

“Deity’s Thirst”
by Dr. J.B. Buffington

John 19:23-30: *Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

I’d like to call my message this morning, “Deity’s Thirst.” When you read the accounts of the life of our Lord, you have four accounts. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew presents Him as King; Mark, the perfect Servant; Luke, the Son of Man; and John, the Son of God, Deity. John’s Gospel leaves out much of the Crucifixion scene. It’s very, very brief. The pain, the desolation, the mockery, the darkened sun, the earthquake, the rent veil — all those things are left out. It gives the statement to His mother and also this one, “I thirst.” John’s Gospel presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The fourteenth verse: *And we beheld his glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.* You see his dignity. We saw His dignity when they came to the garden to take Him, and He said, “Whom seek ye?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” And He said, “I Am.” And they fell on their face. They were in the presence of Deity, that’s the word Jehovah, I Am. And they fell on their face, backward, not forward in worship, but they fell back in fear. And He surrendered; they didn’t capture Him; He surrendered. They led Him away. He was in charge. He was in charge on Calvary’s cross, and you see His dignity. *We beheld his glory the glory as of the Father.* He was in charge in Pilate’s hall. But the Son of God was made flesh. John 1:14: *And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.* He became a man. He did not cease to be God. He became a man, the God-man, the perfect union of the Spiritual and with man inseparable. And you cannot draw a line where Deity is and humanity is. He was a God-man and will be forever. There’s a God-man in heaven today, the God-man. So He came, but can He understand me? In one phrase, two words summarize, “Can God understand me?” Look at those two words in the last part of verse twenty-eight: *I thirst.* “I thirst.” Now, considering that verse, the twenty-eighth verse, our Lord is quoting from a prophecy a thousand years old, Psalm 22:18. Now He’s not just quoting something; we’ll see in just a moment. He’s experiencing prophecy and fulfillment. When you open the Word of God, there is no excuse for a man or a woman not to believe in the Bible if he’ll study. There’s no excuse for a person being an evolutionist. You see, God leaves us without excuse. You say, “I don’t believe the Bible.” Then that’s your problem. The evidence is there. Now when you think about the infallibility in the Word of God, just about the prophecies, on the saved, on the cross. Here’s a Book, the Bible, written over sixteen hundred years span, that’s Old Testament and New Testament. You can’t accept the Old Testament and reject the New. You can’t do that. If you reject the New, then what happens? You reject the Savior and His genealogy and all about Him. It’s one book, and you can’t have just the portion you desire. Over 1,600 years span, three languages, on three continents, with sixty generations, and forty authors, and yet, there’s one Book. *Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* The prophecy centers on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. There are 333 predictions about Jesus Christ. The mathematical probability of fulfillment of these is 1 over 84 with 97 zero’s raised to that power. You can take all afternoon to figure that out. Now, it’s an absolute impossibility that these prophecies just happened. Now, we would say that’s a miracle. If anything else happened anywhere, we’d say that’s a miracle. Yes sir, God said it. “You hold a miracle Book in the Word of God,” the Bible, the Word of God. As Jesus hung on Calvary, he quoted from that Psalm, the twenty-second Psalm, a Messianic psalm, about the thirst of Calvary. Now, let’s look at that word again. There is the matter of prophecy, the miracle of prophecy. Consider the experience of prophecy. Our Lord in

the Scriptures says in verse twenty-eight: *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.* Now, He was fully aware of prophecy and all this, but He's not just a robot. He's just not sitting there checking off, "I've got to do this, that, and the other; I've got to say this, that, and the other." Not on your life! Here He was fulfilling prophecy by that exclamation, "I thirst."

Now, what a word when you think about thirst and the fulfillment in every detail of the experience of the word "thirst." David in his suffering in the twenty-second Psalm wrote of his suffering, but his suffering was only surface suffering in comparison with the fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus refused the cup in the beginning of the crucifixion (Matthew 27:34), and they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall. Here was laudanum. Here was that which would deaden the pain. And when He tasted thereof, He would not drink. Our Lord wanted all of His faculties to fulfill prophecy, to say, "I thirst," and fulfill it in every area. All of the longings, when you think about thirst, all of the longings and the aspirations and the frustrations of the human heart — our Lord took our place; and on the cross, He thirsted in every aspect that the human heart has ever suffered. And when He went to Gethsemane, that night, He sweat drops of blood. Why? The Father showed Him the cup; He showed Him all that was in the cup and what was involved in dying on the cross. The devil does not show you concerning the wages of sin. God shows you it will cost you if you follow Him. We hear too much television evangelism, "If you come follow Jesus, everything will be hunky-dory and happy all the time." That's not so. Jesus said, "You'll have to take up your cross. It will cost you. Die daily." He said, "If you're going to follow me, it will cost you," but He said, "It will be worth it all." And the devil hides his cost from his followers; that is not so with the Lord Jesus. When Jesus died, the Father showed Him the cup, and He full well knew every aspect and the depth of the agony that He was to endure on Calvary's cross in Gethsemane. He sweat drops of blood just anticipating being identified with your sin and my sin and becoming sin for us. It was so horrible and dreadful that He sweat great drops of blood. I imagine today if you and I were able to see the depths of our depravity and the depths of our sin and what it would cost, you and I would sweat drops of blood. And thinking about our sin, it would drive us out of our mind; but we don't comprehend it. But our Lord did. Listen, experience the prophecy.

In the twenty-second Psalm in verse fifteen, it talks about the thirst and the experience of thirst. Let me read it to you, the twenty-second Psalm, verse fifteen: *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.* Can you think about the thirst of Calvary? Here He is from 9:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon. This is after the noon hour; this is after the darkness and after the forsaking and coming out of it. And out of an awful darkness comes this terrible, heart-rending cry, "I thirst." The heat of the sun, the hours upon the cross, the raging fever, the muscle spasms as He hung with nails through his hands and his feet, and not able to breathe without pushing up on feet that are pierced with thorns, with nails; and in order to breathe — at crucifixion, you died of suffocation — you had to push up to breathe — and there, you think about six hours of doing this with your feet nailed to a cross and pulling up by your hands and your feet -- the exhaustion, the pain, the fever, and the agony. After these long hours He said, "I thirst." If we could comprehend just the statement of that, we'd be on our faces beating the roof, saying, "Oh God, forgive me. Oh God, forgive me. God, forgive me as a Christian for thinking light of the cross. God, forgive me of my carelessness. God forgive me of my coldness. God, forgive me for playing with sin."

"I thirst." Thirst is the most painful experience. Thirst is a universal word. Everybody understands when you say, "I thirst." Nobody misunderstands it. "I thirst." And the word, *water*, I repeat again is understood in every language. Thirst is a lack of, a want of, an emptiness, a sense of need. And our Lord thirsted. He was made that way because you and I have sinned. We thirsted for things outside of the will of God, and man was driven out of the garden. All that man needed in the garden was God. Do you understand when you get to Heaven, all you need is God, the Lord Jesus Christ? He perfectly satisfies. You don't need anything but God. We have the idea that you've got to have God and something else. Not so. The things here that men give their lives for are like asphalt when thinking of walking on streets of gold in Heaven. Gold doesn't satisfy; Jesus Christ satisfies the human heart. You're made for God, and you'll never find satisfaction of soul until you find it in God. When you leave this world and go to Heaven, you're not happy and satisfied because of the fact of the songs of the angels and the songs of the redeemed; you're satisfied — David said: *I shall be satisfied*

when I wake with His likeness. — Oh, you're like Him, and that's joy unspeakable and full of glory. And all the things that people are looking at for fun today won't be in Heaven. You say, "Well, how in the world could there be happiness in heaven?" Jesus is there. You are complete in Him. Man wanted something outside of the will of God; ever since then, every man, woman, boy, and girl that's ever been born has been born thirsty. "If I get this, it will satisfy;" and you get that. And then, "If I get this, I'll be satisfied. If I get this," and you're always on a quest for the fountain of youth, trying to turn back the pages of time. Being young again will not satisfy the longing in your heart. The thirst of humanity. The thirst of prophecy. The miracle of prophecy.

Now, the thirst of humanity. In Hebrews 2:17, it says: *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren,* And our Lord left heaven, God the Son, and took upon Himself humanity. And oh, He was a human being in every aspect that you and I are as human beings. He was perfect humanity, and here how He thirsted. On that cross — He didn't say, "I hurt." He didn't say, "You're hurting me." He uttered one thing about His condition, it was: *Why hast thou forsaken me?* and secondly, *I thirst.* And those words, "I thirst," summarized the cry and anguish and the frustration and the agony of human history. If you want to understand how much God loves you, look at Calvary where He thirsted for you. Physical, let's look at the physical. And when our Lord said: *My tongue cleaveth to my mouth,* He thirsted like anybody. He thirsted like a man out in the Sahara Desert, dreaming of water, thinking about water, and water was not there. None of us could comprehend the intensity of the physical thirst that our Lord endured in six hours in the sun, six hours in pumping up to breathe, six hours in ridicule, six hours with spasms, six hours with pain, six hours with agony, six hours, and for three of them the face of God was hid. You and I cannot understand physically the suffering of our Lord just in the physical aspect, the physical suffering. Now, consider secondly, there's something deeper than that -- emotional suffering. A thirst is deeper than the body as evidenced in the woman at the well. Jesus said: *Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.* And all of the fountains of this world will never satisfy the human heart. The fall caused every man to turn away from the springs of living water. And a lot of Christians have done this. Look into Jeremiah. If you have your Bible, turn to Jeremiah 2. Many of God's people have forsaken the fountain of living water, and they have turned their back on God. They're making fountains, and they're making cisterns of their own making; but hey, rain water won't satisfy you. Turn to Jeremiah 2:12. America the beautiful, America the blessed of God now turns her back on God and drinks at evolution and humanism. And all of this will not satisfy the heart. I told the task force of sex education that we brought this whole business upon us; adults brought the whole business upon the younger generation. We've lied to them. We've told them things that are not so. The young people today have tried all of that, and they're blowing their brains out when they find out it does not satisfy. *Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; (not the heathen!) they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.* What did they do? They swapped the fountain for a cistern, and the cistern had a hole in it, and the cistern has to wait until the clouds burst to fill the cistern with water. And oh, God's people have basically turned away from the fountain of living water and are trying to satisfy their thirst somewhere else. The wages of sin is lack. The wages of sin will make everything in the world dissatisfying to you. You'll never eat enough vegetables to satisfy the hunger of your heart. Listen, you'll never listen to enough rock music to stop the heart crying. You'll never commit adultery enough to satisfy the longing of your soul. You'll never take enough drugs in your veins to satisfy the longing of your soul. You'll never drink enough alcohol to stop the cry of your soul. You'll never make enough money to stop the cry of your soul. You'll never be a scholar and study the sciences enough to shut the soul up that cries for God. Solomon, the wisest of all men, wrote a book called Ecclesiastes, and if some of you would listen to it this morning, it would save you from going down a road where there's no water. And Solomon in the first book of the first chapter, the book of Ecclesiastes, listen to what he says: *And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly:* And he concludes the book in the last chapter by

saying, listen to this: *Vanity of vanities all is vanity saith the preacher.* He tried wisdom, and he said, “It doesn’t satisfy.” He tried building projects and these didn’t satisfy. He tried social projects, and they didn’t satisfy. He said: *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied.* He had golden knives and forks and spoons and drinking glasses. And he had 1,000 women; he said, “That does not satisfy.” He had everything in the world. Everybody says, “If I just had this . . .” Our Congress is trying to tell people, “You deserve all this.” If you had all of that, you’d still be crying for something. “Oh, if I could just get this. If I could just make a hundred dollars, or a thousand dollars, or a million dollars, I’d be happy.” No, you won’t. Some of you have the idea that you can get married and another human being can satisfy the longing of your heart. You’re expecting too much of marriage; there’s no human being that can satisfy the human heart. No wife can satisfy all the needs of a husband, and no husband can fully satisfy all the needs of a wife. If you’re expecting marriage to answer all the longings of your soul, you misunderstood. One person that’s empty can’t fulfill the heart of another person that’s empty and looking for something. The world lives for one dream, to spend all of their money in some form to stop the cry of their soul. Men cry to reign, to have dominion. Well, man was supposed to have dominion. He’s not supposed to be a slave, and sin has perverted that. And what now? He wants to dominate and kill, but the matter of dominion, that’s built in him. He’s not a slave. He’s supposed to have dominion. And the longing in nations drives against nations. Why? We want to have dominion. And in every aspect of life, I tell you today, your stocks and bonds, your wealth will not satisfy you. You can pump all the iron that you want to, but when you want to leave the gym, there’s still something in your heart that cries and cries and cries; and no amount of what you can do can ever turn it off. God made you for Himself. When Adam walked out of that garden, he had to till the soil with the sweat of his face and his brow, to till until he went back to the earth. And he went one step after another, “I thirst. I thirst. I thirst. I thirst. I thirst.” The cry of humanity.

Teenagers, you have a thirst. Oh, you try everything in the world. “Oh, I want self-esteem.” You’ll never find self-esteem until you find it in God. You’re accepted and beloved. And the public school education, it tells one thing, “Well, just make everybody feel good about themselves.” That will never satisfy the aching of your heart. And you go along feeling good about failing all you want to, but you’re failing. You can feel good about your being a homosexual, but you’re a pervert. You can feel good about your sin, but it doesn’t stop the aching of your heart despite the education of your head. You have an emptiness, a cry. People try all the normal routes, and then they go to the abnormal. They move from normal sex to perverted sex. Then they move to Sadism where they cannot enjoy sex unless they’re tormenting somebody. Then they move to bestiality. They move down, down, down, down, trying to find satisfaction. It’s not of this world; it’s in Jesus Christ. I thirst! And all of the longings and the hungerings of the human soul — did you know that’s what puts people in psychiatric wards? “I can’t stand it. I can’t stand this.” That’s what drives you to suicide. This is what drives you to work yourself to death trying to stop the cry of your heart. Let me tell you, nothing you can do can satisfy the cry of your heart. God will let you stay empty until He comes in. A young man from Indonesia made a profession of faith here two or three weeks ago. He said, “I came to America, and I think about these big buildings, tall buildings, and all of these, but,” he said, “when I came to America, I was lonely.” He said, “I was empty in here, and I came to America.” Then I told him about Christ. He said, “Now, in here, in my heart, there is satisfaction.” It’s not going to be in your heart until you drink of the Water of Life, Jesus. And watch now, that refreshing is not going to stay there unless you keep drinking. You turn your back on Him as a Christian and begin to hew you out cisterns of all these other things that you think will satisfy you. What happens? The heavens will dry up, and your cistern will run dry. There’s the thirst of humanity, the thirst of wisdom, the thirst for pleasure, the thirst for buildings, the thirst for money, the thirst for sex, the thirst for popularity, the thirst for power, Thirst! It will drive you insane. People go mad in the desert when they thirst and have a mirage of water; they go mad. They go wild. They go insane because of this. Jesus took your place instead. In Isaiah, the Lord says this, “Ho, everyone that thirsteth.” It doesn’t say what for. Isaiah 55:1-2: *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.* Here, I thirst, the thirst of prophecy, the thirst of experience, the thirst of humanity, the thirst of the physical, the thirst of the soul; but there’s

another thirst that's deeper than the soul and emotions, and that's a thirst for God. Now, a Christian knows about this. David said: *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.* Now, I know that God satisfies. I know that the Water of Life is like a cool, satisfying stream, flowing down into my innermost being; but oh, dear God, there are times when my heart cries, "Oh, I thirst. I thirst for You, Lord. I'm hungry for You." David said, "As a hart after the deer that has been pursued by the hounds, as a deer pants after the water brooks in a mad chase to escape from the hounds," *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.* The person who wrote the following song was a Christian, and he wrote for Christians, "Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up to thee. Fill my cup, Lord." Hear me; I want to tell you something. I can't live without God. I'm not talking about me. I'd go stark-raving mad, and there are hours when I thirst for God so that I feel like I'll die. I'm serious. I'll feel like I'll die. Oh God, I'll die of thirst for You. I know what I thirst for. The world doesn't know what they thirst for. They have a thirst — they know that, in mad pursuit. But David knew what he was thirsty for. And when the person wrote the song, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything," he wrote out of the experience of his human heart. There's nothing that will satisfy my human heart. I know there's nothing in this world that can satisfy my heart's cry except Jesus Christ. That song I saw once, "There's a martyr at the stake. The flames could not his courage shake. I asked him whence his strength was given. He lifted his head triumphantly to Heaven, and said, 'Christ is all in all. Christ is all.'" Hey, Jesus Christ is all you need. As for teenagers — you say, well, teenagers have got to have something else— no sir, Jesus Christ satisfies a teenager. He satisfies a grandmother. He satisfies a junior boy. The heart's cry Jesus satisfies. I don't need this and something else; no, Jesus satisfies.

Spiritual thirst, you can go to some little, old cabin, one-room cabin; and Grandma's sitting in the chair, with her Bible open. Heaven is in her face and in her heart and her soul. My, and she's got a little, old wood stove there and a little, small bed over here. She's happy with joy unspeakable and full of glory. It's not because of money. It's not because of power and prestige. Why? She has the Lord Jesus, and that's enough. Now if Jesus doesn't satisfy you, you had better not go to Heaven because that's all you're going to have. You see, life's not given for glorified saints; that's for folks who go through the tribulation, even the tree of life physically and live forever. Jesus satisfies the hunger of the spiritual man. A woman casts her child in the Ganges River, throwing her child into the river. Why? Does she love that child? Yes, she loves her child. Do you know what she's trying to do? Oh, something to stop this ache, something to stop this heart ache, this thirst; and she throws her baby into the river to the crocodiles and goes away and says, "It still hurts." One goes through all the rituals of religion, and it still hurts. Nicodemus had been through all of that, and it still hurt. May you do the same. Brother Sisk led a well-to-do Japanese to the Lord. "Oh, my," he said, "can your God satisfy my longing here?" Religion can't, and all religion is is a man trying to stop this. Some of them ditch religion and try infidelity and atheism and everything else. But an atheist still has an empty heart and a hungry heart, just like before he denied God. Jesus — suffering the thirst of humanity, the thirst of the soul, the thirst of the spirit, the thirst of the body. If you die without Jesus Christ, you're going to go to hell. You're not going to have a physical body, but there's a man in hell that talks about a spiritual body. He said: *Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.* There's a thirst of the damned. That aching longing is still there, and a thirst for God is still there. And forever and forever is to be without God and that's terrible, that's horrible, with no alleviation.

Now, let's go to the Thirst of Deity. Can God thirst? Was this just humanity on the cross talking? Well, I submit to you, yes, there was humanity thirsting; but that was Deity thirsting. Deity thirsts. How could Deity thirst? Deity thirsted so much for you and me — our fellowship, our love, our devotion, and being with Him - - that He left Heaven, out of the thirst of Deity to come after you and me and die on a cross to forgive us of our sins and to be with Him forever and forever. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* Yes, Deity thirsted. And our Savior as He hung between heaven and earth there illustrated the cry of Deity over lost humanity. He stood over the city of Jerusalem and in a word of anguish said: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth*

gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Over in the book of Hosea, the eleventh chapter, God is talking about giving up Ephraim: *How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel?* That's the cry of Deity over mankind. If you could illustrate the saddest cry in the Bible that I know of of human beings — we're not talking about the God-man— is David when his boy was killed. And he said: *O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!* Well, wait just a minute. There's a God-man. Listen, David spoke about the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ; and he wept over us as fallen creatures, and He did die for us in our place, instead that we might have life and might have it more abundantly. Oh, the thirst of Deity. When He gave water to the woman at the well, spiritual water, He said: *Give me to drink.* She never gave Him that drink, but she drank of the spiritual water and left her water pot and went away. And the disciples came back, and He said: *I have meat to eat that ye know not of.* Nobody had fed Him. Nobody had given Him a drink of water. What was it? He got that when He gave her water out of His innermost being to her heart and life. The thirst of Deity — the thirst of the Son of God. Now, in John 7:37-38: *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.* The thirst of Deity, the thirst of the cross, the thirst of our Savior. Human thirst — there's a passage over in 1 Chronicles about David and his mighty men. And one day, David, in the heat of the battle, was standing around; he was thinking about home, and was talking out loud. 1 Chronicles 11:16-18: *And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Bethlehem. (The enemy had conquered the city of Bethlehem.) And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that is at the gate! And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: but David would not drink of it, but poured it out to the LORD,* Now what happened? They heard about his thirst. They put their life on the line to satisfy his thirst. Do you know what Christian service is? Do you know whence that burden to get people saved came? Do you know whence that burden to get to the mission field came, that burden to get your lost loved ones saved, that burden to help somebody? Where did you get that from? You got that from the thirst of your Leader, the thirst for the souls of men. And when we go after them, what do we do? We lay them at His feet, and His thirst is satisfied. And the cross is the thirst of God for the souls of men, your soul. And hey, we're preaching today out of His thirst, and we've got our thirst to see people saved from Him when we got saved. He thirsts; He still thirsts for it.

Several years ago, I clipped this article, this poem, written by James Proctor of Manchester, England. He left his mother's God and became a free thinker and spent years in atheism and free thinking and away from God, and it drove him into the darkness of despair. He wrote about his experience in a poem called "In Jesus." Listen to it:

I've tried in vain a thousand ways,
My hopes to raise, my fears to quell.
But what I need the Bible says is ever only, Jesus.
My soul is night; my heart is still
For light and life I must appeal to Jesus.
Though some should sneer and some should blame
I'll go to Him because His names is ever, only Jesus.
He died, He lives, He reigns, He pleads.
There's love in all His words and deeds.
For His name above all names is Jesus.

Atheism doesn't stop this. Immorality doesn't stop this. Education doesn't stop this. Religion doesn't stop this. Works doesn't stop this. Study doesn't stop this. There's only One that stops it, and His Name is Jesus. And when you come with your empty bucket, you have to come just like you are. You can't bring your bucket filled with something else and say, "Well, I'll give you this in return." No, no, this is the gift of God, not of works. Why does He do that? Because He loves you. Does God love me? Why the thirst? Why the agony? Why the soul cry of the Master, "I thirst"? Physical thirst? Yes. Soul thirst? Yes. Spiritual thirst for God? Yes, He satisfied all those longings. He bore all the guilt and the frustrations and the broken aspirations. He died in your place and stead, and God's wrath is poured out against sin and all of its ramifications. And He

bore that so you'll never have to thirst forever without God and without hope.

Let me give one other illustration. There was a fellow by the name of Elijah P. Brown. Dwight L. Moody knew him, and he said, "I could count him among my friends." He was the founder of the once famous Ram's Horn. And he was converted by coming to know that his daddy, Brown's daddy had loved him. He went to hear Moody preach. Moody preached on the prodigal son. John P. Brown gave his story about his life and how God used his past and that message on the prodigal son to touch his life. Let me read it to you. He said, "I was a wayward boy and caused my father much anguish. We were never very near to each other. It never entered my mind that I was anything much to him. And so I took my destiny into my own hands and ran away, but I was taken sick and having nowhere else to go, I returned to my father's house. I was made welcome, but I repented in a few days that I had come. My father was very poor. He himself had been sick, and there was not bread enough for us all. And every piece I ate almost choked me, for it seemed to have the taste of blood upon it. I told my father I would go away again, but he begged me to stay. But when he saw that I was determined, he took his hat and came and walked a little piece with me. And as we parted, he took me by the hand and with a voice trembling with emotion said, 'I never wanted to be rich before, my boy, as I do today. God knows it almost kills me to see you leaving home because your father is so poor. Don't go, my son; don't go. Come back with me, and help will surely come from somewhere. But as long as we have a crust, there's a part of it for you.' But when he saw that I could not change my decision, then sadly, 'Goodbye, goodbye, God bless you.' Then he turned and started home, but he only took a step or two when he turned and called my name, and as I looked, I saw a tear leave his eye and wind down his cheek. It was the first tear I'd ever seen my father shed for me. He put his hand in his pocket and took something out of it; and then in the next instant, he pressed a fifty cent piece in my hand and turned and walked away. I knew then what I had never known before, that my father loved me. I knew that fifty cent piece was the last cent he had on earth; and in the gift, I saw my father's heart. I knew he would have given me a fortune just as gladly had it been his to give. And as I realized this, I repented that I had ever caused him an anxious thought. I would have given anything to have blotted out the past, and I resolved I'd be a better man and better son to him. And I went out into the cold and snow of that winter morning, stronger and braver than I had ever been before, because I knew my father loved me. All day long, something seemed to be singing in my heart, 'Father loves me. Father loves me.' And I determined then that I would make life easier for him, and from that hour, I never consciously caused him another pain." It was here where Brown said, "I saw no change in my father. He had always loved me and I supposed had always been anxious that I should know it. But it seemed as though until the moment came when he could make the sacrifice he did, there had been no way he could really reveal his heart to me." You know, Mr. Brown had been one of the most bitter infidels of this land. He went to hear Moody preach his wonderful sermon on the prodigal son's father, and he said, "If God is like that, I want to know him." And in that brief story is a story of how Elijah P. Brown found his way to Christ. How did he do that? Because his daddy loved him. If you don't know that God loves you, would you just take your Bible and go home and get on your knees and read about the Crucifixion scene. "On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross." Why was He there? "God so loved the world." Put your name there. Why was He there? He didn't deserve to be there. He was not a martyr. He was not a criminal. He was not there as an example. He was there as your sin bearer, your substitute. God loves me? Yes, He loves you. Christ died for you. He died; He thirsts for you. All of the longings and aspirations, He bore the frustrations of that on Calvary's cross, so that you can be satisfied in Him. One of the last invitation verses in the Bible, . . . *let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*