

More Spiritual Gems *from the Erskines*

Prayer -The Gate To Your Heart

Ralph Erskine -1715

Prayer is the regal gate, the beautiful gate, by which the Lord enters into the temple of the heart - comforting, quieting, strengthening, quickening, and raising it.

Sermons Without The Name Of Christ

Ebenezer Erskine - September 1734

Oh sirs! How goes the name of Christ away with you? You that are contented with dry sapless harangues of morality, and the airy flourishes of human rhetoric, pleased with sermons in which scarcely anything of the name of Christ is to be found; you never yet had His name or His Father's name manifest to you, you are strangers to it; for them that know His name, that sermon, that ordinance, that communion, where the name of Christ is not recorded with honor, it is unsavoury to them, tasteless like the white of an egg, in which there is no relish.

Singing The Praises Of Free Grace

Ralph Erskine - June 13, 1731

O! who am I? says the soul that hath obtained mercy. What! such a rebel, and yet pardoned! Such an enemy and yet reconciled! Such a black devil, and yet washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb! Such a fiend of hell, and yet made a favorite of Heaven! O grace! Grace!

The Window of Gospel Preaching

Ebenezer Erskine - Date Not Available

Sirs, there is a goodly company of souls gathered at present to this window of gospel preaching. O! that all this multitude would rise like a cloud, and fly like doves to Christ, through the window of a preached gospel!

Working Your Way to Heaven

Ralph Erskine - 1723

If men could fly to heaven, by the wings of their own works; or get up there by the ladder of their own righteousness, what need was there that God should set up another ladder for us?

Christ Looks After His Sheep

Ebenezer Erskine - April 1734

Yea, He stands on Mount Zion above, and He has His eyes fixed upon every little sheep or lamb of His pasture; He tells all their wanderings; He is putting all their tears into His bottle; and there is not a sigh or a groan, that goes from the heart of any of His oppressed ones through the land at this day, but it goes to His very heart.

Christ In The Scriptures

Ralph Erskine - August 1722

It is a strange text that a gospel minister cannot find Christ in, since the whole scriptures testify of Him: as if it said nothing else but Christ, Christ.

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Mountains To Be Moved

Ralph Erskine - June 13, 1731

Possibly you find mountains of sin and guilt, mountains of trouble and distress, mountains of fears and objections, mountains of difficulties and discouragements in your way; but let them not fright you from coming to Christ; for He hath them all in His hand, and can overturn the mountains as easily as He can turn His hand.

Dwelling In A House Of Clay

Ebenezer Erskine - April 28, 1734

Perhaps thou dwellest in a crazy house of clay now, that is always drooping, and thou are afraid every day it will fall down about thy ears; but, believer, the day of thy redemption draweth near, ere long the Bridegroom Himself will come and fetch thee home to Himself, and "thou shalt enter the King's palace with gladness and rejoicings, and mirth on every side."

See Your Need Of Christ

Ralph Erskine - Date Not Available

O man, there is not a starving man that needs meat so much as you need Christ; there is not a wounded man that needs a physician, a shipwrecked man that needs a plank, a dying man with the death rattle in his throat, that needs breath as much as thou needest Christ. O! then cry, "Give me Christ, or else I die." I may live without friends, without wealth, and honor, and pleasure; but I cannot live without Christ and without faith.

A Throne Of Self-Conceit

Ebenezer Erskine - Date Not Available

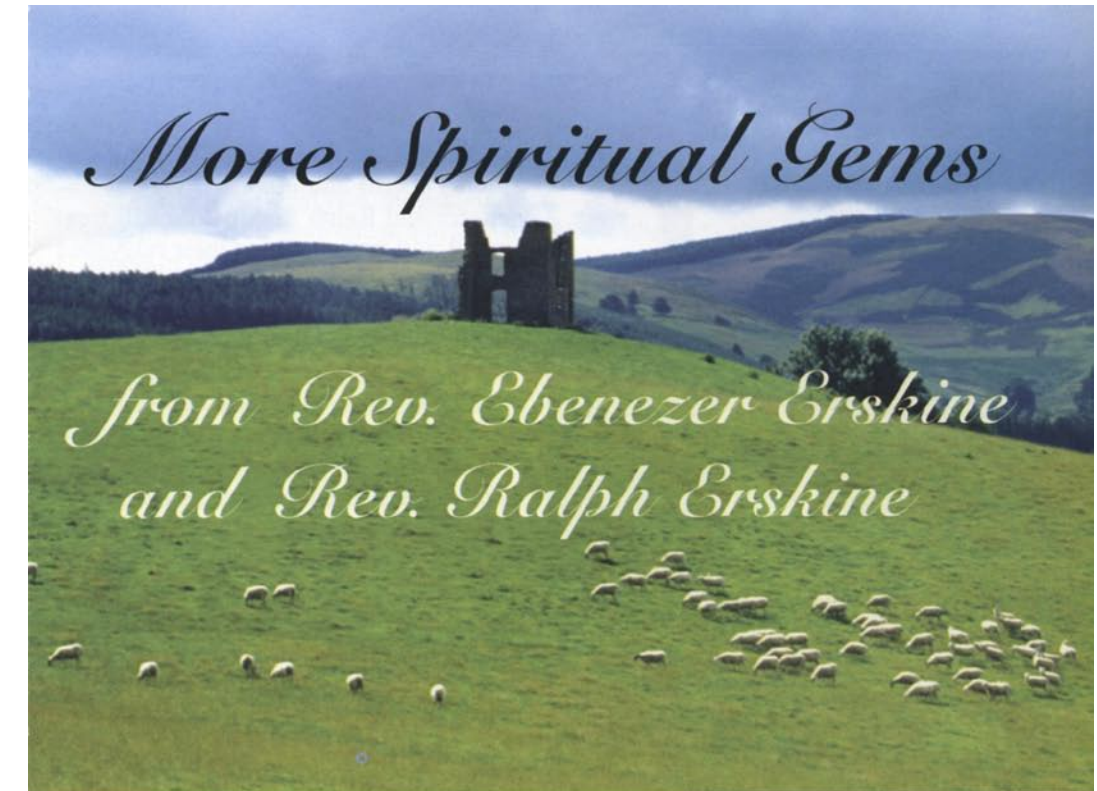
Every man in a natural state sits mounted on an imaginary throne of self-conceit.

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Old bridge over the Firth of Forth, Edinburgh, Scotland



More Spiritual Gems

*from Rev. Ebenezer Erskine
and Rev. Ralph Erskine*

Excerpts from sermons
that build a bridge between
yesterday and tomorrow.





A courtyard at Edinburgh Castle

Two of Scotland's greatest ministers died some 250 years ago, yet the sermons, poems and other writings of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine are still treasured and respected for their relevance to today's moral and spiritual issues. They were brothers in a large family as well as brothers in Christ, whom they served all their lives. Ebenezer, born in 1680, was five years old when Ralph was born. Brought up under the careful nurture and training of their father, a Covenanter minister, and their mother, both Ebenezer and Ralph were educated at the University of Edinburgh. Each served pastorates located in the narrow waistband of Scotland between the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Forth.

They were united in their belief and understanding of the basic tenets of Reformed theology. They were great preachers of God's grace to sinners and were forthright in preaching the free offer of the Gospel to all. Like their father, who was persecuted earlier in his

ministry during what became known in Scotland as the "Killing Times," both suffered criticism and ostracism from some of their colleagues during their ministries because of their strong stand for the free offer of grace to believers. Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine are revered today as founders of what is now the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The brothers left behind a rich and enduring legacy – their published sermons and writings. The Erskines' sermons are still treasured today for their honest and heart-piercing presentation and interpretation of Scripture. Their words beautifully reveal the Gospel lessons they yearned for their listeners to hear and claim as their own.

Their messages still ring as true today as they did in ancient Scotland, and are as vital and vibrant. We anticipate the pleasure you will receive as you read this, our second collection of *Spiritual Gems from the Erskines*.

Board of Outreach North America
Rev. James T. Corbitt, D.D., Director

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What Time Is It?

Ralph Erskine - August 1744

... now is the fit hour for faith and hope to act upon this great promise of life from the dead. Man, woman, the Master calls you; though you be dead and lying in your blood, He says unto you, "Live; ... Though you have been lying dead in sin all your days to this very hour, yet behold now is the accepted time, now is the hour, the happy hour, on which may depend a happy eternity; therefore listen to the voice that speaks from heaven.

Glorify In Christ Alone

Ebenezer Erskine - June 10, 1733

You will glory in His wisdom, under a sense of your own folly; glory in His strength under a sense of your own weakness; glory in His righteousness under a sense of your own guilt; glory in His life, under a sense of your own deadness; yea, the very death and cross of Christ will be your ornament.

Lamentation Over Prayerless Persons and Families -

Ralph Erskine - Date Available

Satan jogs our hand when we are to write a letter to heaven in our prayer, so that we can scarce make sense of what we present to God. Our thoughts are unfixed, ranging abroad like a spaniel dog to a thousand objects, so that sometimes we have lost ourselves, and know not where we are.

Sour Believers

Ebenezer Erskine - October 1739

If you see any of the saints dull and melancholy, it is not part of their religion, but it is rather their irreligion, and their unacquaintedness with the Lord; it is their failing and infirmity; but when faith is set at work, it has a 'joy that no man can take from them.'

Christ's Love

Ralph Erskine - Date not available

He loved me; *me*, that one so wicked, so wretched, so unworthy? O, that everyone here were by faith putting in their "*me*;" He loved "*me*." ... O, that He should love such miserable "*mes*" as we are...

What is God's Design for the Scriptures?

Ebenezer Erskine - June 4, 1732

I answer, It is just to bring a lost world to

the knowledge of a Savior... In short, sirs, our preaching and your hearing is in vain, unless we bring you to the knowledge of Christ, and an acquaintance with him.



The Blood of Christ Compared With Water

Ralph Erskine - August 1746

...as water rises from the ocean, so does the blood of Christ from the ocean of the love of God in Christ. Water is penetrating; when poured out it runs into all the secret caverns and pores of things it meets with... even so doth the blood of Christ run in through all the open gaps of a guilty conscience... Water softens the earth; it is said to be made soft with showers; O! nothing softens a hard heart like the water of the blood of Christ.

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Nothing In My Hand To Bring

Ralph Erskine - Date Not Available

Though you are nothing and have nothing... and are crying out in your heart. O! I have no faith, no love, no grace, no good about me; is that your case? I will tell you, man, woman, you are the welcomest person in the world to come to Christ.

What Is Faith?

Ebenezer Erskine - June 1728

What is faith? We are always calling on you to believe, and if you ask what it is, here is a plain and easy answer: It is just to receive and welcome the Son of God, the Savior of sinners, coming to visit you in the gospel call and offer... So to believe, is to entertain the visit of Him that brings the dayspring from on high along with Him; it is to make open doors to Him, to lift up the everlasting gates of your souls, and bid him hearty welcome, and to give Him His errand, by trusting Him in His saving, justifying, sanctifying and reconciling work.

The Believer Is Like A Ship

Ralph Erskine - 1725

The believer is like a ship; it is not enough that he hath the sails of grace implanted, but he must have the wind of the Spirit filling his sails, otherwise he cannot make way toward the heavenly port.

Pray For Your Pastor

Ralph Erskine - 1715

As prayer has a hand in the planting of a gospel ministry, so in the success of a ministry... Perhaps you will say, O! if I were living under a powerful and searching ministry! But I must tell you, a prayerless people may make a lifeless minister. Possibly you see the minister's infirmities, but when will you wrestle in prayer that the Lord would strengthen and enable him? If you pray not for him, you weaken his hands. If you pray for him, you may help him to preach; and if not, you may hinder him.

The Throne Of Grace

Ebenezer Erskine - Date Not available

You need not be at a loss where to find a throne of grace: though you were shut up in a prison or a dungeon, though you were driven to the utmost parts of the earth, from friend, kin and ally, yet you cannot be driven from a throne of grace. In a word, there is no place on earth on this side of hell but you may find this throne of grace.

