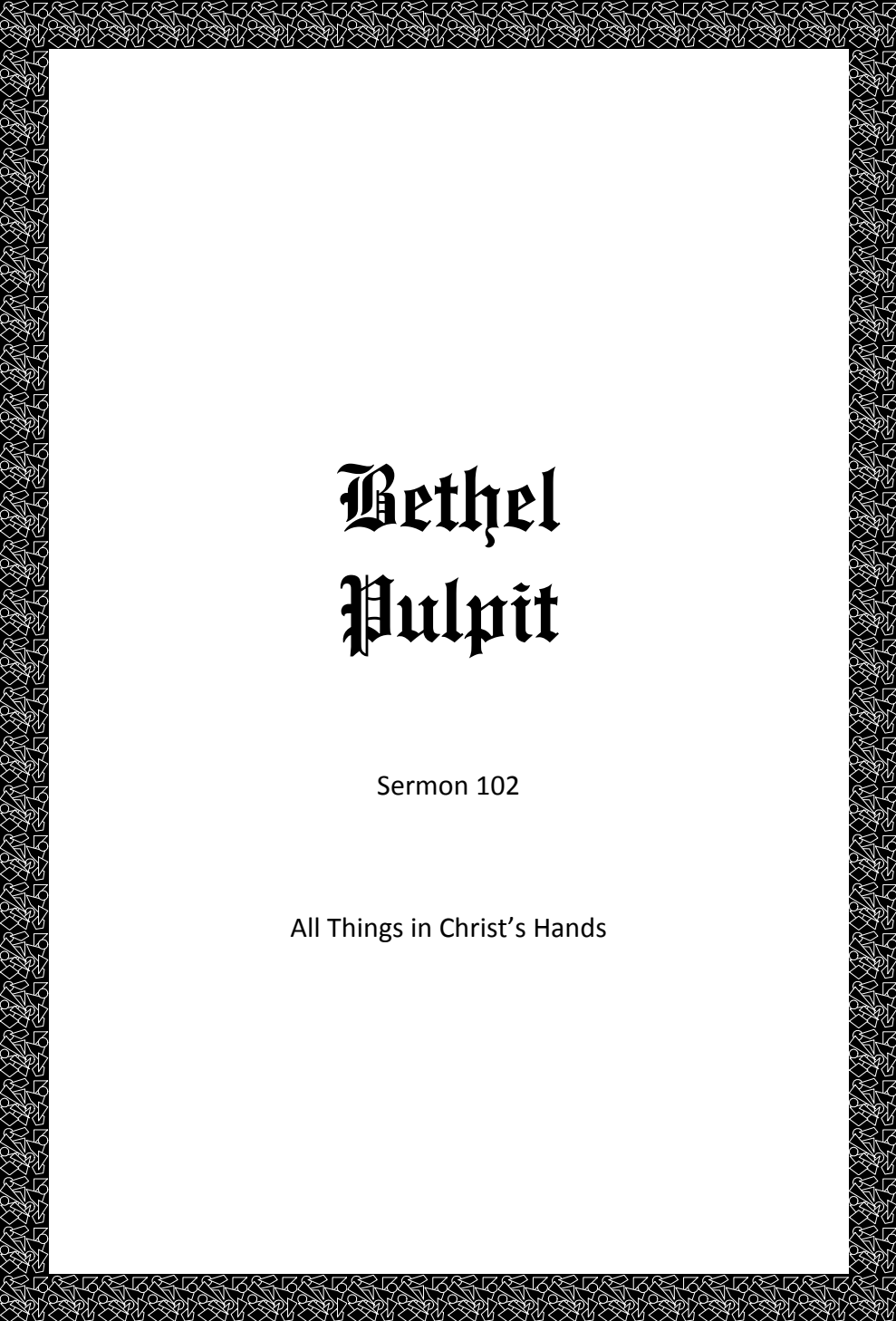




Bethel Pulpit

Sermon 102

All Things in Christ's Hands

**Sermon preached at Bethel Chapel, Luton,
by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom,
on Thursday, 29th July, 1993**

Text: *“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand” (John 3. 35).*

Have you ever noticed the emphasis in John that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God from everlasting? That is the emphasis all the way through. I think you will find John is different from Matthew, Mark or Luke. Now take the beginning. Matthew begins with the genealogy, the birth of Jesus, the wise men. Mark begins with John the Baptist and the beginning of the preaching of the Lord Jesus. Luke starts with Elisabeth and Zacharias, the birth of the Lord Jesus, Simeon, Anna. John is completely different, right back to eternity: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He speaks of the glories of His divine Person. Then he says, “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” Right through John, over and over again, there is the emphasis that Jesus is the Son of God, much more than in any of the other gospels.

So you find some things appear in John that do not appear anywhere else, and there are other things do not appear in John which appear in all the other gospels. There seems to be a special emphasis on the sacred union and everlasting relationship between God the Father and God the Son. This is brought in in an unusual way at times. You have John chapters 14, 15 and 16, the farewell sermon of the Lord Jesus, beginning with the beautiful words, “Let not your heart be troubled.” He is just about to go out to Gethsemane, to Calvary, to bleed and die. His immediate disciples are full of sorrow, full of sadness. He seeks to comfort their hearts. We think, how would the Lord Jesus comfort His sorrowing disciples? Then we have this deep, doctrinal discourse on the relationship between the Father and His Son and how the Holy Spirit would reveal it. That is not usually how we would seek to comfort one another, but that is the way the Lord Jesus chose.

So you have this insistence, this emphasis not only on who the Lord Jesus is, but His relationship with His Father. Now we have it here. “The Father loveth the Son.” Who can ever fathom this ocean, the ineffable love before the world had any being, before time had any being, before any creature was created, the ineffable love of the eternal Father to His eternal Son? We read that from everlasting He was in the bosom of the Father, rejoicing ever before Him. So it is not surprising to read this: “The Father loveth the Son.” Of course He loves the Son, and of course the Son loves the Father. No-one can comprehend the greatness, the eternity of that love.

“The Father loveth the Son.” But there are one or two things bound up with it. One is this: that as the Father so dearly loves the Son, He loves all His people in Christ. You can understand the Father eternally loving His own dear Son. But you look at this company of vile, lost, ruined, hell-deserving sinners who make up the Lord’s chosen. “The Father loveth the Son,” and He loves all of them, every one of them, despite their sin and shame, in and through His dear Son. Do you know what the Lord Jesus said on one occasion? He said this: “Thou ... hast loved *them*, as Thou hast loved *Me*.” Now no child of God ever yet comprehended that, that the Father loves you with the same love with which He loves Christ.

“The Father loveth the Son.” Now another thing bound up with it is this. It was this Son of the Father who was so dearly loved that the Father gave. That is the measure of the gift. It was not just a son by office, or a son by covenant, or a son by appointment. It was His only-begotten Son. We think of that word (I know it is a parable), “Having yet therefore one son, his well-beloved, he sent him.” O this love of the Father to His Son, and yet so great His love to His unworthy people that He sends His dear Son. “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” The emphasis is on the word *so*. “God *so* loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” What did He give Him to? He gave Him to be a Man of sorrows. He gave Him to be despised and rejected of men. He gave Him to shame and spitting. He gave Him to agony and blood. He gave Him to the crown of thorns, the nails, the cruel spear. He gave Him to the enduring of divine wrath against sin. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

“The Father loveth the Son.” Now there is another thing bound up with it. On one occasion the Lord Jesus said this: “Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.” The Lord Jesus says His Father loves Him because He lays down His life – the freeness, the willingness of the Lord Jesus to die for sinners! “Therefore doth My Father love Me.” Mind you, it is not the only reason why His Father loves Him, not the first reason why His Father loves Him, but it is an important reason why He loves Him. A father has a son. He dearly loves him because he is his son. But then perhaps he sees his son engaged in such an act of bravery and kindness, and doesn’t his love flow out towards him? That is the point, how the love of the eternal Father flowed out towards the Lord Jesus when He laid down His life on the cross. And beloved friends, if the Lord loves Him because He laid down His life for sinners, how much should those sinners love Him for laying down His precious life for them?

“The Father loveth the Son.” It is a depth, an ocean we cannot fathom. But perhaps some of you may taste a little of it this evening, the wonderful love of the Father to His Son and to all His people in Him. “The Father loveth the Son,” and because of this, He “hath given all things into His hand.” I take that to mean exactly what it says: all things, everything. The Father hath given all things into the hands of the Lord Jesus because He loves Him, for the honour and glory of His name, and also because there is no better repository for all things than in the hands of God’s eternal Son.

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” *The work of creation* was given into the hands of Christ. The world was made by Him. “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” “He is the whole creation’s Head, and angels fly at His command.” He “hath given all things into His hand.” He put the whole of creation’s work into the hands of Christ, and He was able to create. The work was not too great for Him. Being almighty, being truly God, “He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” The whole of creation was put into the hands of Christ so that in creation He said, “Let there be ... and there was.” And still, today, all creation is in the hands of Christ. “Upholding all things by the

word of His power.” This is the greatness of His power – that dear Man, that dear Saviour who suffered, bled and died. Do you believe it, the Father has given all things into His hands? The work of creation, and the upholding, the supporting, the maintaining of all creation, every rolling star, every planet according to His will. The government is upon His shoulder, the government of all creation.

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” *The whole work of providence* is in the hands of Christ.

“Keep silence all created things,
And wait your Maker’s nod.”

To see everything in the hands of Christ. How it was revealed in Revelation 5! That glorious Person with the book sealed with the seven seals, and the challenge: “Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?” There is none worthy in heaven or earth or under the earth. And then you see the Saviour, the Son of God from all eternity, take the book, and the song of all heaven, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. He is worthy to take the book and to open the seals.” This is the book of God’s decrees, the book of providence, and it is in the hands of Christ – nothing taking place by accident, nothing taking place by chance, but everything in the hands of Christ, the lot cast into the lap, the whole disposing thereof of the Lord; as these things fall out one by one, not according to accident or chance, but out of the lap of divine providence. It is in the hands of Christ. That is, the One who loves His people. That is, the One who makes all things work together for their good, the One who does all things in love.

“There’s not a particle of dust can fly,
A sparrow fall, or cloud obscure the sky,
A moth be crushed, or leaf fall from a tree,
But in submission to His wise decree.”

Do you believe it? So if you have troubles and sorrows and problems and difficulties and disappointments, they have fallen out of the hands of Christ.

“Not from the dust affliction grows,
Nor troubles rise by chance.”

“Affliction cometh not forth of the dust.” It falls out of the hands of the Son of God.

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” *The whole work of redemption.* In the covenant of grace, ordered in all things and sure, the whole work of redemption was put into the hands of Christ. He was able to receive it from His Father. He was willing to receive it from His Father. He came for the accomplishment of that great work of redemption that was placed in His hands – almighty hands, loving hands, powerful hands, gracious hands. So the Son of God came, and He lived a holy life, and then He laid it down in death. He bled and died on the cross. He offered His life a sacrifice. He made atonement for sin. He finished the work of redemption which was placed in His hand. So His dying cry, “It is finished.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” We see the Son of God now exalted at God’s right hand, a great High Priest, the sinners’ Advocate with God, a Priest upon a throne, a royal Priest, a priestly King, all things in His hand. “Sing how He lives to carry on His people’s cause above.” “This Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” The whole work of creation, the whole work of providence, the whole work of redemption. But, “the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” He has put *His people* into the hands of Christ. They are among the *all things*. All the people of God from Adam’s day to the end of time are put into the hands of Christ. It really comes to this (there is a lot of good divinity in it): “If I am found in Jesus’ hands, my soul can ne’er be lost.” O to see the Father eternally choosing a people, loving them with an everlasting love, and putting them into the hands of His dear Son, and to see that His dear Son, having received them, will never put them down until He puts them down safely in heaven. Then faith will do just what the Father does. Faith will put yourself in the Saviour’s hands. That is what God-given faith will do. “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have

committed unto Him against that day.” Ourselves, and our never-dying souls and our salvation in the hand of Christ.

“Firm as His throne His promise stands,
And He can well secure
What I’ve committed to His hands,
Till the decisive hour.”

You could not be in safer hands, in better hands. You could not be in a more blessed place than this, to be found in the hands of the eternal Son of God, those almighty hands, at all times, in every circumstance, now and to all eternity, in the furnace and in the flood. “The eternal God is thy refuge” – Christ – “and underneath are the everlasting arms.” O to see all the blood-bought church in the hands of Christ, held there, upheld there, embraced there, eternally safe there, secured there – the wonderful truth of the eternal safety, the blessedness of the people of God in the hands of Christ! What would we be if salvation were in our hands or if we were in the hands of some creature?

David was offered – the only time you get an offer from God in Scripture – he was offered three things, and they were all solemn judgments. That is the only offer God makes in Scripture. David says, “Let me fall now into the hand of the Lord.” O but if only you and I could fall into the hands of Christ! Sometimes it is like this, someone almost falling over a precipice, over a cliff top, and there clinging on, and suddenly their grip goes and they fall – right into the arms of Christ. That is salvation. “My soul into Thy arms I cast, I trust I shall be saved at last.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” What a word is that, Moses’ loving word to Israel: “Yea, He loved the people; all His saints are in Thy hand” – every one of them. You see the great Shepherd here, and the feeblest lamb in Jesus’ fold is in the Shepherd’s hands, the Shepherd’s arms. “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” O to see the whole church of God safe in the arms of the eternal Son of God and to see yourself safe there, despite all your sin and ruin and guilt and woe and weakness and weariness! “Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His loving breast.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” Now then, as the eternal Father put the whole of His people into the hands of Christ, He put *the whole of their concerns* into the hands of Christ. May you receive that point tonight, personally may you view it, that your concerns, whatever they are, are in the hands of Christ: your great concerns, your small concerns, your spiritual concerns, your providential concerns, your concerns for today, your concerns for tomorrow, your concerns in your family, your concerns in the church of God. May you see that the everlasting Father has put all your concerns in the hands of Christ. Wouldn’t it be different if we believed what we do believe, if we realised this day by day? We worry and bother and fret. O but if only we could see that the Father has placed all our concerns in the hands of Someone who can manage them better than us!

“He engaged to manage all,
By the way and to the end.”

“The government shall be upon His shoulder.”

Now it is this. You know what your concerns are tonight. I know what my concerns are tonight. May we be enabled to place them by faith where the eternal Father has placed them from everlasting. What is your concern tonight? What is it that rests on your spirit? What is it that you are praying about? Now seek to put that concern into the hands of Christ, into the very place where the eternal Father put all the concerns of all His people from all eternity. In a word it is this: “Commit thy way unto the Lord.” Commit it into the hands of Christ, *thy* way, that which concerns you this evening. “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.” Like Ruth with that concern she had as she went in softly by night. She fell at Boaz’s feet and she committed her concern right into his hands, and she left it there. “Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” Now you see, as the Father has given the whole of His people into the hands of Christ, and He has given the whole of their concerns into the hands of Christ, so He has given into the hands of Christ *all things necessary for the good of His people*. That is, Christ viewed as a Mediator. “For it pleased the Father that in *Him*” – in Christ – “should all

fulness dwell.” Now the Father has put that fulness into the hands of Christ as the Mediator: a fulness of grace and a fulness of glory. And you and I are brought through divine teaching to realise our utter and absolute and complete helplessness, and not only that, but our complete emptiness, and then to see that wonderful fulness the Father has committed into the hands of Christ. It is an all-sufficiency of grace; grace to forgive your sins, grace to cleanse you from all iniquity, grace to supply all your needs. “And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” The grace you need, seek it from the hands of Christ. It is treasured up there. He has committed all wisdom into the hands of Christ, that is Christ as Mediator, as His people’s covenant Head. That wisdom you need, spiritual wisdom, wisdom to direct your way, wisdom in your choices, wisdom how to handle matters wisely, it is held there. It is committed into the hands of Christ. Now seek it there. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.” A fulness of grace, of wisdom, and then almighty strength, almighty power the Father has committed into the hands of Christ as Mediator. He is a strong Saviour, a strong Lord. Commit thou all thy care, all thy ways, to Him.

“Leave God to order all thy ways,
And trust in Him whate’er betide.”

“Cast thy burden upon the Lord.” All strength is committed to Him by the Father. They were almost the last words the Lord Jesus spoke before He ascended to heaven: He said, “*All power* is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore.” May you view it tonight. “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore.” At times a fearing, trembling child of God says, But how can I go? How can I go in the unknown way? How can I go to meet this person? How can I go to meet this trouble? How can I go before the church? How can I testify what the Lord has done? “Go ye *therefore*.” What does the *therefore* mean? Because the Father loveth the Son and has committed this divine, almighty power into His hands. As the Son of God eternally, He is divine and He is almighty, but as Mediator undertaking that work in the covenant of grace, the Father has committed all strength and might and power into His hands. “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore.” In

a word it is this: “Whate’er I need in Jesus dwells,” and may you be able to go further and say: “And there it dwells for me.”

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.” This wonderful view, to see the eternal Son of God incarnate, to see Him as the dear Mediator, to see Him as the great Head of the church, and to see Him with all things committed into His hands by the Father; and to all eternity, all glory, all honour, all praise, because the Father loves Him. So He is to be exalted for ever by the Father and by His people because of who He is, because of what He has done. “The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.”