

# Such a Cloud of Witnesses

*“Stories of Great  
Christians”*

Temple Baptist Church  
September 17, 2023





# Charles Haden Spurgeon

*C. H. Spurgeon*





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**IF YOU ASK ME HOW  
YOU MAY SHORTEN  
YOUR SERMONS, I SHOULD SAY,  
STUDY THEM BETTER...  
WE ARE GENERALLY  
LONGEST WHEN WE  
HAVE LEAST TO SAY.**

...

*Charles Spurgeon*

---







The Early Years

The Full Harvest

Epilogue



An open, aged book with yellowed, stained pages. The text is written in a cursive script. The top line is in red ink, and the subsequent lines are in blue ink. The book is open to a spread of two pages, with the text centered on the right page.

The Early Years

The Full Harvest

Epilogue





- **Charles Spurgeon was born northeast of London, England in a small village called Kelvedon. He was the eldest of seventeen children.**
- **Charles's father was a pastor of a small decenter church in Kelvedon. At 18 months of age was taken to live with his grandparents and aunt in Stambourne.**

*June 19, 1834*





**Birth Home of Charles Spurgeon**

Kelvedon,  
England







- **Charles Spurgeon was born northeast of London, England in a small village called Kelvedon. He was the eldest of seventeen children.**
- **Charles's father was a pastor of a small decenter church in Kelvedon. At 18 months of age was taken to live with his grandparents and aunt in Stambourne.**

*June 19, 1834*





20 Family portraits

Rev James Spurgeon of Stambourne  
 Mrs C. H. Spurgeon  
 Rev John Spurgeon  
 Mrs John Spurgeon  
 Rev J. A. Spurgeon

# Stambourne, England







- Charles would fondly remember the years he spent with his grandparents and extended family in Stambourne for the rest of his life. It was in Stambourne that his aunt taught him to read and established in him a life-long love of books. His brother James described his elder brother as, “he used to read everything, he had a memory as tenacious as a vice and as copious as a barn.” At age six he first read **“Pilgrim’s Progress”**, by John Bunyan. He would read it a hundred times more before the Lord took him home to Glory. He also loved **“Foxe’s Book of Martyrs.”**

1835-1841





**“Give yourself to reading.’... You need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible.”**

**- C.H. Spurgeon**



*Brethren, never neglect your spiritual meals, or you will lack stamina and your spirits will sink. Live on the substantial doctrines of grace, and you will outlive and out-work those who delight in the pastry and syllabubs of "modern thought."*



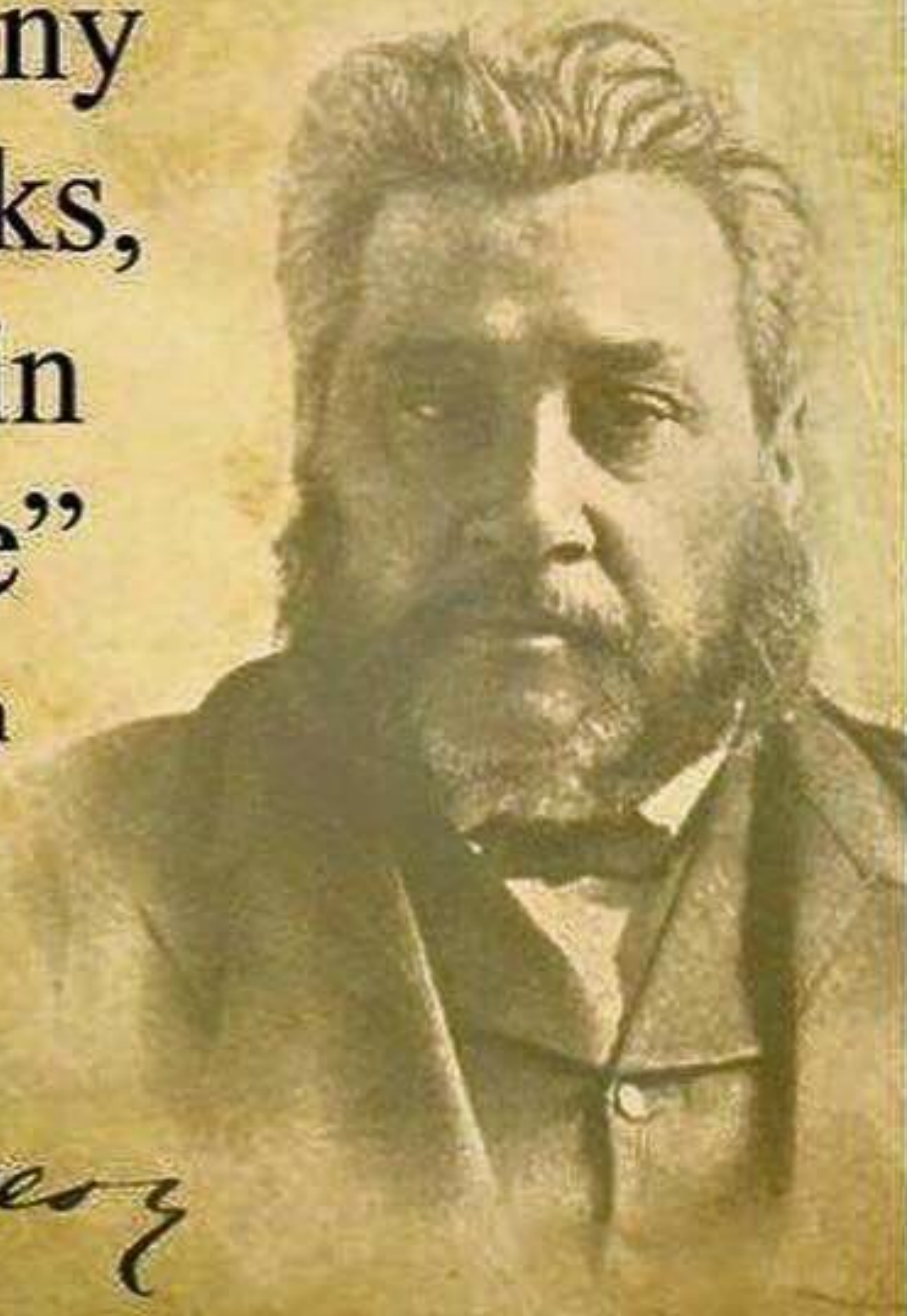
*C. H. Spurgeon*



“Visit many  
good books,  
but live in  
the Bible”

C.H. Spurgeon  
1834 - 1892

*C.H. Spurgeon*







"Old-fashioned  
believers  
could give  
you chapter  
and verse  
for what  
they believed;  
but how  
few of such  
remain!"  
- C.H.  
Spurgeon





- Charles rejoins his family when his father became the pastor at a larger church in Colchester.
- Looking at the outside, you would think Charles was a model Christian child. At age 16 he submitted his first book into a writing contest. It was a 295-page theological book titled “Popery Unmasked.” Though he believed **in the Lord Jesus**, he had not really believed **on the Lord Jesus** for his own personal salvation. This was to soon change!

1841-1849



# Colchester, England



The Roman City Wall



# Colchester, England



Colchester Castle

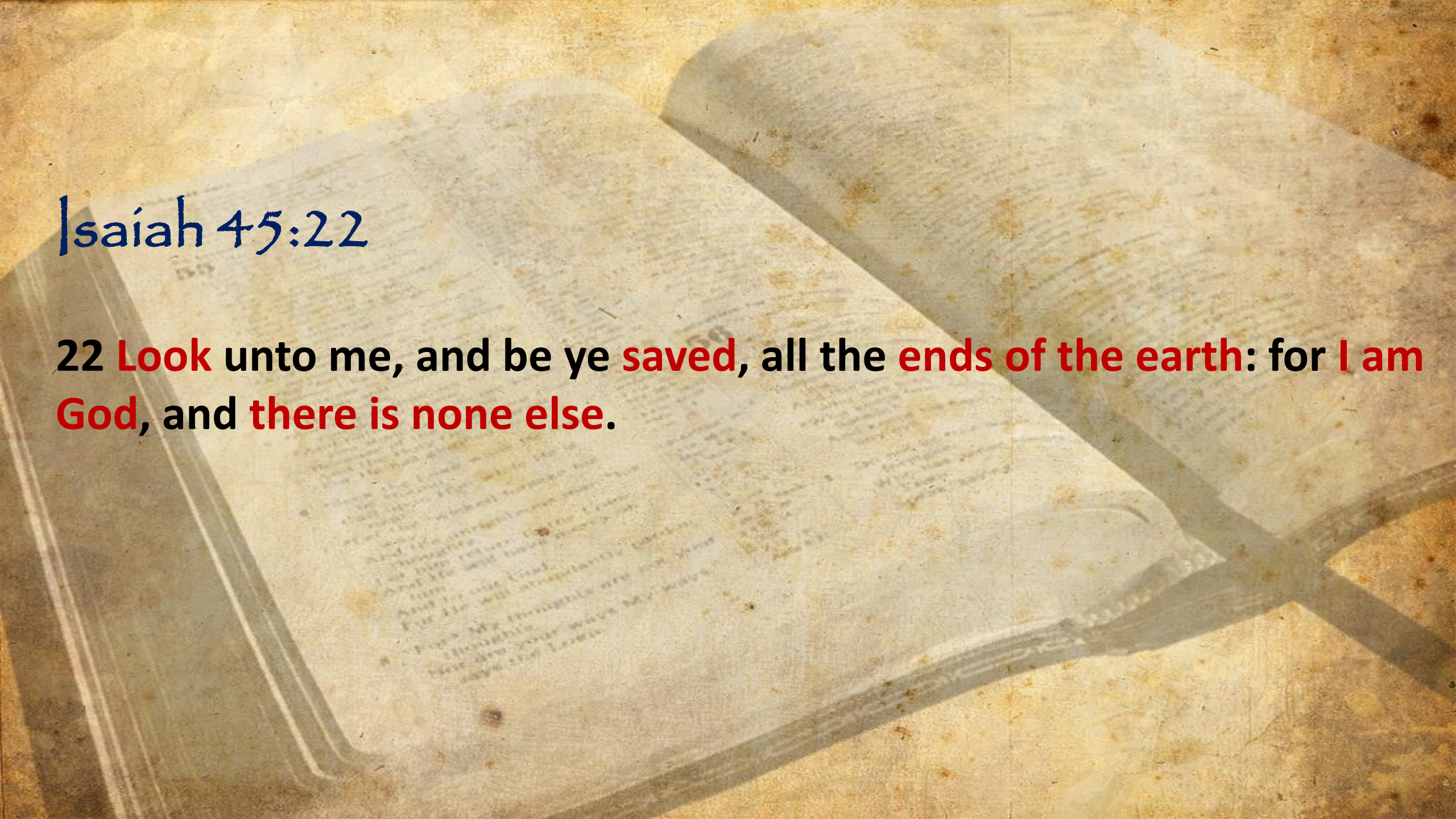




1849-1850

- Charles at age 16 takes a position as a schoolteacher in Newmarket some 57 miles away.
- In January 1850, While visiting family back at Colchester, an event of God's divine appointment was to happen. By the importunity of a snowstorm and the faithfulness of a poor old man, Charles would actually **HEAR** the gospel for the first time and make its truth his very own.

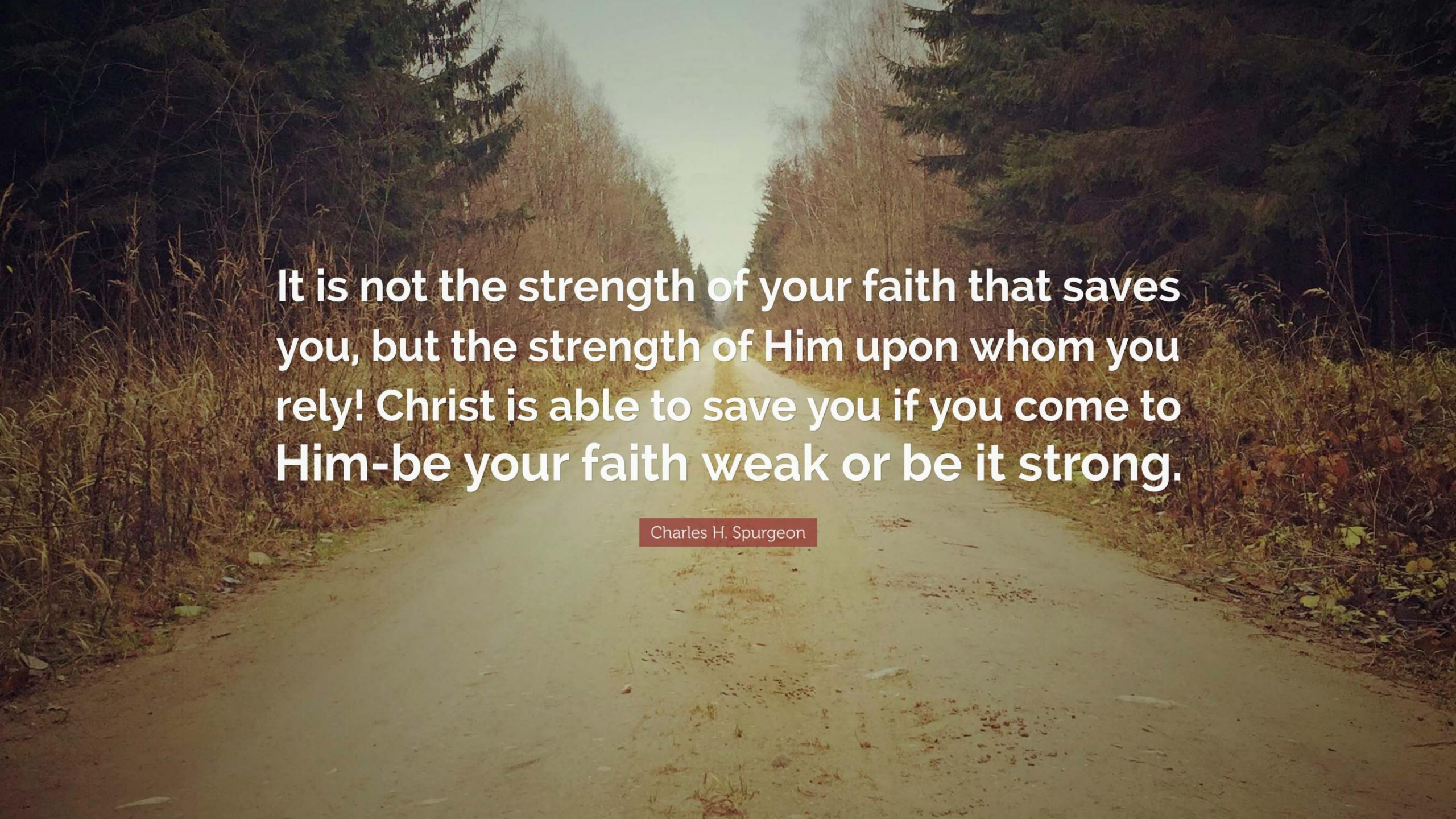




Isaiah 45:22

22 **Look** unto me, and be ye **saved**, all the **ends of the earth**: for **I am God**, and **there is none else**.





**It is not the strength of your faith that saves you, but the strength of Him upon whom you rely! Christ is able to save you if you come to Him-be your faith weak or be it strong.**

Charles H. Spurgeon





1849-1850

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# Site of Spurgeon's Conversion







- Upon returning to Newmarket for a short while, he moves to Cambridge and joins a Baptist Church there. Here he is baptized and immediately begins to serve. He taught Sunday School and adults started to come and listen to biblically sound, challenging, and enjoyable lessons.

1850-1851



# Isleham Ferry, England





# Saint Andrews Street Baptist Church Cambridge



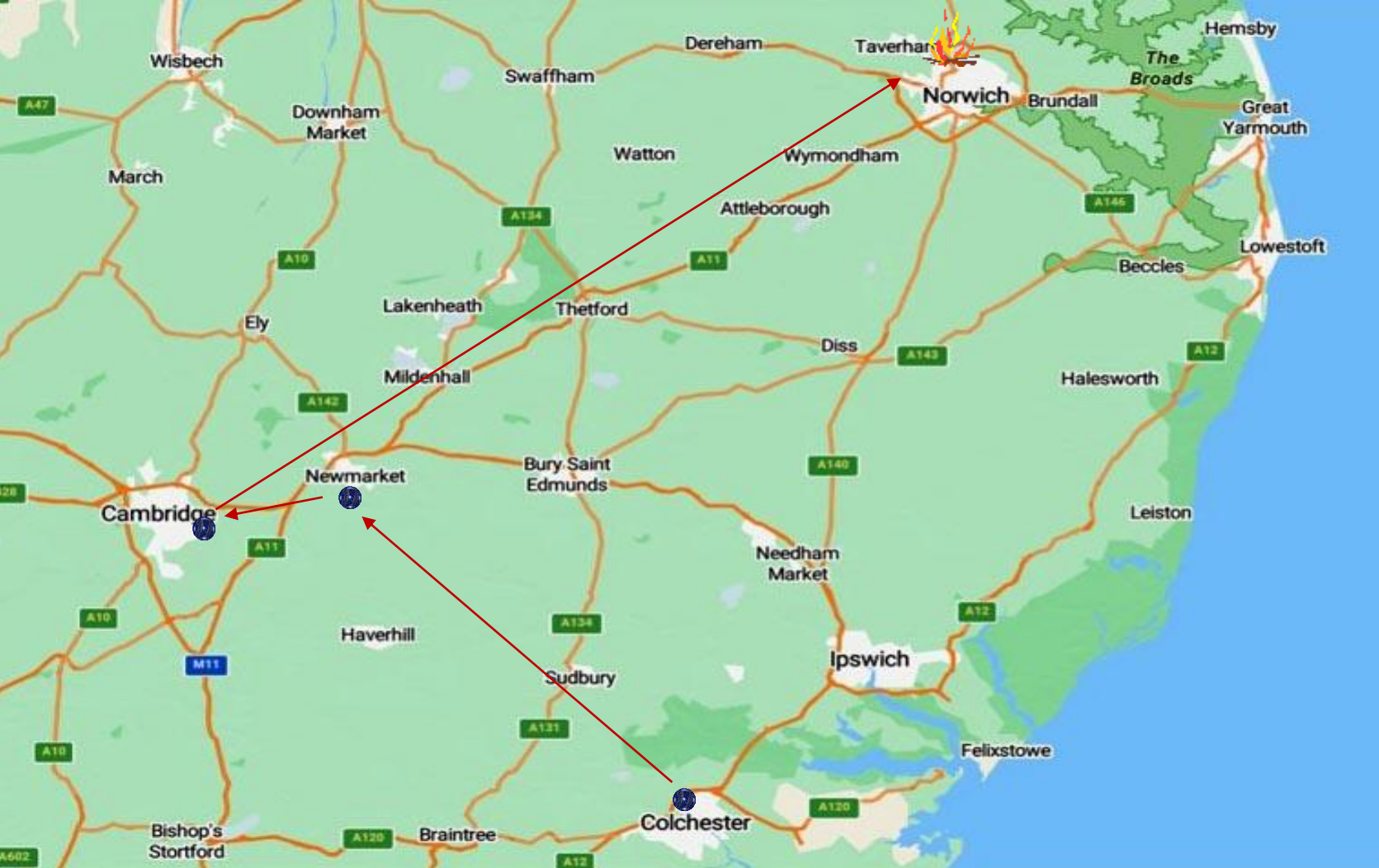


## 1 Timothy 4:12-13

**Let no man despise thy youth;** but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, **give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**





- His skill was recognized by the assistant pastor in charge of pulpit supply to other churches and gives Charles the opportunity to preach his first sermon in the small hamlet of Taverham at age 17!

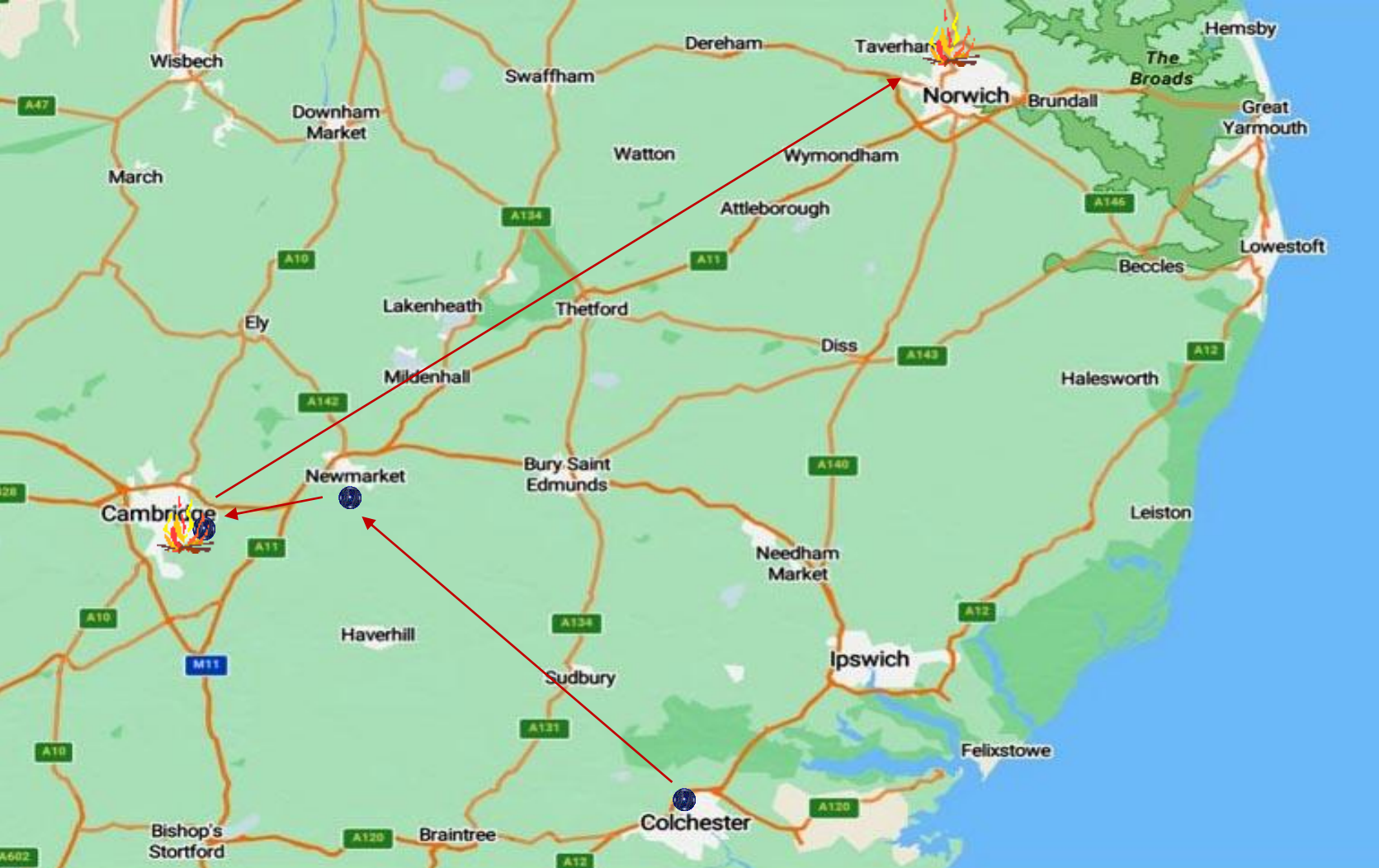
1850~1851



Taversham  
(Faversham),  
England







- The 17-year-old “Boy Preacher” spoke at many churches around Cambridge. He was also asked to hold special evening and Saturday meetings. The small Waterbeach Chapel asked him to come three Sundays in a row and then called him to be their Pastor.
- His pay was only 40 pounds per year. He would happily serve the Lord here for two years.

1851-1854

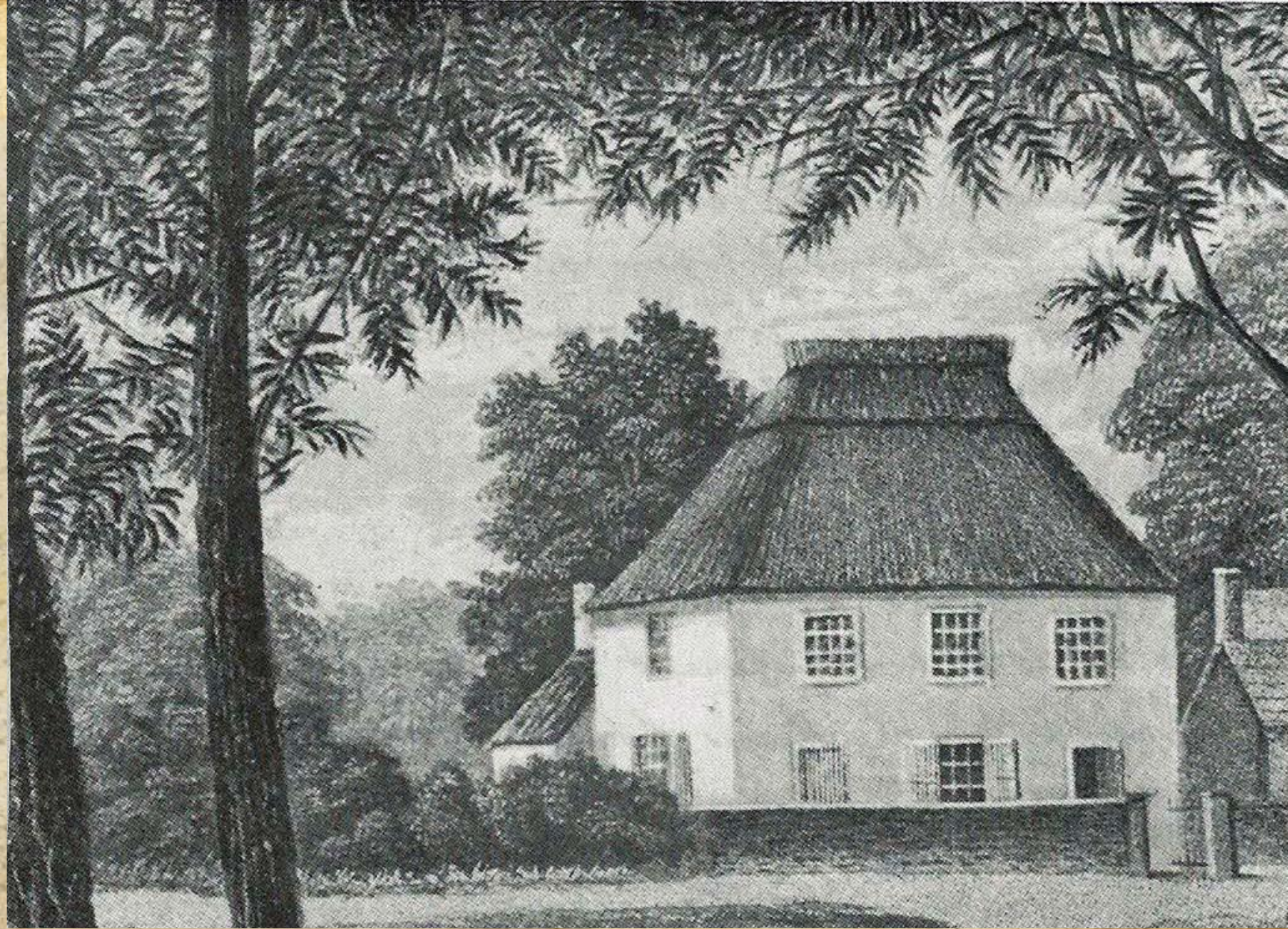


## Isaiah 6:8

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?** Then said I, **Here am I; send me.**



Waterbeach  
Chapel





# Waterbeach Chapel (~1900)





# Waterbeach Chapel (Today)





A landscape photograph showing a dirt road winding through a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there are rolling hills and a bright sunset sky with a lens flare. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing white text. Below the box, a smaller, semi-transparent reddish-brown box contains the author's name in white text.

If Christ be anything,  
He must be everything.

Charles H. Spurgeon





1854-1856

- Spurgeon's reputation had reached all the way to London. At the age of 20, Charles was called by the congregation of **New Park Street Chapel in London** to be their new Pastor. The position had been held by two of the greatest names in English Baptist history, **Dr. John Gill & Dr. John Rippon**.
- At the time of his arrival, the church only had 200 members in a facility that could hold over 1200. Charles was shocked by the environment in London.
- In 1854 begins a ministry to develop new pastors. This effort will ultimately become Pastors College in 1857. Later called Spurgeon's College.
- In 1855 his sermons begin to be published in newspapers weekly. The church has simply outgrown their current capacity and need to do something.
- 1855 Church first meets in Exeter Hall. Exeter Hall is the third largest facility in London, but it soon becomes too small.



# New Park Street Chapel - 1854







1854-1856

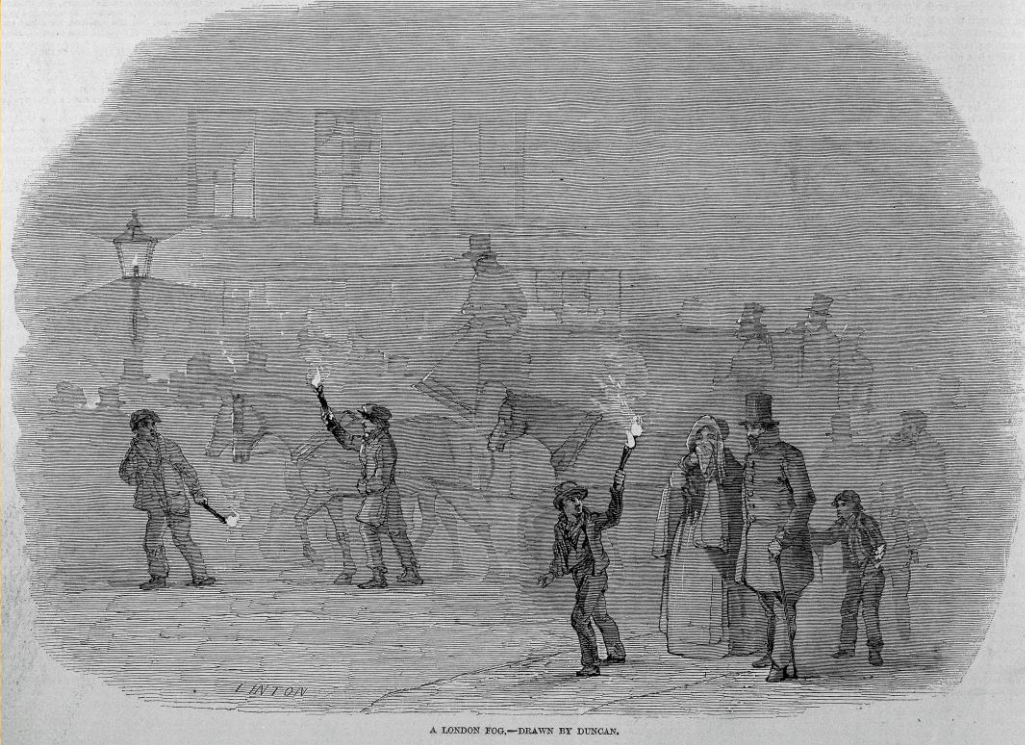
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# London's - Size







A LONDON FOG,—DRAWN BY DUNCAN.



Brown Coal - Lignite

London's  
- Filth





# London's - Pride






# London's - Pride







Obedience to the will of God  
is the pathway to perpetual  
honor and everlasting joy.

Charles H. Spurgeon





## Proverbs 29:18

18 Where there is **no vision**, the **people perish**: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.



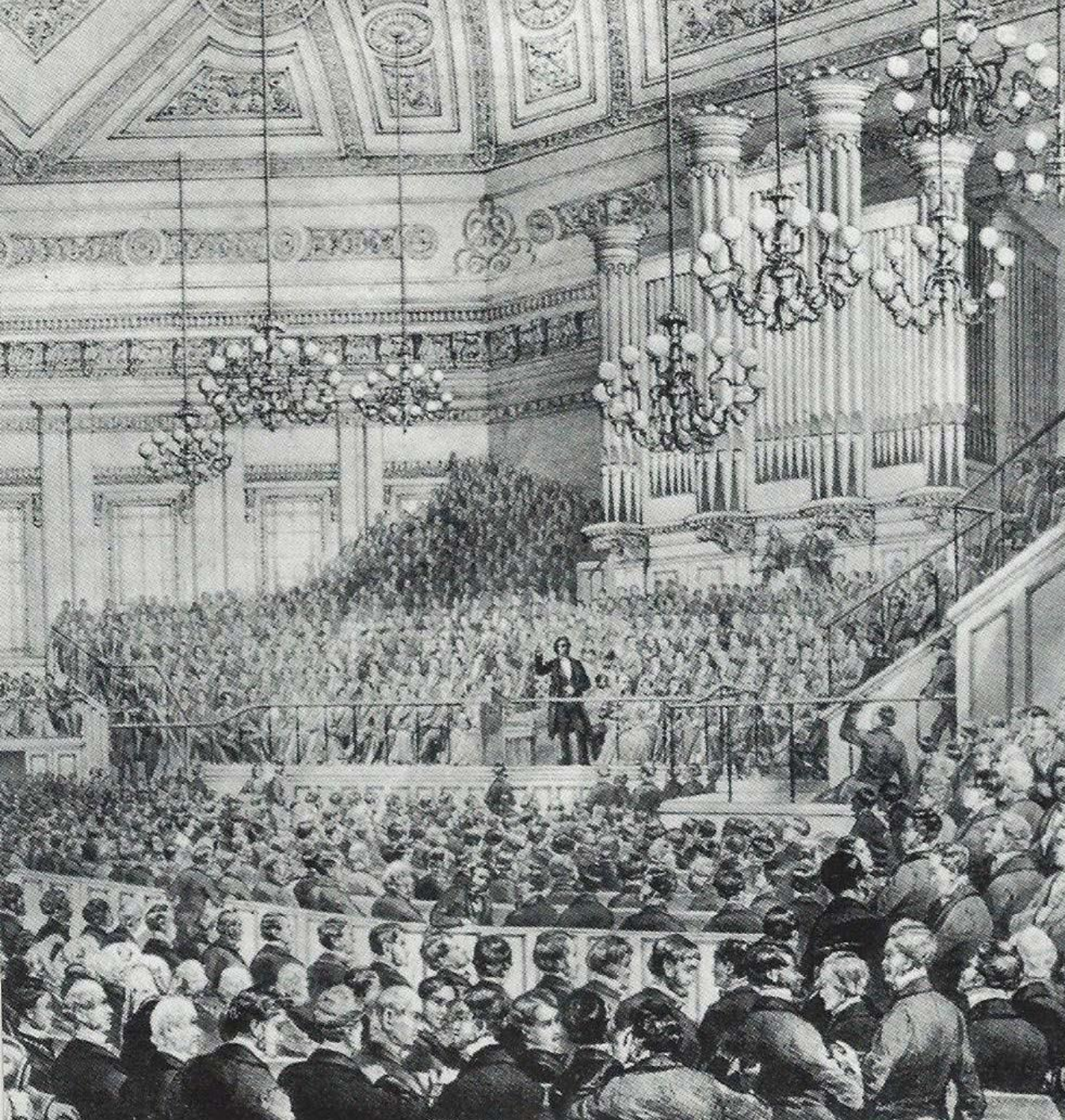


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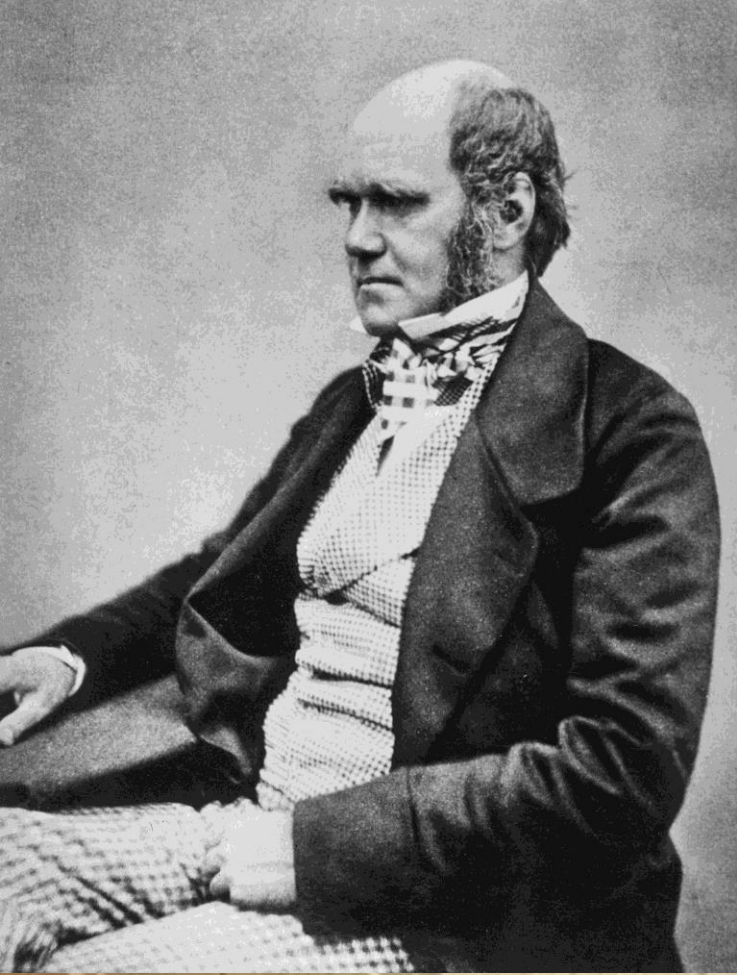
# Exeter Hall - 1855-1856



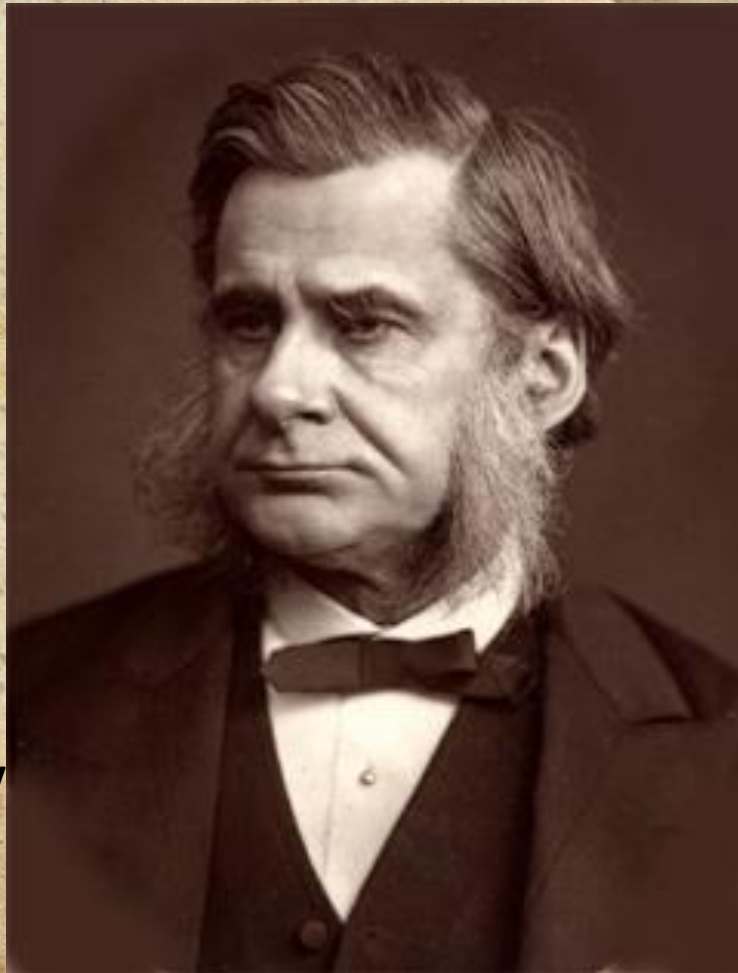
Seating Capacity in  
the main hall - 4000



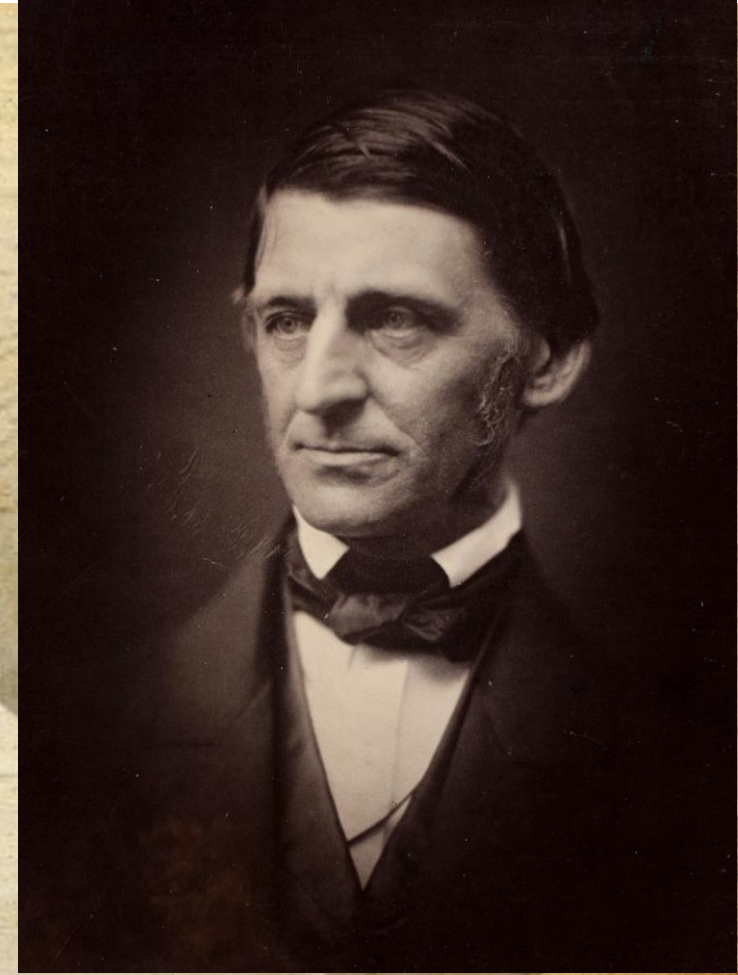
# Exeter Hall hosted others...



Charles Darwin



Thomas Huxley



Ralph Waldo Emerson





# New Park Street Chapel - 1856

Seating Capacity -  
~1500





- In 1856 Charles (Charlie) meets and **marries Susannah (Susie) Thompson**. Twin sons are born **Charles and Thomas**.
- On Sunday October 19, 1856, Spurgeon preaches at the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest venue in London, the Surry Gardens Music Hall. The hall had a seating capacity of 10,000. Sadly, in the middle of Charles sermon disaster strikes... a number of hecklers yell “FIRE” in the fully packed facility. There was no fire, but the deed was done. In the rush to get out of the building, seven individuals are trampled and killed and more than 20 more are injured. Charles is devastated.
- The papers reporting was without mercy and with little to know truth. Charles suffers from a form of PTSD and takes a number of weeks off but returns in November 1856 through December of 1859.
- 1857 Pastor’s College Founded
- On “Fast” Sunday October 7, 1861, Spurgeon preaches at the largest venue in London, the Crystal Palace. That day he spoke to 23,654 individuals. The largest crowd he ever had opportunity to address.

1856-1861





Married ~ January 8, 1956



# Twins Born - September 20, 1856



Age 4

Age 7



Age 21

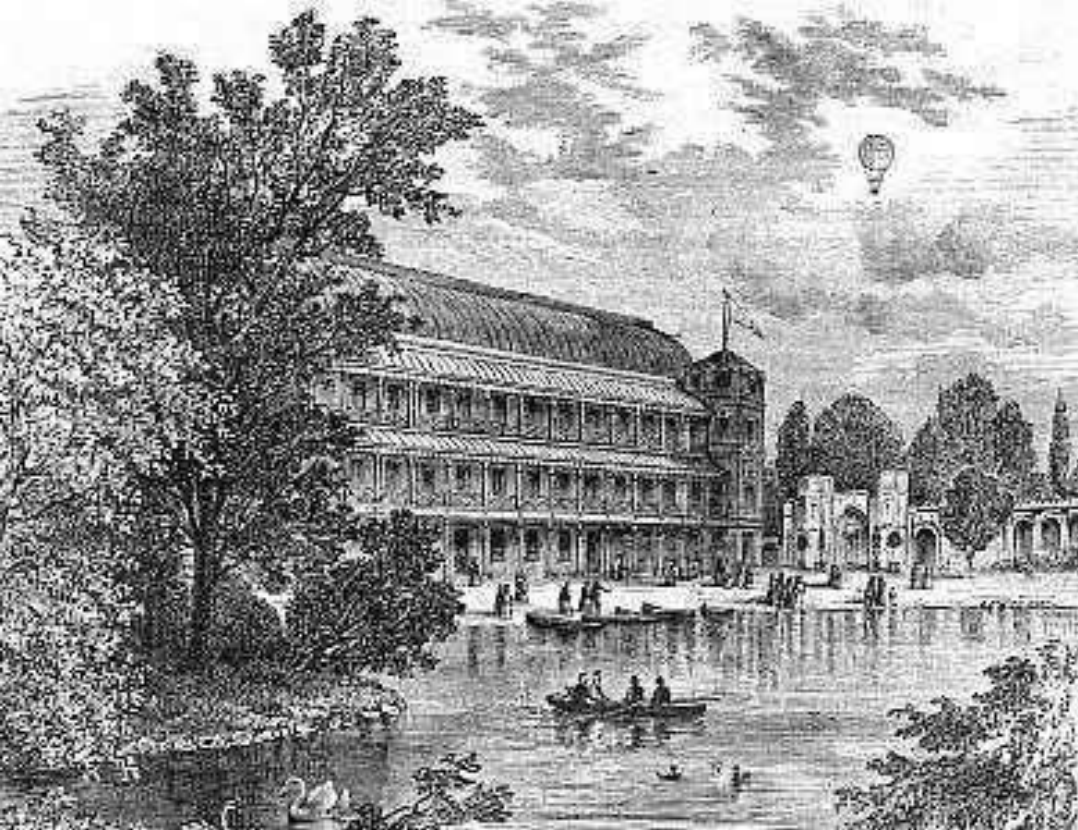




1856-1861

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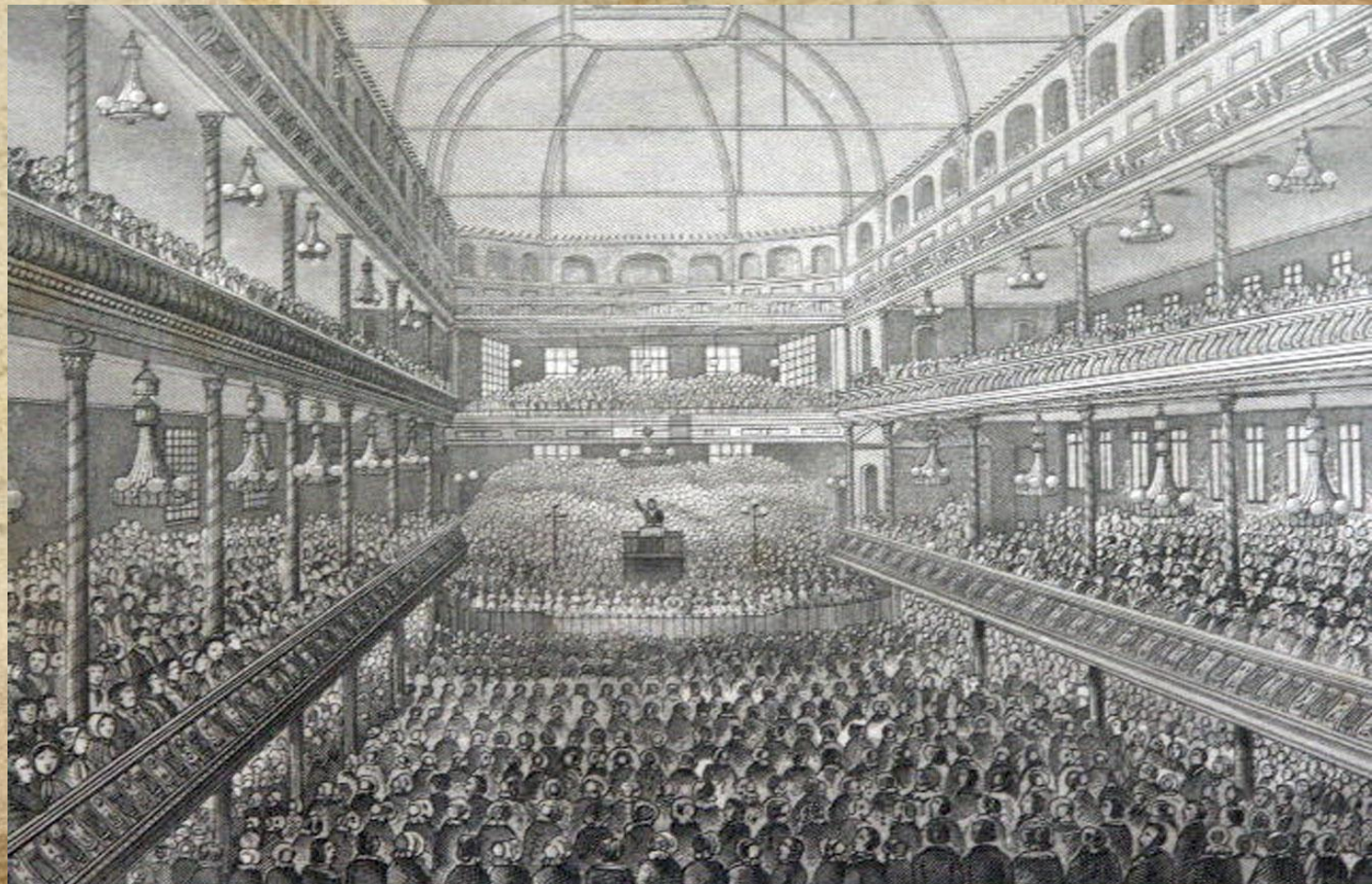


# Royal Surrey Gardens Music Hall ~1856

Seating Capacity -  
~10,000



Sunday October 19,  
1856, ~7000 in  
attendance







1856-1861

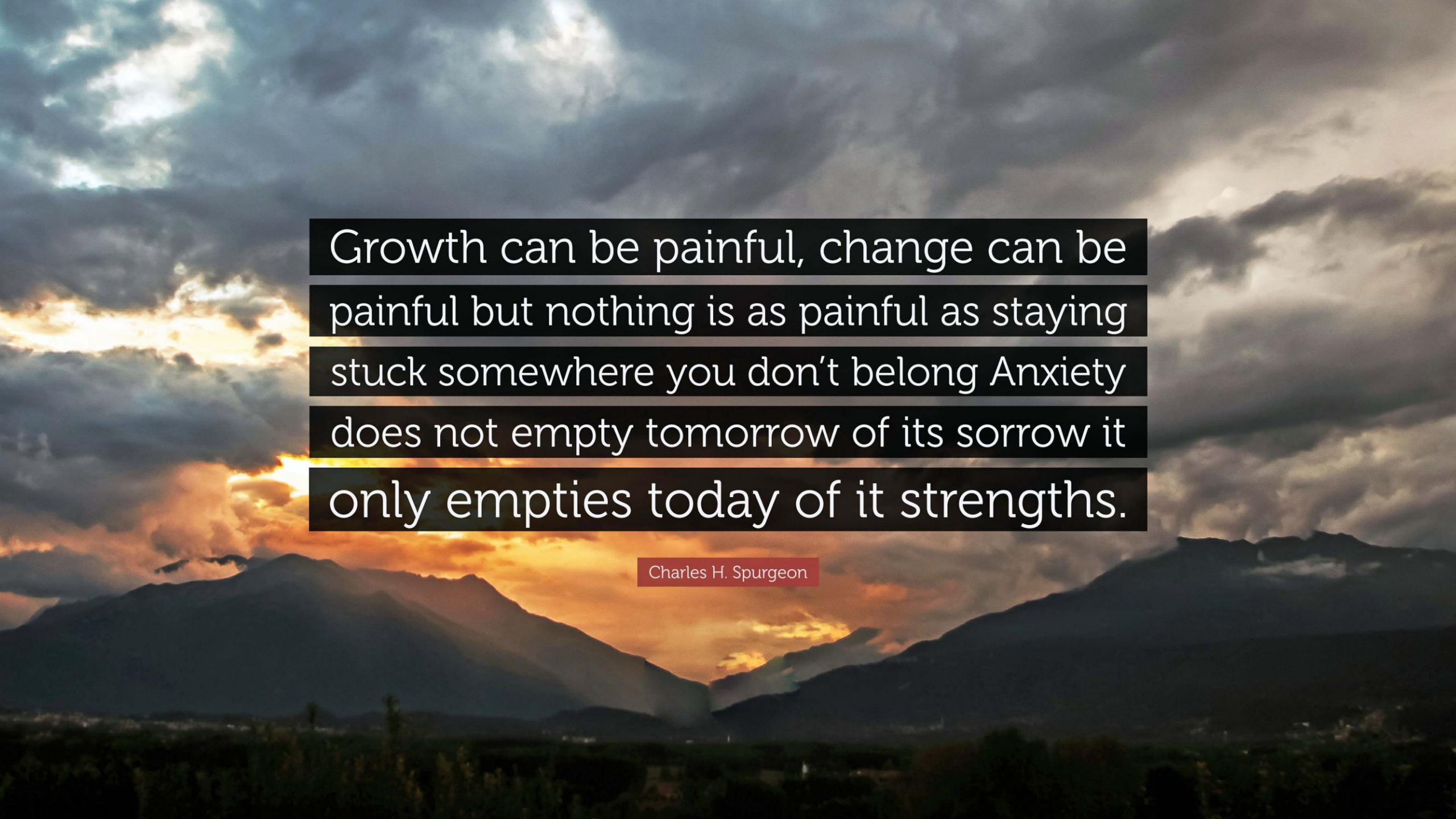
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# The Merciless Press





A dramatic landscape featuring a range of dark, silhouetted mountains under a vast, cloudy sky. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, but a bright light source, likely the sun, is breaking through on the left side, creating a strong glow and illuminating the clouds with warm, golden-orange light. The foreground is dark and appears to be a field of low-lying vegetation or trees. The overall mood is contemplative and powerful.

Growth can be painful, change can be  
painful but nothing is as painful as staying  
stuck somewhere you don't belong Anxiety  
does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow it  
only empties today of its strengths.

Charles H. Spurgeon



A photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest. The road is light-colored and appears to be made of sand or dry earth. On either side of the road, there are tall, dry grasses and some evergreen trees. The background shows a dense forest of trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is overcast and grey.

**A Bible that's falling apart  
usually belongs to  
someone who isn't.**

Charles H. Spurgeon





1856-1861

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Pastors  
College  
(1857)





Pastors  
College  
(Today)





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1856-1861



Seating Capacity -  
~25,000

# Crystal Palace ~1857





# Crystal Palace - 1857



Sunday October 7,  
1857, ~24,000 in  
attendance





# Crystal Palace - Gardens



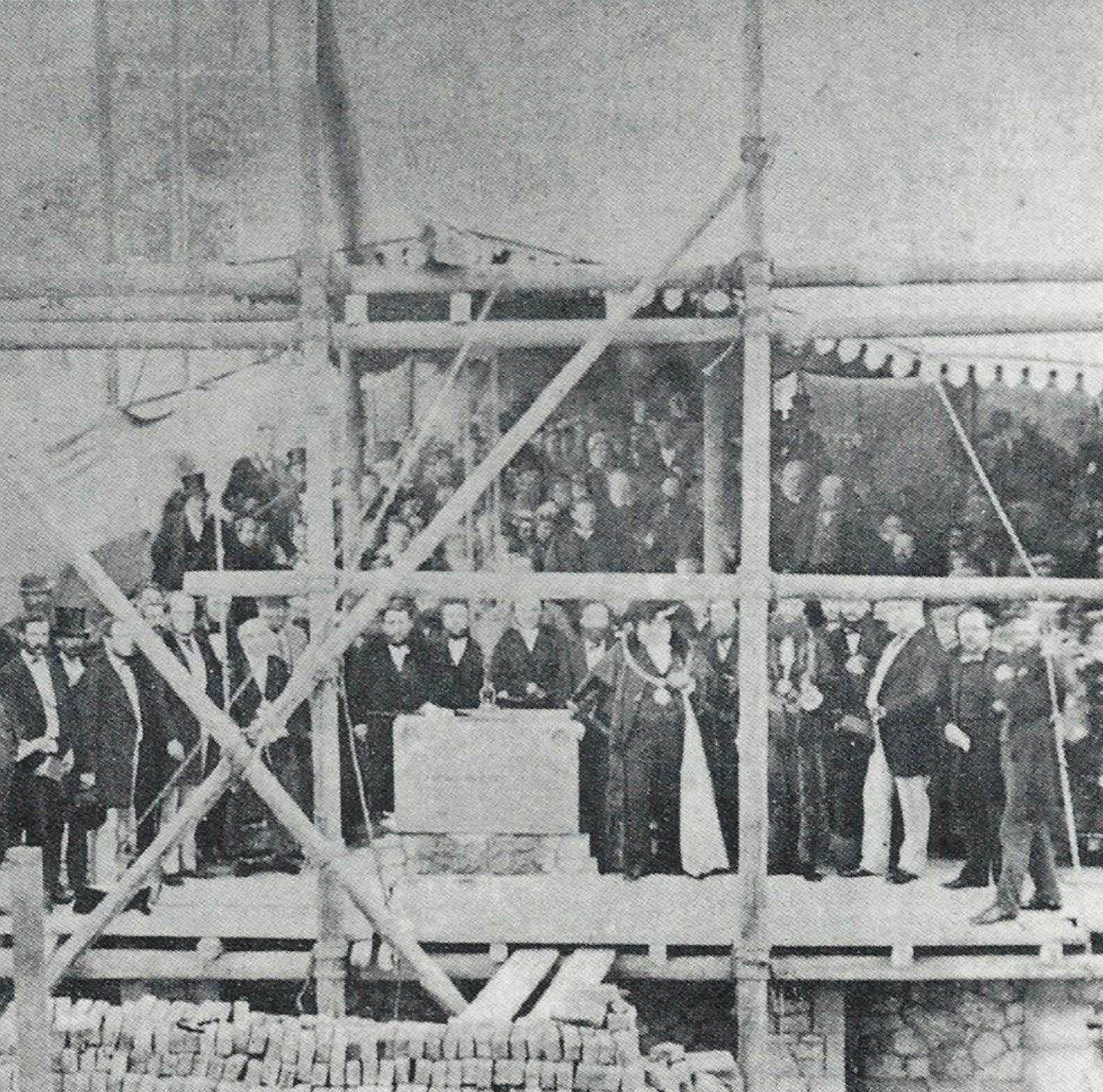




- Tuesday, August 16, 1859, the **first stone** of the Metropolitan Tabernacle was laid.
- First service held in the new building was a **Monday morning on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1861**. These Monday meetings continued until the building was finally completed in April when the normal Sunday services commenced. The 6000 seats never went wanting. The building could also hold another 1000 individuals standing.
- The Tabernacle cost 31,332 pounds, 4 shillings, and 10 pence. Half of which was raised by Charles himself alone by holding special speaking meetings throughout England. The Tabernacle opened with no debt.


1859-1861





Metropolitan  
Tabernacle  
Corner Stone  
Laid.  
(1859)



A photograph of a beach at sunset or sunrise. The ocean waves are breaking onto the shore, creating white foam. The sand is wet and reflects the golden light of the low sun. Several dark, jagged rocks are scattered along the shoreline. The overall mood is dramatic and contemplative.

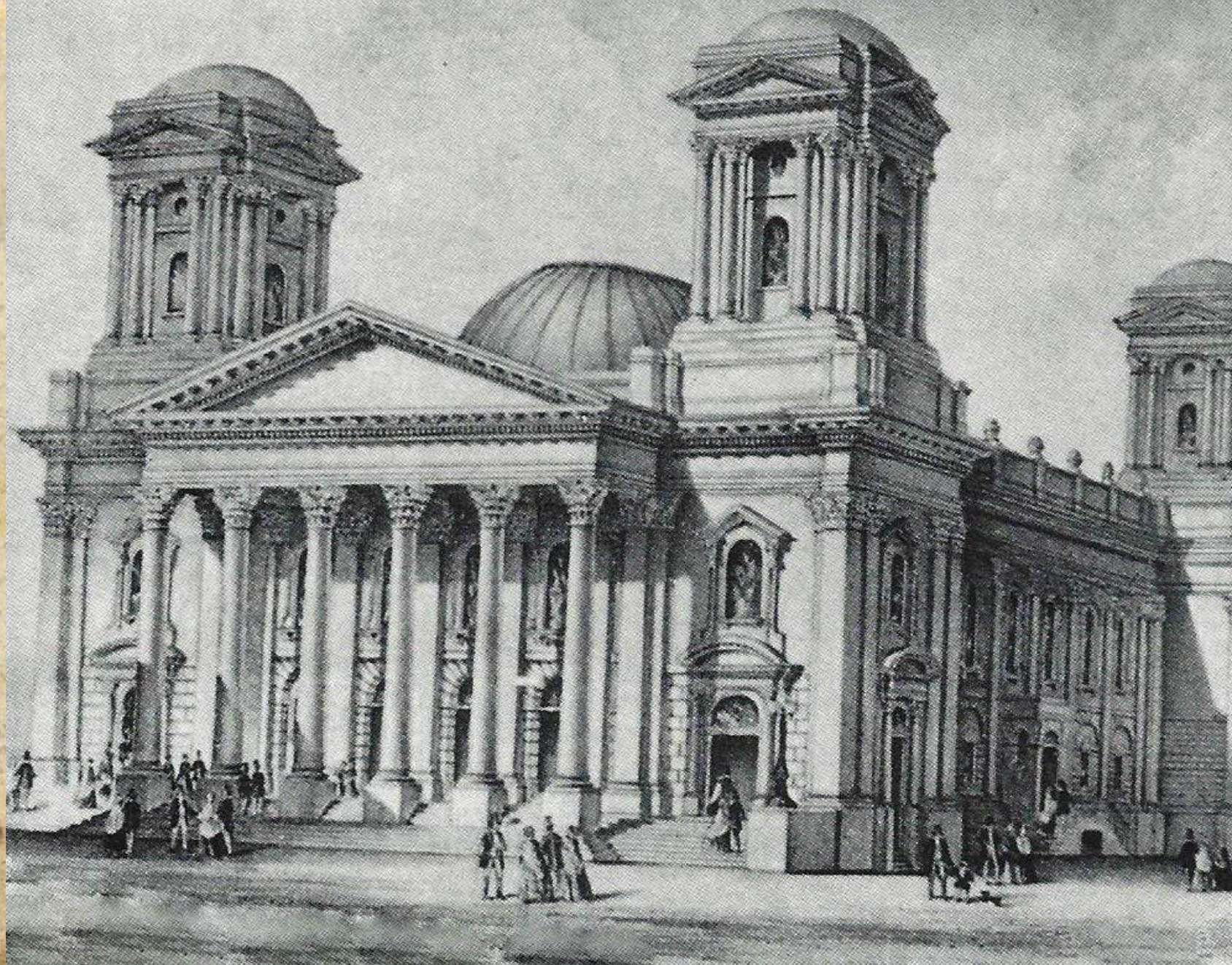
If sinners be damned, at least let them  
leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will  
perish, let them perish with our arms  
about their knees. Let no one go there  
**unwarned and unprayed for.**

Charles H. Spurgeon



# Metropolitan Tabernacle (1861)

Seating Capacity -  
6,000 Seated with an  
additional 1,000  
standing







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1859-1861





*Yours very truly  
C. H. Spurgeon*



Metropolitan Tabernacle



# C. H. Spurgeon's Beard







Metropolitan Tabernacle



A portrait of Charles H. Spurgeon, a bearded man in a dark suit and bow tie, seated in a red upholstered chair. The background is dark and indistinct. The portrait is framed by a light-colored, textured border that resembles aged paper or parchment, with some faint, illegible text visible on the left side.

**"IF JESUS IS PRECIOUS TO YOU,  
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP  
YOUR GOOD NEWS TO  
YOURSELF."**

*Charles H. Spurgeon*



A photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest. The road is light-colored and leads towards a bright horizon. Tall evergreen trees line both sides of the road, their branches reaching over the path. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

**Every Christian is either a  
missionary or an imposter.**

Charles H. Spurgeon

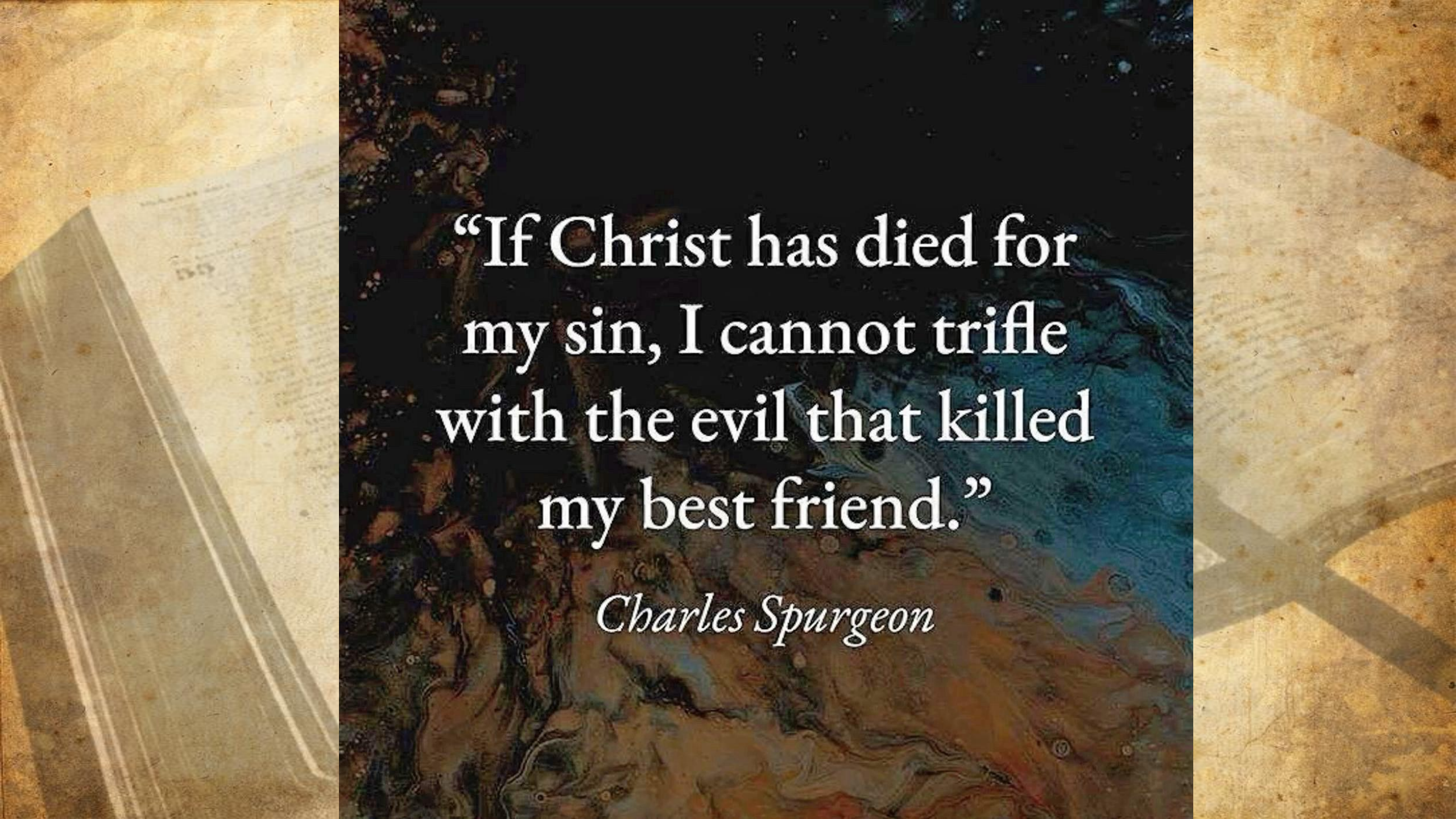


# Metropolitan Tabernacle (Today)



Pastor Peter Masters

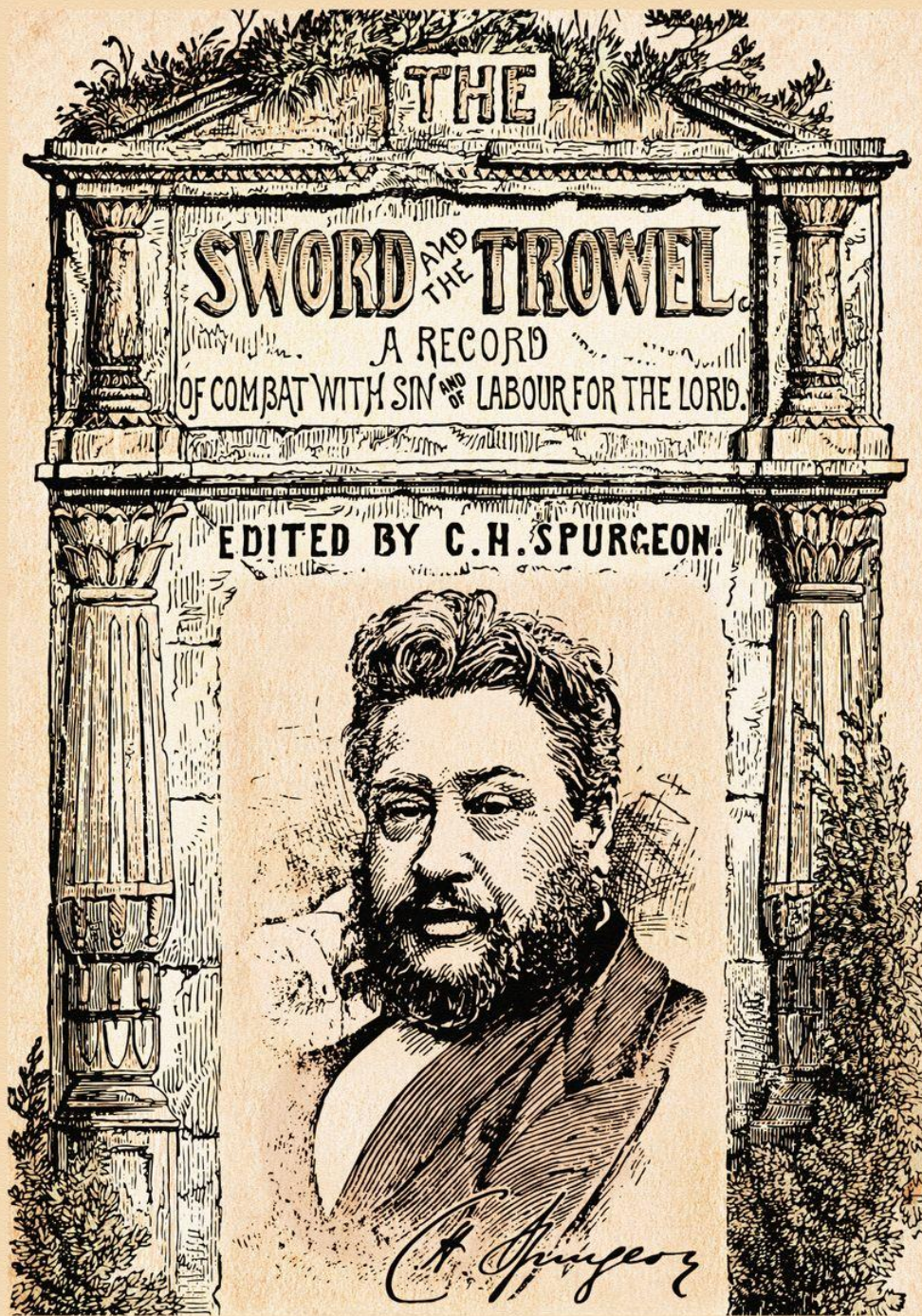




“If Christ has died for  
my sin, I cannot trifle  
with the evil that killed  
my best friend.”

*Charles Spurgeon*



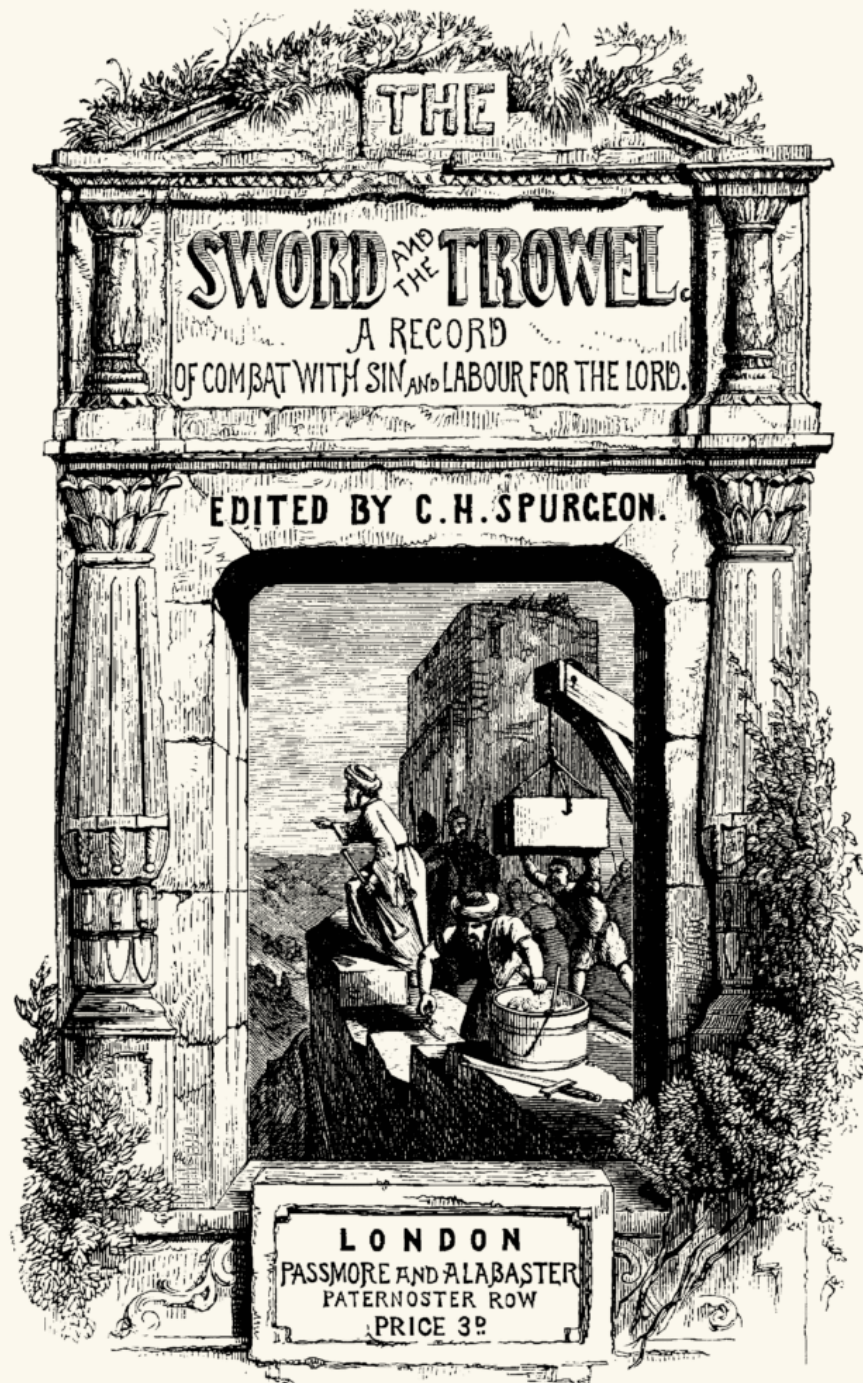


# Sword & Trowel

## 1865







# Sword & Trowel

## 1865





## Galatians 6:9-10

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not.**

10 As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially** unto them who **are of the household of faith.**



Alms Houses  
1863







# Stockwell Orphanage 1866

Mrs. Hillyard's  
finances, C. H.  
Spurgeon's Vision  
2,000 no...no 20.000  
pounds



# THE STOCKWELL ORPHANAGE,

LONDON, S.W.

Founded by C. H. SPURGEON.



**A HOME AND SCHOOL FOR FIVE HUNDRED FATHERLESS BOYS AND GIRLS.**

## **Summary of Guiding Principles:**

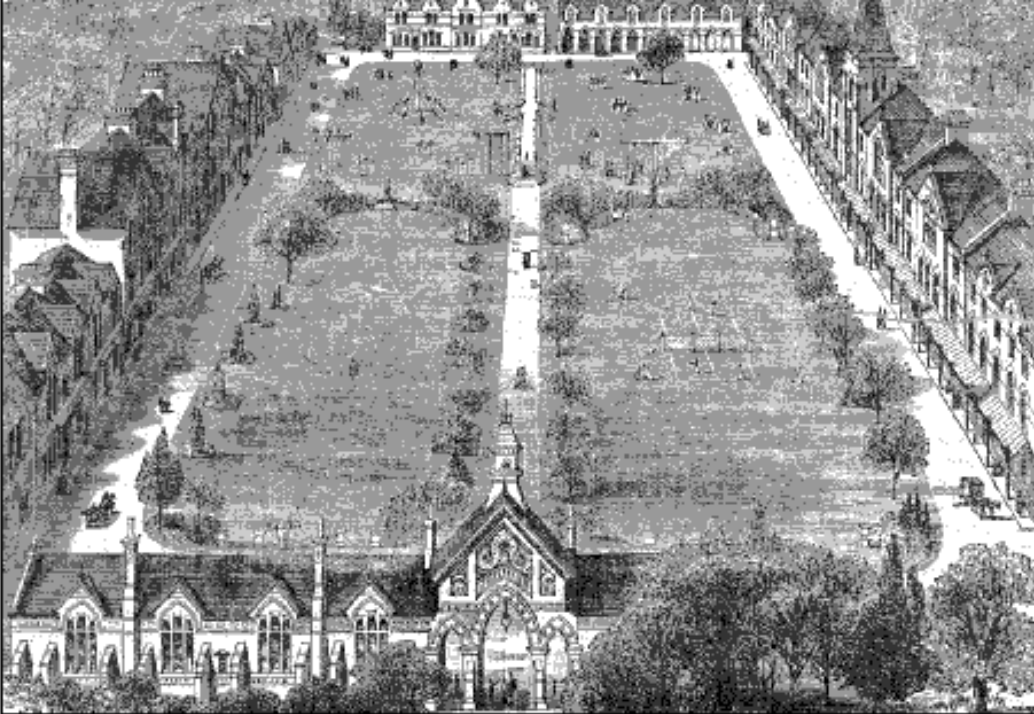
The Institution receives Fatherless Boys between the ages of 6 and 10, Girls between the ages of 7 and 10.

It is conducted on the Separate Home System. It is Unsectarian.

Only the most Needy, Helpless, and Deserving Candidates are selected. No votes required!

In writing to the Secretary for a Form of Application, full particulars must be given.





# Stockwell Orphanage





# Stockwell Orphanage





# Stockwell Orphanage





An open, aged book with yellowed, stained pages. The text is written in a cursive script. The first two lines are in red ink, and the third line is in blue ink. The book is open to a spread of two pages, with the text centered on the right page of the spread.

The Early Years

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Epilogue