

Letters to a Young Pastor

Letters to Rev. R. Harbach
By A.W. Pink

Transcribed by Janice Harbach

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PREFACE

A. W. Pink wrote "Letters to a Young Pastor" to Rev. R. Harbach in the years 1943 to 1949. Rev. Harbach graduated from the Philadelphia School of Bible in 1939, and continued his studies for three more years in Philadelphia at the Theological School of the Reformed Episcopal Church. He spent one of the summers during his years at R. E. Seminary doing missionary work in the state of Kentucky. That same Summer a fellow student introduced Harbach to "Pink's Studies in the Scripture" and encouraged him to write the noted Theologian with questions concerning Pinks writings. So



A. W. Pink

began a correspondence that would last for the next six years, writings that would be used by the Lord to direct the footsteps of this young pastor. These writings would cause him to seek out the truth of the scriptures not only in his preaching but also in his personal life. Through these letters of instruction, correction, and at times, reproof for the sake of righteousness, Pink became Harbach's spiritual mentor.

When reading this collection of letters, it would be most beneficial not only to study their content, but to meditate on the scriptural truth presented by Pink. For example, in his first letter to Harbach, Pink sets forth the truth of the inspiration of Holy Scripture, doing this under the heading of "Dear Christian Friend." By that Pink asserts that the foundation of all Christian friendship is that the Bible is God's



Rev. R Harbach

inspired Word. In his next letter Pink establishes the necessity of prayer and that pastors must live a life of prayer. Now that Pink has established a foundation upon this Word of God and being affirmed by Harbach, their friendship as Christians grows and develops.

It is said of Pink, that he had a pastor's heart. These reaffirm that observation as Harbach struggled with incorporating the truth of God's Word at his first charge as the Eastern Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship. At that time Harbach thought all children were objects of God's love until such time they rejected it. "Dear Brother Harbach" Pink writes as he continues to set forth the Sovereignty of God's election.

Harbach called on Pink again in 1946 when he received a call to become the pastor of the Emmanuel Reformed

Episcopal Church of Somerville, New Jersey. Harbach was inclined to preach a series on Revelation. Pink, however, encourages him to study the Book of Genesis asserting that it contains all the foundations of the Christian faith. In his youth Harbach heard that same conviction from his grandmother, Florella Love Millard Ray, who taught him in the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. Pink's wise counsel caused Harbach to devote his life study to the Book of Genesis and in 1988 published the work entitled Studies in the Book of Genesis.

The two men continued their correspondence until 1949 when Pinks failing health no longer permitted him to continue.

Pink expressed skepticism whether Harbach could find a congregation or denomination that would be faithful to the truth of the Scripture. Harbach, however, did in 1950 when he enrolled in the Protestant Reformed Seminary, graduating in 1955. That same year he accepted his first pastorate of a Protestant Reformed Church in Lynden, Washington.

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27 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

May 16, 1943

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who declares, "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (I Cor. 8:2). This one sentence (and there are scores of others of a similar character) should be sufficient to convince us of the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures, for surely it is far too humbling, too flesh-withering to have ever originated in any human heart or mind! May it please the Lord to graciously keep each of us, to the end of our course, in that lowly attitude of praying, "that which I see not, teach Thou me" (Job 34:32).

Your welcome letter of March 27 to hand three days ago. I was glad to hear from you again and thankful to know the "Studies" have been of service to you. I trust you will continue to write me from time to time, about your difficulties and problems - either regarding the Word or your work, etc. - for I shall be very pleased (D.V.) to give you what help and counsel I can. These are "evil days" and one who would (by grace) be faithful to his Master is not going to have a smooth path, so that we need all the assistance we can obtain for strengthening our hands.

You are quite correct in concluding that the servant of the Lord is duty bound to "declare all the counsel of God" as opportunity is afforded, and I can assure you it is a life task to learn how to discharge that duty. Many of us are prone to become "hobbyists," harping all the time on one string, stressing some particular doctrine or aspect of the Truth out of all proportion to other aspects of the Truth equally important and necessary to the Divine glory and the good of souls. Some are constitutionally pugnacious, and when opposed in preaching a certain doctrine, react by determining to preach it all the more. There is such a thing as "a zeal of (for) God" which nevertheless is "not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). Much wisdom from Above (humbly but trustfully sought) is needed in order to really help souls: "babes" are incapable of digesting "meat" - ponder Mark 4:33 and John 16:12.

I am glad to hear you have been able to procure John Brown's "Exposition of Romans," and that it gave you help on chapter 7. The "Victorious Life" people are certainly astray on the point you mention. It is most important to see that in Rom. 7:14-25 there are

three things (and not only two) to be noted. Take verse 23: there is (1) "the law of my mind" (i.e., the principle of holiness, or "the spirit" or new nature); there is (2) the "law of sin which is in my members" (i.e., indwelling depravity, or "the flesh" or old nature), and (3) the responsible "I" or person: repeated more emphatically in the "I myself" of verse 25. I would strongly recommend you to be on the lookout for any of the same John Brown's works (published around 1865-80): his 3 Volumes on "Discourses and Sayings of the Lord Jesus," and his commentaries on Habbakuk (2 Vols.), 1st Peter (2, or in smaller, 3 Vols.), 2 Peter 1 (1 Vol.), Galatians (1 Vol.), are sound, expository and most helpful. That is something I can say of very few writers, for a tremendous lot has been published which it is a waste of time to read. Beware of seeking to build up a large library. A few really worthwhile books will be of far more service to you than hundreds of commonplace ones. Spurgeon's "Treasury of David" (7 Vols.) on the Psalms, Matthew Henry's complete commentary on the Bible, I strongly recommend. Also any of the works of Thomas Manton (22 Vols. in all) - most of the Puritans are "heavy": theological rather than expository.

I thank you for your kind gift, safely to hand. Half of it I am applying to the magazine - I wish you could send me the name and address of someone likely to read and value this year's issues. The other half I am applying to a 1941 bound volume of the "Studies." My supply of these was long since exhausted, and if you offered me \$20 for a second one, I could not furnish it. But, by a mistake (God's over-ruling) I duplicated an order to a friend last year, and sent him two instead of one. I have asked him to hold same pending my instructions. I feel God meant it for you! Write a brief note to W.H.F. ...enclosing .15c for postage, stating I have asked you to return him for the extra 1941 volume which I sent him by mistake. do not send me any money for it.

With every good wish,
Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

27 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

July 6, 1943

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in Him who bids His servant "take heed (1) unto thyself and (2) unto the doctrine" or "teaching" (I Tim. 4:16). I want you to note the order here and to prayerfully seek grace to heed the same. God values YOU more highly than He does all your "service" unto Him! He is no Egyptian taskmaster demanding a "tale of bricks." However earnest, zealous, and desirous you may be of being made a blessing unto others, care of your own soul, the cultivation of your own spiritual life must come FIRST. Why so? Because - to mention no higher reason - the state of your own soul and the maintenance of personal communion with God, will determine your fitness to minister unto others. So, first and foremost, "take heed unto THYSELF"! I want to make this point clear and also impress you with its prime importance. So to illustrate: Suppose a chef (cook) was very ambitious and also conscientious in preparing his menus - reading up everything he could procure on dietetics, domestic science, the culinary arts, etc., and was very painstaking in preparing each item and dish; but - neglected his own food and nourishment. How long would he be fit to cater for others? You can well make your own application! Nor am I imagining a bogey. I have, in my extensive travels and long experience, personally known numbers of young ministers who wrecked their careers through failure at this very point: enthusiastic to preach "worthwhile" sermons, undue time spent in the preparation of them, while their own prayer life was neglected, etc. I am anxious for you to begin aright! Water cannot rise above its own level, and unless I am walking closely with God, and have His approbation on my own soul, I cannot be a spiritual help to others, though I may instruct them and add to their intellectual knowledge. If you have not already done so, form the habit of reading God's Word devotionally as well as "professionally" (i.e., as a preacher seeking sermon material, etc.): set aside fifteen minutes early in the day, and ditto in the evening (before you are weary), asking God to give you a portion for your own soul. Take only two or three verses and meditate on them word by word, seeking to apply them to your own inner and outer life.

Yours of May 29 to hand this morning: no time is gained (and .25c is wasted) by sending Air-Mail. I thank you for the further

\$3.50 to hand a few days ago per Post Office. I have credited Mr. F.B. with \$2.50 of this and entered his name on our magazine list, and am sending him direct the March to June ["Studies"]. We have no January ["Studies"] left, so am enclosing February ["Studies"] with this for you to send to Mr. B. if he has not already had one. I trust you received mine of mid-May and now have the 1941 bound volume from Mr. W.F. ...who has been holding one to my order. If my previous letter did not reach you, write him for this volume and send him (only) .15c to cover postage on it to you. In that letter I also made some suggestions regarding books, warning you against accumulating too large a library. Books are a minister's "tools," but how many saws and hammers does a carpenter need? One or two serviceable ones are better than a dozen all going to rust! You should now have sufficient theological works. Hodge's commentaries on I Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, and Ephesians are sound exegesis, but contain little sermon material. If you do not already have one, you should get a reliable work on Homiletics: the one by Dr. John A. Broadus of the Louisville Baptist Seminary (about 1890) is very complete - some such title as "The Preparation and Delivery of Sermons." "The Doctrines of Grace" (1 Vol., 1910) by Dr. George S. Bishop, pastor of a Reformed church in New Jersey, is fine. In the past, I procured quite a few of my second-hand books from Leary's in Philadelphia: their prices were much below others. They used to have a large table with a miscellaneous assortment on it .10c each!

These are evil days and the great majority of the "churches" are forsaken by the Holy Spirit. May your steps be Divinely guided to one where He can use you. Be not in too big a hurry. With best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink
Psa. 37:4, 5, 7!

27 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

October 17, 1943

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who declares, "he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isa. 28:16). I have learned, both from experience and observation, that it is to our loss when we disregard this Divine injunction. But the "flesh" in us is often feverish, and youthful zeal tends to rush us; hence we need to beg God lay His calming and restraining hand upon us, and enable us to "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him" (Psa. 37:7). It is comforting to know that HE is the One who both opens and shuts doors (Rev. 3:7)!

Your welcome letter of Aug. 11 to hand three days ago. So glad to hear you received safely the 1941 bound volume and are enjoying its contents. It is indeed sad that there is now so very little sound exegesis of the Scriptures. It is equally deplorable that there is so little demand, or desire, for the same. I could readily double the circulation of my little magazine by lowering the standard and introducing "popular" features. As it is, our circulation is below one thousand(!) - so few are there who relish anything better than skimmed milk.

Though I sympathize with you, I am not surprised to learn of your recent experience anent the...church in New Jersey. I fear you are not going to find it easy to locate a charge where you would be free to preach as the Spirit prompted you, without encountering considerable friction and opposition. You will need much grace to be faithful to the light God has given you and in resisting temptations to compromise. Conditions today are the same the world over: in every denomination there is a worm growing at its vitals - nor are Independent churches any better. Yet if God has called you to preach and teach His Word, in due time He will open the way for you to do so. Meanwhile, you may endeavor with all that is in you to preach by your daily walk.

The "Religious Affections," especially the third main section, by Jonathan Edwards is most searching, profitable and pertinent to these perilous times. The Lord perfect that which concerneth you.

By His Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

27 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

December 20, 1943

Dear Brother Harbach:

Greetings in Christ: may HE ever have the first place in each of our hearts and lives. I thank you in His blessed Name for your kind gift of \$5 safely to hand. I am entering you for an extra copy of each of the 1944 issues (D.V.), believing you will know of someone, perhaps among your wife's people, who will welcome the same. We are hard pressed to secure sufficient readers to enable us to continue publishing, and we would be very grateful if you would please make a definite effort to introduce us to new ones. Since God is blessing the "Studies" to you, why not extend the blessing to others! All being well, one of the 1943 bound volumes will be mailed you in a month or so's time, for I want you to have them in bound form for permanent use and reference. On its receipt, you might hand out your loose ones to different friends as sample copies. I will bear in mind your desire for the 1940 and earlier volumes, though they are very difficult to get, for few who have same will part with them.

Most of my earlier works are out of print, but a few may still be had from the B.T.D. Swengel (Union Co.), Pa. I would not recommend my book on "The Antichrist" [RCH] which was written twenty years ago. I know of nothing worthwhile on Matthew and the Revelation. Personally I would advise you to leave the Revelation alone at present. It comes at the end of the Bible! Why not make a careful study of Genesis? [RCH] "Dispensationalists" (Arminians to a man!) are right off the track.

I am pleased to know you have married one who has fellowship with you in spiritual things. "A prudent wife is from the Lord" - one of His most precious gifts, as I can testify after more than a quarter of a century of married life. May God's richest blessing rest upon your union. Continue waiting upon Him for directions and don't hurry into anything. These are most difficult times and wisdom from Above is needed to keep us from acting foolishly. Continue corresponding with me.

Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

[Comment: A.W. Pink does not recommend his book "The Antichrist" and to leave the Book of The Revelation alone at present;

rather make a careful study on the Genesis. (My grandmother, Florella Love Millard Ray, in my early and tender years, urged me to study Genesis.)]

27 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

December 21, 1943

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who has "left us an example" that we "should follow His steps." O that it may not be with us, as it was on one occasion with Peter - "afar off."

Further to mine of yesterday's date, in which I acknowledged with thanks the safe receipt of your kind donation of \$5, this is just a brief line to say yours of November 8 is to hand this morning, and I am mailing today two sample copies to each of your friends - Messrs. W.B. and F.B. Thank you very much. Please continue your efforts, for we are badly in need of new names to take the place of those who are dropping out.

A young friend here is keenly interested in the present series of the .05c stamps, U.S.A., flags of the United Nations - cancelled ones only. If you receive any on your letters kindly cut or tear off, leaving a small margin all around the edges of the stamp, and enclose one or two (not more) of the different Nations. Continue to use one of them on your letters to me, and much obliged.

Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

April 6, 1944

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in Him who reminds His people, "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price" (I Cor. 6:19, 20) - and what a price! O to live in the daily realization that we are the purchased property of Christ.

This is further to mine of March 27: I trust you have now received the 1938, 1939 and 1940 magazines from Pastor E. I thank you for yours of Feb. 28. I am glad to know the 1943 bound volume has reached you safely, and that you "continue to receive joy and blessing through the magazine and sermon material in abundance." I trust that will ever be the order. The needs of your own soul and the cultivation of your spiritual graces must come first - cf. Rom. 2:1; and in your efforts therein aim at a due proportion between the experiential and practical as well as the intellectual side. Water rises not above its level, and the level of the preacher's own spirituality (i.e., his personal acquaintance and walking with God) determines how far he is fitted to really help God's people spiritually: he cannot give out to others what he lacks himself.

I am thankful to say that during the last three months, applications for the "Studies" have come in much better, from those who seem really eager for and appreciative of it. Many are willing to receive it (at another's expense!) to please a friend, or to obtain sermonic materials, who are quite indifferent about its maintenance. During the past 20 years we have spent literally thousands of dollars in sending the "Studies" to missionaries, preachers, Christian workers and laymen - at the request of our from whom we never received so much as a "thank you." This has made us more cautious and conservative in entering names on our regular mailing list, though we are still glad to "try out" those whose names are furnished us. But now, instead of sending to such for a whole year, we do so for a few months only and then stop, assuming that if they are really interested they will write us and ask for a continuance. We did this with Mr. W.B. The four you have kindly sent us this time...we will, D.V., send for six months. From now on, I suggest you kindly hand a sample copy to likely ones (I am mailing you four), mentioning the help the magazine has been to you, and telling them that if they wish to receive it regularly to write me personally - if they are not interested enough to do that, a whole year's issues would be wasted

on them.

I would advise you to go slow in reading Owen - the "heaviest" of the Puritans. You are likely to find him more helpful in another ten years' time, if you are spared, when your own spiritual life has further matured. Do you have Calvin's Institutes? They are well worth mastering. You would be better repaid by spending six months on these two volumes, than skimming through 50 others - even of the Puritans. [RCH]

The subject of Human Responsibility and Inability is a most profound and many-sided one. Since Scripture is virtually silent on the case of infants and idiots, I think the less we try to reason about, or speculate thereon, the better. The full and unimpaired responsibility of every member of our race was his or her's in Adam, and was put to the test in Eden. The entrance of sin deprived man of all spiritual strength, yet it has not taken from God His right to demand full and perfect obedience. While it is true that the basis of human responsibility lies in our relationship to God, yet, He also holds us accountable for the use we make of the talents or capacities He has given us, the opportunities His providence furnishes, etc., and will judge us accordingly: in this connection give due place to such Scriptures as John 3:19; 15:22; Luke 12:47,48; Rom. 1:19,20; 2:14,15.

Your reasoning regarding infants and idiots is faulty: i.e., that if they are not responsible agents, they will be saved at death. That does not necessarily follow, for they died in Adam, and are born into this world under the imputation of his guilt. If they eternally perish, their punishment will be much milder than others (Luke 12:47, 48). If saved, it must be (a) because chosen by the Father, (b) redeemed by Christ, (c) regenerated by the Holy Spirit before the moment of death. Scripture is silent thereon; and so should we be.

We are still sending the magazine to your friend F.B., who has moved to Kentucky. We recently received a line from him thanking us for it and to say he was not able to send a donation, though I note he is publishing a little paper of his own. He does not appear to have made a very happy choice in his last two "charges" - a warning for you not to rush into any place in the religious world. There are very few places which would welcome sermons on "The Religious Affections"!!* As I have suggested in earlier letters, you will * [Comment: referring to essay by Jonathan Edwards in his works.] need to be patient, and continue waiting on the Lord. What you say of your "home church" is duplicated in almost all others! "Faith Missions" and "Independent" churches are not a whit better today

than Denominational ones. What would be the use of your accepting a call to some "church" and then when you arrived there found conditions in it were such that the Holy Spirit was quenched and would not use you in it? You would merely be "beating the air." It is very rare that one can "build upon another man's foundation" (Rom. 15:20). Foreign Missions are no better, as I could prove to you by letters from bitterly disappointed missionaries. All of this may sound very discouraging but I want you to face up to facts - the deplorable condition the whole of Christendom is now in - rather than ignore it and be carried away by the zeal and enthusiasm of youth, and be spared the disillusionments which so many have met with. If God has really called you to preach His Word, then, most certainly, in due time, HE will open a door for you - when He sees you are fit; but if you seek to open a door yourself, you are likely to regret it later on. I trust you will suffer this plain speaking yet kindly counsel from one who has had a lengthy and wide experience. I long for your steps to be "ordered (which is more than "ordained") of the Lord" - Psa. 37:23. With every good wish to you both,

Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

P.S. Thank you for the enclosed \$1 stamp bearing the picture of President Wilson. Unfortunately it had been torn before it was stuck on. Should you have another, and also a .50c and \$1 Canadian (cancelled ones) I would be grateful. P.P.S. I want you to feel perfectly free to call on me for any help I may be able to render you. I am in touch with a number of young pastors, and I deem it part of my work, and a privilege, to offer what advice I can.

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

July 2, 1944

Dear Brother Harbach:

I thank you in my Master's Name for yours of May 26 and for the Money Order safely to hand. I was glad to learn that you received the 1938-40 copies of the "Studies." I went to considerable

trouble in enabling Pastor Evans to secure them, and trust you will now make good use of them, and not set them aside for "a more convenient season" - which never comes! It is not the possessing of them that will advantage you, but your assimilating their contents! I hope you will go through them systematically within the next six months. You will need to carefully plan...: you ought to have a minimum of three hours' unbroken study daily, in addition to the time you spend on preparing sermons [RCH] and addresses. Ere passing from books: my earnest advice is master what you now have before buying any more.

Deeply interested as I am in your own spiritual growth and prosperity, and your service unto (not "for" as so many egotistically say) the Lord, I have read carefully what you say about your expected sphere of labor. I am glad you did not rush into it. I do not attempt to form any judgment or opinion on your decision. You do not specify under whose auspices you will be working, nor exactly what will be required from or expected of you. "Child Evangelism" signifies quite different things on the lips of different people! From your statement that it will include "all of eastern Massachusetts," I rather gather it will be: (a) Pioneer work, in organizing Sunday Schools; or (b) supervising Sunday Schools and other societies already in existence.

Yes, God's Word teaches plainly that all are born into this world in a LOST condition: alienated from God (Eph. 4:18), dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), totally depraved (Rom. 7:18a). The following Scriptures (look up each one!) are much to the point: Psa. 51:5 and 58:3; Job 11:12; Rom. 3:10-12, 17, 18; Eph. 2:3 - last clause!! Those are unspeakably solemn passages, and there are few indeed who believe them - certainly not those who talk of children being only "potentially lost." Those are the very verses which you will need to have constantly before you in your work among children. If you rightly apprehend their clear teaching, then your first endeavor will not be to "point them to Christ," but rather to bring before them (not cruelly conceal from them) what GOD says about their lost condition, and to be much in prayer that it may please Him to bring HIS Word home in convicting power to their hearts, so that they will realize they ARE lost!! "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Matt. 9:12). A sensible person will not go to a doctor while he deems himself to be well, nor even when a friend tells him he looks ill and should go to a doctor; but he will when he is personally and painfully conscious that he IS sick. Your first business then will be to show and prove from Scripture that the children ARE fatally "sick," and to humbly entreat the Holy Spirit to make them consciously so, to realize their lost

condition, that they are sinners in the sight of a holy God. Now Scripture teaches that "BY THE LAW is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20b and compare 7:7), and therefore you will need to preach the Law before you preach the Gospel - as the Old Testament precedes the New! For it is by the Law the whole world will yet be judged (Rom. 3:19), and you will find material on how to open up each of the Ten Commandments in the cover page articles all through the 1941 volume of "Studies." In other words, it will be for you to show in detail how children have broken God's Law, and then point out that God's condemnation and curse rests on every breaker of His Law (Gal. 3:10). Your main concern will be to teach them how they may obtain deliverance from that awful condemnation and curse. Negatively: not by ignoring their real condition, nor by asking God to be merciful to them, nor by turning over a new leaf and trying to do better for the future. But, positively, by availing themselves of the Justice- satisfying, Law-honoring, atoning Sacrifice of Christ. And on that you will find material in "Christ Fulfilling the Law" in "Studies" 1939, page 92! All that I have said in this paragraph is only a pointing out that the ground must be ploughed up before it is made ready to receive the Gospel seed!! And even then there will be no fruit for Eternity unless the Holy Spirit waters and quickens it!! I say "for Eternity," for it is an easy matter to persuade children (and adults too) to "hold up their hands" to signify their acceptance of Christ or to sign a "decision card," but that is the way to deceive souls and fill the "churches" with lifeless professors!

But I must draw to a close, yet ere concluding, would say, I was disappointed by those lines of yours which appeared in Mr. B.'s "Testimony to the Truth" of March 1944 issue on "The Divided Church": they are flippant, "cheap," quite unworthy of you....I cherish the hope that you are capable (by Divine grace) of something very much better than the "popular," vulgar, flesh-pleasing, and unspiritual rubbish which is now so rife in the "churches." The Lord graciously deliver you from the fear of man, give you a single eye to His glory, and grace to labor for His "Well done" in the future. Hoping you will continue writing me and with best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,
Arthur W. Pink

P.S. I am not willing for my article on "A Word to Parents" to be published under the name or auspices of any church or religious organization, but would be glad for you to have it printed in tract form with nothing on it save my name, and your own name and private address. In that case, omit the opening paragraph.

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

October 29, 1944

Dear Christian Friend:

(To save time and space I shall use abbreviations, and suggest you do the same.)

Greetings in Him who declares, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). As the context shows, this exhortation is added by Christ to His ministers. It is one you should accurately memorize, frequently meditate upon, and turn into earnest prayer for an understanding thereof and grace to heed it. No doubt you have noticed that one thing I frequently emphasize in the magazine is the importance of due proportion - avoiding extremes of one-sidedness. The above verse supplies a case in point: we need to preserve the balance between the two things there enjoined and the opposite graces inculcated in other passages. Take the first: you are required to be zealous, to declare all the counsel of God, to keep back nothing that is profitable; yet IN so doing, you are to be "wise as a serpent"! I need hardly say that does not mean tricky as a crook or unprincipled as a politician. But it does mean: be careful, thoughtful, considerate - taking into account the state of your hearers, feeding them according to the principle of "here a little and there a little." You must seek to avoid needlessly antagonizing people. Do not attempt to ram the Truth down their throats. Ponder very carefully the whole of Mark 4:33, John 16:12, and I Cor. 3:1,2, paying special attention to "as they were able to hear it" in the first, and "ye cannot bear them now" in the second; and seek to be regulated by them!! Take now the second thing in Matt. 10:16: you are to be bold and uncompromising in proclaiming the Truth, allowing nothing to intimidate you and yet be "harmless" as a gentle "dove"! Ah, my brother, both wisdom and grace from Above are sorely needed by us both there!!

I was very thankful for and pleased with your letter of Sept. 19 to hand four days ago. Thankful to perceive that God is graciously making you willing to be searched by His Truth, that He is revealing to you more of your sinfulness, and enabling you to discern some of the things which need correcting in your ways. Pleased you wrote me so fully and so freely. Though it may make my letter rather disconnected, I will devote the remainder of it to making remarks on what you wrote. First you began thus: "As therefore ye received

Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6). When citing God's Word, we need to quote it accurately! You made two mistakes in that brief reference! Then in what followed you got right off the track of sound doctrine - due to your present lack of balance - but balance is not obtained quickly. You say, "What a humbling thought...my receiving Christ was a passive thing - something done to and for me by the triune God! That I did not 'accept Him' but He accepted me in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6)." But, my dear friend, ponder Col. 2:6 as a whole, and note the force of the "AS" and "SO" - surely you do not "walk" passively! Now let me try to straighten you out on this important subject - on which so many are confused. "Salvation" has two sides to it: that of God's sovereign grace, that of the discharge of our responsibility. The sinner's responsibility is to "receive Christ Jesus the Lord" as his "Lord," for in the Gospel he is both invited and commanded so to do. That is the side of the Truth you are to continue to press on the unsaved! But if God leaves the sinner to himself, he will never do so: a miracle of grace has to be wrought within him before he is able to receive Christ Jesus his Lord, which is but another way of saying, before he is willing to relinquish his "idols" - all that competes for his heart against Christ: compare Isa. 26:13. That miracle of grace may be defined and described in a variety of ways: as regeneration, the impartation of a "new nature," the "receiving" of Him. Now it is for God to work that miracle of grace in your hearers that it is both your privilege and duty to pray - earnestly, submissively, yet expectantly - so that your preaching may not be in vain. When that miracle of grace has been wrought - unmistakably wrought - then the subject of it may exclaim to the glory of God: I sought Christ because He first sought me; I received Christ Jesus as my Lord because He first received me as the Father's gift to Him. "I love Him because He first loved me" (I John 4:19)! Nevertheless it is a fact that unless the sinner personally and actively "receives" Christ, there is no pardon of sins for him; yet if he does so "receive" Him, it is because His Spirit, previously, made him "willing" to do so (Psa. 110:3). I hope you will carefully re-read the whole of this paragraph.

I was glad to know you had been "re-reading portions of letters" I have sent you and that you were impressed with "he that believeth shall not make haste" - you will need to pray daily for God to calm and quieten your natural impetuosity, and give grace to heed it. I trust that I Tim. 4:16 ("Take heed unto thyself" etc.) has also impressed you - see my brief remarks thereon in letter of July 6, 1943. Also that you have been studying a number of the articles in the 1938-40 "Studies." Thank you for the names of [friends] to whom I am sending Sept. and Oct. issues and D.V. will follow with Nov. and Dec., then see their response.

You say "There are so few in Eastern Massachusetts who get or care for the deeper spiritual things": that is true everywhere. Even without the "deeper"! If ever you should be near Great Barrington, Mass., be sure to call on Mrs. J.M. there - wife of a farmer, I believe: she has had the "Studies" from first issue, and might be willing to let you have those before 1938! What you say of that publishing house is true - "neither consistent nor..." [Pink's copy indecipherable]. Yet - though it does not excuse them - such publishers and retailers are faced with a strong temptation - the demand for spiritual literature is so very small that, humanly speaking, they cannot earn a bare subsistence from its sale, so they carry other "good sellers" to make expenses. I only trust that Mr. H. is now stricter than he used to be in what he "handles"! I hope you can get 2000 printed of the "A Word to Parents." I would suggest your adding at foot of last page: "The above is a reprint from Mr. Pink's monthly magazine 'Studies in the Scriptures.' Send to him for a free sample copy. Address: 29 Lewis Street, etc." Quite possibly Mr. H. would be willing to take 500 copies from you at cost price, but do not make him a gift of them, nor mention I made this suggestion to you, please.

Though you may be somewhat disappointed in the nature of your present work and its lack of scope for what lies nearest to your heart, yet I believe it is "of the Lord" and will prove of benefit for the future. I regard it as a further stage of your "apprenticeship." It should enable you to discover more clearly for yourself the state the "churches" are now in. When you have opportunity to preach in one, observe as closely as you can the spiritual caliber of its officers, the attention of the congregation - the interest they manifest in your message - and inquire what numbers attend the mid-week prayer meeting. Then ask yourself, How would I like to be pastor of such a "church"? What would be the likelihood of the Holy Spirit using me there? That may serve as a check upon your impetuosity and help to direct your zeal with "knowledge," making you more cautious ere you accept a "call." I note your friend...is still on the jump - changing his address! We will certainly maintain his name on our magazine list - and any others you would like us to.

You are wise to "weed out" your books - it is an expensive matter to move around a large library! John Gill is a strong Calvinist, and, generally speaking, particularly good on the Epistles, though at times he is "hyper"-Calvinistic - losing the "balance" on the human responsibility side. He came after the Puritans. The "Puritan era" was, roughly, from 1580 to 1690 - following the "Reformers." Go slow in adding to your library. My book on "Inspiration" was my first - over 30 years ago. It may be a blessing

in disguise that so few of your Philadelphia "friends" write you! If you are to study as you should, you have no time available for a large correspondence. Excepting relatives and intimate friends, write only to those who (1) can help you by their letters, or (2) those who are willing to be helped by you - who evince a teachable and receptive spirit. I recently wrote Wes. Gregson* expressing the wish that he would write me oftener - if my letters to you are a help, when next writing him (D.V.) kindly tell him so, and urge him to correspond with me. E.E. of Philadelphia has begun to do so, and I hope will continue, though I don't want to hinder his studies.

We are grateful for your prayers. Kindly ask God to undertake for us with our Printers who are becoming increasingly lax and difficult. Charles Finney was quite unsound: a rabid Arminian, as was Moody, Chapman, Torrey, Billy Sunday, and all the popular evangelists. Charles Hodge is thoroughly reliable on Theology - though I differ from him on the thorny subject of church government.

Give this letter a careful reading, and write me again (D.V.) as opportunity allows - much as you would converse if visiting me. I long to be of spiritual help to you, though I shall not always be able to write at this length. Feel quite free to ask questions or present any problem. Best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,
A.W.P.

* [Comment: Wesley Gregson, now deceased, was the man who introduced me to Pink's "Studies."]

P.S. Hearty thanks in His Name for your...kind gift, safely to hand., We are entering Miss J.V. of Cuba [missionary] and Pastor E. of East Africa on our list for balance of this year and 1945. Am sending few sample copies to be used when suitable opportunities are presented.

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

February 11, 1945

My dear young Friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who bids each of His servants "Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15). There is no injunction in all the Scriptures addressed to the minister of Gospel which is more important than this one, and very few of equal. Unfortunately the first two clauses of that verse have been obscured by the cloud of dust raised by the Dispensationalists over its final one. The Greek word for "study" signifies "give diligence": make it your paramount concern and endeavor to obtain (not the smiles and flatteries of worms of the earth, but) the approbation of GOD - not so much (here) in your personal character, but officially: as His servant. A "workman" intimates that the ministry is no mere child's play, nor a job for an idler and trifler, but one which calls for the pulling forth of everything within him! Nine times the Greek word is rendered "laborer," or as we would now say "toiler." If you are to become a worker or toiler "that needeth not to be ashamed" then you will need to take yourself severely in hand - culling out all the non-essentials which are absorbing your time and strength and burning much "midnight oil"!!

Hearty thanks for yours of January 5 and the kind money order for one safely to hand. D.V. the bound volume will be mailed within the next two weeks. I was very glad to hear from you again and quite pleased with your letter as far as it went. May I offer a comment - not in the way of criticism, but of instruction - on your statement: "not that I would esteem the writings of men greater than the Scriptures themselves." You need to be careful at that point lest you draw a wrong antithesis - the writings of some men might profit you more than your personal reading of the Scriptures! The Holy Scriptures are indeed in a class all to themselves, and claim a reverence, veneration and submission which no other writings do or can. But "the writings of men" needs defining. The expositions of Scripture by God's own servants also occupy an unique place - in the realm of human literature - and have a special claim upon our attention! It is God's method to use human instrumentality, and He has called and equipped a few of His servants to be teachers (not merely "preachers") - specially gifted by Him to "open" His Word, and they are "to be highly esteemed for their work's sake" (I Thess. 5:12,13)! You are likely to get more real help and enlightenment

from one hour's careful perusal of say, Goodwin on Eph. 1 or Manton on Ps. 119 than if you spent ten (10) hours in reading and studying either chapter directly for yourself! And that statement is NOT disparaging to the Scriptures, but simply illustrates the method which God is pleased to employ in the instructing of the rank and file of His people. True, you need to read regularly the Scriptures themselves and thoroughly familiarize yourself with their contents - as you also need to test by Scripture (I Thess. 5:21) so far as you are able - and at present, that is very little - what each expositor says. Yet I feel strongly it is also true that you need to spend much more time now and in the near future (D.V.) to studying the writings of the true servants of God. Only then will 2 Tim. 2:15 become yours.

I am happy and thankful to find you saying it is now your prayer "to have the Spirit awaken me to my responsibilities to God." But my dear friend, is it not humbling to have to add, "this, and the necessity for good works in my life as a believer is somewhat new to me. For my Dispensationalist days have been damaging to me in a number of ways"? Please suffer me to point out several things thereon. 1. You need to definitely and earnestly beg God to purge you from all you were taught by them! 2. What was it that showed you the need of so praying? Your own study of the Word, or what God has taught you through His servants! 3. Have you not now cause to be "ashamed" of what you preached only a year ago? If God has graciously used my writings to show you the truth of a fourfold salvation, of your responsibility Godwards, of the place which good works are required to have in your life, might it not be well to re-read, much more carefully than formerly, all the copies of "Studies" you now have? to devote at least two hours every day to them! Why not one hour each evening in reading them aloud to your wife!!

I trust it will not be long before I receive your hoped-for "longer communication" in reply to my last. I long to be a real and lasting help to you, yet the extent to which that will be possible will depend largely upon yourself: your willingness to cooperate, to follow out my counsels, to write me more or less regularly. I do so want you to become "approved of GOD," a "workman that needeth not (through ignorance, sloth, or by allowing secondary things to usurp the place of what should come FIRST) to be ashamed." The question is, are you willing to pay the price, for Truth has to be BOUGHT (Prov. 23:23). God has very, very few "approved" servants left on earth today! It narrows down to this: Have you confidence in the doctor God has raised up and put into his heart to help you? If not, he will largely be wasting his time in seeking to diagnose your case and prescribe for you! If you have confidence in

him, are you willing to pocket your pride and your feelings and take the medicine he prepares for you? I have no time to spend on either platitudes or pleasantries; but I am ready to spare no efforts to try hard (under God) and make something spiritually worthwhile out of you. I have not "wrapped up" my thoughts but have expressed them openly and trust you will be equally frank in your reply.

With Christian love and best wishes,
Yours by Divine Mercy,
A. W. Pink

Thank you for the enclosed tracts: may the Lord of the harvest graciously bless this sowing of the Seed.

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

May 7, 1945

Dear Christian Friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who asks us "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Kindly ponder that in connection with your present position and associations. Is it definitely clear to you that, every person a real Christian is more or less intimate with either [what] helps or hinders him spiritually?

I have been very disappointed at receiving nothing further from you since yours of Jan. 5, which you began by saying: "This letter must necessarily be brief, though I plan to soon write a longer communication in answer to the latest welcome letter you have kindly and helpfully written me." But none has come to hand! I am wondering why? If you have not written, then I am fearful you are going back spiritually! As I said in mine of Feb. 11: "I long to be a real and lasting help to you, but the extent to which it will be possible will depend largely upon yourself - your willingness to cooperate, to follow my counsels, to write more or less regularly." I confirm those statements, but if you desire not such help, then I have no wish to press it upon you; yet I would like to know.

With every good wish,
Yours by Divine Mercy,
A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

July 5, 1945

Dear Christian friend:

Thank you for yours of the 6th ultimate. Glad to know that, despite your exacting duties, and other circumstances, you are continuing to read and do some studying: that is most essential - your own soundness in the Faith will determine the quality of your ministry: whether "wood, hay, stubble" or -

I appreciate your endeavor to "advertise" the "Studies." It is only one here and there who really has a heart for spiritual things (in contradistinction from "religious"!). Preachers are the least likely to value the magazine - have not heard from those you mention.

Regarding mine of Oct. 29. Am sorry I charged you with two mistakes when citing Col. 2:6: it did not occur to me to consult my American Revised Version. But I wish you had made some comments on the paragraph I wrote on that verse, for I wanted to know if I had cleared up to you what you wrote on "receiving."

That so very few preachers in New England evince any vital interest in the Scriptures is not strange - however deplorable; the same obtains, generally, the world over. That is what is going to make it so difficult to find a place where GOD will really and truly use you, and why you so much need to go slow before committing yourself to any pastorate. It is never easy to "build upon another man's foundation" (Rom. 15:20), but it is ten times harder when the other man is merely a "hireling." Do you yet clearly perceive for yourself that it would avail nothing for you to preach THE TRUTH - in its purity and faithfully - UNLESS the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit attended your preaching? - please ponder, and answer. In the vast majority of "churches"(?) today the Holy Spirit has been "quenched" - by UNregenerate ministers AND members, by false

doctrine and worldly methods and practices - and if you preached in one of them, you would merely "beat the air." Do you realize that?
[RCH]

I heartily commend your zeal in seeking to solve problems for yourself and your disapproval of lazily leaning on others - persevere in that spirit. Yet we never reach the stage where we know it all and become independent of help from those of greater experience and wisdom. It came as rather a shock to me that what I wrote you on July 2, 1944 was of such "great aid," for that was on a most elementary subject and you should have received teaching in the Seminary which made all of that quite clear to you. The same applies to the passages in I Cor. which occasion you difficulty: they ought to have been satisfactorily explained in your Theology class, under "The Inspiration of the Scriptures." Studies in philosophy, logic, or the languages are of little avail unless we have a good understanding of all the fundamentals of the Faith!

I Cor. 7:6. I regard the "this" as looking back to verses 1 and 2: (a) because to seek the antecedent in verse 5 would involve insuperable difficulties. (b) because the first clause of verse 7 seems to confirm a reference to verses 1 and 2 in verse 6. The contrast between "permission" and "command!" is NOT between Paul writing as a private individual and as an inspired apostle - or I Cor. 14:37 would be contradicted; but rather that marriage itself is a thing permissible and not something Divinely commanded, as the extreme Jewish party taught.

I Cor. 7:10, 12. Here again there is no antithesis between what is inspired and un-inspired, but rather between what the Lord Jesus had taught when on earth and what Paul by His Spirit was now teaching. "The Lord" there is NOT the equivalent of "God" but of "Mediator" (see 8:6) of 7:22, 10:21,22, 11:23, etc. etc. On the subjects dealt with in I Cor. 7, Christ's teaching had been confined to what constituted a valid ground for Divorce; whereas the apostle was dealing with a much wider problem (which fell not within the orbit of Christ's legislation), viz., how a Christian should act with reference to a heathen partner in marriage. A very knotty problem was presented. Try and put yourself in that circumstance! You were a heathen Corinthian, but saved under Paul's oral ministry; and soon after, he leaves Corinth. Your wife was not saved (may not have heard Paul), remains an idolater, continuing to attend the heathen temple. WHAT is your duty? Remember none of the New Testament was then written!! Would you not have been sorely puzzled? You seek contact with and counsel from some of those who had attended Christ's preaching, but to your great

disappointment learn there was nothing in His teaching which covered your case! You therefore write to Paul for guidance - see 7:1. THAT is the key to the whole chapter! Note verses 12 and 13, and substitute for "unbeliever," "heathen" or "idolater," and all should be clear. Now there was nothing in the teaching of Christ ("the Lord") which solved that problem (for He never went to the Gentiles!!), hence there was NO "commandment" from Him what a Christian ought to do in such a situation. So Paul was "permitted" to deal with the difficulty, yet under the guidance of the Spirit - otherwise 2 Tim. 3:16 would not be true!

I Cor. 7:25 - "no commandment" either from Christ in the days of His flesh nor from His Spirit then guiding Paul: he had received no commission to do any more than counsel them. He was inspired to advise, but not to legislate on this point; nevertheless it was the counsel of one not to be lightly dismissed - see 2:12 of I Cor. Verse 40 is to be understood in light of verse 25: his "judgment" or counsel or opinion took into view this peculiar circumstance, and therefore was not intended to bind the conscience (or interfere with the liberty) of Christians everywhere and throughout the centuries. It was under the Spirit he here wrote. But, you may ask, would not that be the equivalent of saying it was the Spirit's "counsel" or advice? Yes, in the sense that He moved Paul to give it. But no, in the sense that the Spirit here enunciated a law binding on all Christians: rather was He giving the Corinthians a general rule of expediency - leaving everyone free to judge of its application to his or her personal case!

2 Cor. 8:8. This links with last clause of verse 7 and general theme of chapter. It was not obedience to a "commandment," but spontaneous generosity he desired to see from them. Christian giving is not a matter of yielding to authority, but a free expression of gratitude and love!

2 Cor. 11:17. Inspiration secures an infallible communication of the Truth, but does not preclude the natural play of the intellect or feelings. In this instance his enemies had obliged Paul to "boast" and that was something which characterized not the Lord Jesus: "not after the Lord" - after His style or example. Self-praise is not the mark of a Christian, yet there are exceptionable occasions when the vindication of Truth or the honor of Christ requires it. 11:21 is the language of irony. As I have spent quite some time in working out these explanations for you, I trust it will not be too much to ask if each one is clear and satisfactory?

Regarding books - Goodwin on Ephesians 1 is not published

separately, being Vol. 1 in a set of 12 Vols. of his Complete Works. ALL of Thomas Chalmers' works are dry. Volumes of Sermons are rarely worth buying. Scott's Commentary is good, but quite needless if you have Matthew Henry's! I have no copies of "Studies" earlier than 1939 and in fact scarcely any before 1944. The word "authoritative" regarding historical accounts in Fox's Book of Martyrs is a relative one - not too much credence is to be placed in them or any one else's (even Neander or Mosheim), for the first 6 centuries A.D. is more or less buried in obscurity.

With every good wish,
Yours by Divine Mercy,
A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

February 7, 1946

My Dear Friend:

"Order my steps in Thy Word" (119:133): may each of us be made to feel increasingly his need of making this one of his daily petitions. There are many pitfalls in the world (and in the "churches"!) and naught but obedience to the Divine precepts preserves from them. O that we, by grace, may be enabled to say - Psa. 17:4.

Was very pleased to receive yours of Dec. 22, which did not reach me until today - due to its being posted "Christmas" week!! I had hoped that by now you had carefully read and re-read the whole of the "Studies" from 1938 to date. I am glad to hear you have congenial neighbors, but would lovingly warn you to be on your guard against spending too much time in "fellowship" with them and thereby deprive yourself of hours needed for serious and spiritual reading. If you don't form the habit of systematic reading and study while young, you never will! Don't waste time listening to the Wireless or secular reading!

I thank you for kind donation. Bound volume is being mailed

you today. We are entering Westminster and Reformed Episcopal seminaries for a year, and trust the "Studies" will be made accessible there to the students. I much appreciate your efforts to locate interested readers: the fact you cannot, should open your eyes to the deplorable situation. During the last 25 years we've spent literally \$1000(!) sending sample copies, and a whole year to hundreds whom our friends felt sure would want them, with practically NO response. In view of this, and also paper famine and high prices here, we are much slower to do this. We sent last year to...and...another "missionary," but heard from neither, so have dropped them. The fact is - and if your life is prolonged another 20 years, you will realize it far better than you do now - God's "flock" is a "very little" one (Gk.), and thus there are but FEW with a heart for the things of God, especially for that which searches, humbles and reproves them!

I note that for the past six months you have re-entered secular work, so conclude you've severed official connection with the Child Evangelism Fellowship. I have just re-read yours of May, 1944, in which you felt the Lord had opened that door of service to you, and if you refer to my reply of July 2, 1944 you will note the absence of enthusiasm over your move; yet, as I intimated later, I trust God has "over-ruled" the experience to you. You are wise in refusing to "tackle" any dead "church." Your query regarding should you seriously consider pastoring a flock of believers affiliated with a "liberal" denomination ought to present NO difficulty to you: such "believers" are the same as those in John 2:23, 24(!) or otherwise they would OBEY 2 Cor. 6:14-17!!

Here is a suggestion for you to seriously weigh and pray over. If you are convinced the Lord brought you to Arlington [Mass.] - and in view of a position in bank - why not try to gather your own congregation around you? Begin in a private house, with a few friends, holding a mid-week service (NOT on the usual "prayer meeting night"), giving a 40 minute Address on the Sermon on the Mount? If so, urge your friends to invite others. If the Lord prospered and numbers grew, rent a small hall: if interest increased, begin Sabbath services in addition. Have a box on chair near door for voluntary offerings to defray hire of room. By that method you are entirely independent of all "bosses" and free to preach whatever God would have you. If the idea appeals to you, you could augment with open air services one or two nights a week during the spring and summer - the idea being to get known - praying God to direct some of "His own" to you - those sick of the "churches," and get them to attend your mid-week indoors meetings. But DON'T hold such services in any "church" or building of any religious

organization - be independent, free! This would mean starting at the bottom, and building up, and entail slow and hard work; but it has real advantages. Meanwhile retain position at bank until you gather enough (like-minded) ones around you who will fully support you.

You did not say whether the comments I made on I Cor. 7:6, 10, etc., etc. cleared up those passages. Please understand I am NOT "fishing for compliments," but for your own (future) good would point out that when anyone presents a difficulty to a friend via correspondence, and you receive a solution thereof, courtesy requires an acknowledgement and a few comments on it.

With every good wish,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

I was not acquainted with B.P.

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

May 23, 1946

Mr. Robert Harbach
5123 Pulaski Avenue
Germantown, Phila., Pa.

Dear Christian friend:

Yours of April 26 to hand yesterday. Am grateful for your "still trying to interest friends and acquaintances in the 'Studies'." This is a very superficial generation and few relish anything which makes a demand upon their mental powers, still less anything that searches the heart and calls to rectification of the life - speculations on Prophecy and sensational items culled from the newspapers do neither. Regarding a series of articles exposing the principal errors of "Dispensationalism": I wrote no fewer than eighteen in the 1933 and 1934 Vols., and in consequence lost quite a number of readers,

which I could ill afford; but had the satisfaction of knowing I had done my duty. If spared, and the Lord provides enough readers to publish next year, I hope to write again - though more briefly - on the subject.

The great majority of preachers "trim their sails" to the prevailing religious winds of the day. It is a matter of "bread and butter" with them, so they cannot afford to displease those who pay their salaries. Winds blow from different quarters: I seriously doubt if you would be any happier in a "Fundamentalist" church than a "Modernistic" one. Look well before you take your next leap! I have met or had dealings with many "Missionaries": almost all of them struck me as men unqualified to "make good" at anything in their Homeland.

I [Pink's opinion - not mine - RCH] too considered Broadus' on Matthew's Gospel "insipid." Spurgeon's commentary on it is disappointing; Gaebelein's and Erdman's too "dispensational." You will need to make your own! But work on it hard for ten years before you think of publishing, and then you might possibly find 500 who valued it!!

The Lord graciously work in and then through you the good pleasure of His will.

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

January 18, 1947

My Dear Friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who bids His servants, "Preach the WORD; be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering, and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).

Hearty thanks for yours of Dec. 27 and the money order safely to hand. All being well, one of the 1946 Vols. will be mailed you as soon as they are available.

I was glad to learn you have become the pastor of a work which is largely of a pioneer order, rather than an old established one with a big membership - of unregenerate people. I believe you would find it helpful to both yourself (for information, etc.) and for the work, to spend several hours every week in house to house visitation, inviting the people to attend your services, but especially to let them see you are interested in their souls. Read a few verses of Scripture to them and have a brief word of prayer. At your second or third visit ask them what they would like you to request of God.

Now that you have Thomas Scott's Commentaries you will not need Matthew Henry's, for the former follows the latter pretty closely.

You need not be at all surprised that "Calvinists" are divided and jealous of each other. To be a staunch and sound "Calvinist" is NO evidence one is regenerate. Many espouse "Calvinism" purely as a philosophy - offering as it does a more logical and consistent explanation of things than any other intellectual system.

1 [Comment: No question of need when, in the providence of God, Scott was purchased at .05c a volume! Besides, Scott has his own peculiar worth. RCH]

You will be wise to let Eschatology² severely alone. In all your preaching seek to be simple and practical,³ so that "the common people" will hear you "gladly." Pocket, or rather "mortify" your pride, and aim NOT at gaining a reputation for being "learned" or "deep." The Lord bless and make you a blessing.

Yours by His Mercy,

A. W. Pink

2 [Comment: What would a young people's class in "Principles of Reformed Doctrine" be, without the Eschatology? RCH]

3 [Comment: Doctrine is practical and can be taught clearly and simply. RCH]

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

May 12, 1947

My Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Christ: may HE ever have the first place in each of our hearts and lives.

I was well pleased with yours of April 21 and would like to reply at length, but heavy pressure of work obliges me to abbreviate. Very grateful for your prayers: Col. 4:2! - especially regarding my Printers and increased circulation: "Is anything too hard for the Lord!" Glad to know you value the bound volumes so highly. It is rare I have an opportunity to pick up back issues, but last year I found that an elderly lady was willing to part with the last eleven years in loose form (having "read them again and again") when she knew two young preachers would value them. I had them bound, and am today mailing you the 1936 and 1937 Volumes, which I desire you to receive as a gift - as from the Lord. I regret Binders failed to print number of volume on them, but you can print it in ink on stamp paper and gum in position. The other nine I am sending to another preacher. I should be glad, and I believe she would be pleased, if you would send a few lines to Miss E.D.B. ...saying you had received from Mr. Pink the back volumes of the "Studies in the Scriptures" (do not specify the number you received, nor the year's) he obtained from you for me: that you are very grateful for the same, and D.V. hope to make good use of them.

You are quite right in concluding that the contents are "too searching and rebuking" to appeal unto many today. It is nothing short of a miracle of grace we still have just enough(!) readers to warrant our continuing to publish - please pray daily for God to bring us into touch with many more whose hearts He has prepared for our articles.

Regarding Psalm singing - here I must condense. 1. In contrast from the Mosaic economy where every part of Divine worship was prescribed, it seems to me the Christian dispensation is one marked by spiritual liberty - within certain bounds: e.g., "all things decently and in order," etc. etc. 2. Had God prescribed or given any rules regarding public singing, would we not look for it in I Corinthians? 3. Neither Eph. 5:19 nor Col. 3:16 pertain to congregational singing - weigh their language! - nor to public worship, otherwise it had said "to God" and NOT "to yourselves"! 4. Personally, I enjoy the

singing of Psalms, but do NOT agree with those who decry "man-made hymns" - the paraphrases of the Psalms are "man-made." 5. I abominate the majority of modern so-called "hymns": full of error, sung much too fast, tunes irreverent. Yet, if we attempt censoring everything faulty today, there would be scarcely anything left. These are difficult days, and much grace, wisdom and patience are needed to avoid guilty compromising (countenancing serious evil) on the one hand, and a hyper-critical attitude on the other - Jas. 1:5, 6a.

With every good wish,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

June 21, 1947

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who declares, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2: 10).

Was very glad to get yours of the 2nd, to hear the bound volumes had arrived, that you purpose making good use of them, and that you had written Miss B. Make it a matter of definite prayer that God will enable you to secure one or two subscribers for the "Studies."

It seems a pity to break a set, but a good friend of mine loaned his Aug., Sept., and Oct. 1946 issues and they were lost, and I am unable to supply duplicates. If you will mail me those three he will be grateful. I am herewith sending you another Jan. copy, to which I have added a Feb., for you to loan as a sample to likely prospects.

Mr. E....seems a poor correspondent. I had a money order from him some months ago, but no letter for ages. If you should be writing him, kindly say Mr. Pink would appreciate a few lines. I continue sending "Studies" both to the Westminster Seminary at

Chestnut Hill and the Reformed Episcopal in Phila. I know not if it is worthwhile doing so.

The "Youth for Christ" movement brings to the surface the diseased condition of present-day Christendom. Several years ago I wrote: "God's flock is much smaller than you think." I repeat it! though I doubt not your estimate is not nearly so large as it then was.

I have NO objection whatever to the singing of Psalms, privately or publicly: all I pointed out in my last was that we have no New Testament precept enjoining their public use in song. Most assuredly they are far preferable to most of the modern "hymns."

We greatly value your prayers. God IS answering, both in connection with our Printers and our mailing list: but please - Col. 4:2!

With every good wish,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

July 23, 1947

My Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in Him whose Name is as "ointment poured forth" (Cant. 1:3): not only precious beyond words to the redeemed, but a "sweet savor" unto the Father too! It is the merits and fragrance of Christ which render us acceptable unto God, for by nature and practice we were a "stench in His nostrils." That Name "which is above every name," that "worthy Name" (Jas. 2:7), which is as "ointment poured forth," it is our privilege to plead before the Throne of Grace!

Hearty thanks for yours of the 9th and for the three 1946 copies to hand. I have discovered that one of the 1946 bound volumes lacks

the January issue, which renders it practically worthless: if you should still have that issue left, kindly mail it to me, and D.V. I can get the volume rebound at end of year. Glad to say new names for the magazine are still coming in better. Pleased to know you purposed writing E.E., and trust I may soon hear from him - I hope he has not lost interest in the "Studies."

With every good wish,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

August 11, 1947

My Dear friend:

Greetings in Christ: O to be more fully conformed to His holy image.

A friend of mine has come into possession of Manton's Works - from which I so often quote! Not sure, but think a complete set: 22 Volumes, averaging 500 pages [each], - good print. They consist mainly of Expositions, Sermons; 3 Vols. on Ps. 119; Rom. 6 and 8; Heb. 11; I John 3, etc. etc. covered in other volumes. They are very hard to obtain. Manton was private Chaplain to Cromwell! I rate him highly: best-balanced of all the Puritans, particularly helpful on the practical side of the Christian life.

My friend desires these books shall go to one who will really value and read them - not simply put in bookcase "for reference." I thought of you. Only charge would be postage: roughly .15c per volume. If they appeal to you, and you would (D.V.) be prepared to give them a complete and careful reading, let me know. Should you hesitate to commit yourself to such a big task, do you think it would be best to first send first 3 Volumes only for a month's trial of them - to be returned if they appeal not to you?

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

Ponder for a couple of days ere replying.

Have heard from Mr. E. - thanks.

[Comment: We expressed to Pink great interest in obtaining the set of Manton which, in due time, he sent two volumes at a time; all 22 volumes were received safely. RCH]

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

September 7, 1947

My Dear Friend:

Greetings in the blessed Name of Him who declares, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12:11): note well those last two words, for they qualify the promise! Afflictions only prove a blessing when God sanctifies them unto the ill. They are sent either in "rebuke" (Heb. 12:5), or for the development of our graces (Jas. 1:2 etc.). However, our first concern should be to make Job 10:2b our prayer, and second, beg God to bless the trial to us. May such be the case with both of you in connection with your recent trial.

Thank you very much for the Jan. 1946 issue. Since last writing you, I've discovered Miss D. of Boston sent \$5 money order at request of a relative in Central America who gets magazine. We have not yet heard from your brother - keep after him. Though I put into it many hundreds of hours of hard work, my exposition of John's Gospel was written during my spiritual immaturity: glad you are using John Brown and Matthew Henry for practical application.

Bishop's "Doctrine of Grace" is real good: not a little "strong

meat" in it. But I was disappointed with his "Grace in Galatians" (as also his small book on the "Holy Spirit"): not sufficiently expository! too general - mainly a topical treatment. It has in it but 148 pages, smaller in size than his "Doctrine of Grace" and larger print. However, if you particularly want to read it, I could loan you my copy for a few weeks (D.V.) for you to copy out anything you considered of value in it. John Brown on Galatians (hard to procure!) is best I know of.....

With best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

September 29, 1947

My Dear Friend:

Greetings in Him whose holy Word declares, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification" (I Cor. 14:10). Without being dogmatic, it seems to me, the principle of that verse may be legitimately applied to Christendom (the religious "world"), though it does not endorse what is contrary to Scripture. Christendom, with its multiplied denominations and sects, needs to be viewed in the light of Divine Providence! So also does the historical development of error. When one denomination lost the balance of any fundamental aspect of the Truth, Divine Providence raised up another to emphasize the neglected aspect, though itself was lopsided. The propagation of more than one rank heresy has often led to men of God giving much closer attention to what was denied, resulting in a fuller exposition of Truth! e.g., the Arian heresy, and its sequel. Most of present-day religious organizations are doing work which the churches ought to do, but have failed in. Here in Britain we have a strong and virile "Lord's Day Observance Society." What a reflection on the infidelity of the churches! Yet we should be thankful that

Providence has raised up such!

The set of Manton is not in my possession. They recently came into the hands of an English friend. I've written asking him to send same to you at his convenience. He is aged, and it will be quite a task: involving no less than eleven parcels (two volumes only in each) - to meet our postal restrictions - and wrapping paper is very scarce. I've advised him to send two or three a week. His name is Marriott. Please join us in daily prayer that the Lord will "help Brother Marriott" to wrap and mail parcels, and PROTECT each one in transit to you. Send no money until the whole 22 Volumes reach you, but let me know when first, second or third parcels have arrived, and their condition. When you have the set, D.V., I will tell you how to make out money order - I estimate \$3. Then a little later, I suggest you express your appreciation by sending him a parcel of articles of food either unobtainable or in short supply in Britain, such as 2 lbs. of rice, 2 packets table jelly, 2 bars of soap, etc. - D.V. will supply list later: most expensive item will be postage - \$1.30. This is NOT a "hint" regarding ourselves, for several thoughtful friends in USA have already sent us parcels and we are well supplied.

Yes, you must get down to carefully reading through the worthwhile books in your library - especially Hodge's Theology. I spend an hour every night in reading to my wife. Why not you do the same? Say, John Brown on 1st Peter or Flavell on Divine Providence.

I've acknowledged with thanks the January 1946 copy. No, I've not heard from your brother: would like to.

Thank you for pamphlet, which I'm hereby returning. It does NOT commend itself to me, savoring far too much of the energy of the flesh. Any work which is "of the Lord" never requires to solicit funds or advertise its needs! Never support any religious beggar. That work in France is running ahead too fast, wanting to develop into something showy, or as you Americans say, "make a splash." But I must stop. Always glad to hear from you: would be pleased for you to look upon me as an unofficial "pastor." Glad to hear your wife is getting stronger.

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

November 10, 1947

My Dear Friend:

Thank you for note of 11th ultimate and your kindness in sending wrapping paper, etc., though I wish you had dispatched direct to Mr. Marriott. It has not yet arrived - parcels from U.S.A. are "way behind time." Glad to know some of the Manton volumes have arrived, and that you have notified sender. Deliveries will be quite irregular according as carried by swift liners or slow freighters! When the whole are to hand, forward international money order for \$3 to Mr. F. J. Marriott, and tell him that early in the New Year you intend to send him a small parcel of foods which are "in short supply" in Britain: - "not in payment for the books, but as an expression of gratitude and appreciation." Do not dispatch parcel before January 7 - until the "Holiday Rush" is over! Very liable to be lost or stolen if sent at earlier date! Much pilfering is going on, so commit your parcel definitely into the hands of God. If you are spared another 20 years you will value Manton far higher in 1970 than in 1950! I prize him very highly. Time spent on him will not be wasted. Please let me know in your next if you possess Boston's "Fourfold State"? Also, John Gill's "Doctrinal Divinity" and his Commentary on the whole Bible? Money order for \$1 to hand: you do not tell me how to apply.

Yours of October 18 also to hand. I do not think you are wise in dwelling upon and making an issue of the extra religious organizations, especially in a day like ours, when Christendom is in ruins, and when other things are of far more pressing importance. Suppose you are right in your contention, there is nothing you can do about it, except withhold support from such organizations. You appear to me somewhat confused in thought when saying "God has predestinated the CHURCHES to be Scriptural means (better, "media" or "organs") for preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments (better, "ordinances"), etc. etc." confounding God's secret or decretive will, with His revealed and preceptive will (a vitally important distinction!): the latter of which is our alone Rule! True, unqualifiedly true, the "churches" are the ONLY media appointed by God. But all denominations have departed in some things, and in varying degrees, from the Scriptural Rule. But GOD is not restricted or hampered by human failures, but in His Sovereignty uses a Balaam and a Deborah (a woman!) when He

pleases - which illustrates what I meant in my last when alluding to His providential dealings - which, though no Rule for us to walk by, must nevertheless be taken into account by us.

"It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth." I believe you are now "serving your apprenticeship"! If you are FAITHFUL with a "few things" - ! I cannot press upon you too earnestly, that right NOW you are in the most formative period of your ministerial career - laying foundations for future. Unless you strictly and sternly discipline yourself and form habits of regular and systematic study NOW, you never will! You will never have "more time" than in the present. I would also strongly urge you to select a verse from a Psalm - say first few of 25 to begin with: read it to your wife at breakfast, or earlier, memorize it, and at odd moments during day (when walking or riding) meditate on each single word in it: in the evening exchange with your wife thoughts on it - CONTINUE process! January 1 (D.V.) I want you to take up together Psa. 119! But make a beginning now with Ps. 25. Though a very simple method and exercise, you'll find it invaluable if you persevere.

The Lord bless and make you a blessing,

A. W. P.

I suggest for parcel to Mr. Marriott: - 2 lbs. of rice; 2 bars of toilet and 2 bars of washing soap; 1 packet of dried eggs; 1 lb. tin of cooking fat, and 1 lb. of butter. Since the tin is liable to rub against other articles, place each of others, except soap, in a strong paper bag. NO sugar, or candies.

[Comment: These items packaged and sent by overseas mail to Mr. Marriott in England. "1 lb. of butter"?! - Don't remember doing that!]

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

December 28, 1947

Dear Christian friend:

Thank you for yours of 2nd and money order \$7.50 safely to hand. No previous letter, announcing your receipt of 22 Volumes by Manton has arrived - mails irregular at this crazy holiday season; but thankful to hear they have, and that you have notified Mr. Marriott accordingly - here in Britain we are much slower in addressing seniors as "brother." They should keep you well occupied for some time to come! Note the excellent "Tables of Contents" at end of Volume 22 and refer to them regularly! My wife has read through almost the whole of them: much two or three times: trust your wife will. Package of wrapping paper never arrived: probably U.S. postal authorities refused it. Am crediting your money unto 1948 "Studies."

Number of bound volumes of "Studies" for 1947 is strictly limited. Had "earmarked" one for you and for Pastor G. Can only let you have one extra - I doubt if one for seminary library would ever be read. D.V. will send you Boston's "Fourfold State" with bound volumes, but will not try and secure anything else until you have more thoroughly mastered all you now have on hand. Have you read everything in this year's "Studies"? Keep it up on Ps. 25 etc.: memory work is mainly of value as it is supplemented by meditation - something which most Americans, with their feverish rush, are strangers to. Beg the Lord, daily, to put His brake on the hectic flesh!

No, Mr. W. is not on our list. During past 25 years we've received many hundreds of names of "missionaries" and other Christian workers, and not five out of a hundred ever gave any evidence of interest: not even wrote a line of thanks, nor requested a continuance when we dropped them. Why not you send Mr. W. a specimen copy and a few lines telling of help they've been to you, and suggesting he send me \$1.50 for a year? Badly as we need readers, I'm determined not to "pad" our list.

Cannot add more now. With Christian greetings,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

December 30, 1947

Dear Christian friend:

Yours posted Nov. 18 arrived this morning! - probably carried by a cargo boat, via Germany. Your gratitude to Mr. M. and myself will best be expressed by the amount of time you spend on Manton! I have a "waiting list" of young preachers, in Canada and U.S.A., who are most anxious for me to procure for them Puritan works, but I passed by all of them (including one in Texas who sent me \$75 months ago for that very purpose), giving you the preference, hoping you would make better and fuller use of them. It is a propensity of human nature to covet things we do not possess, and usually, after securing same, to value them very little. It is no advantage to possess good tools unless they be USED. The vast majority of preachers waste much of their time. I sincerely trust you do not (and never will) belong to any "Secret Orders" or "Lodge," and are not a member of any Civic Club, for if you do, it will most certainly grieve the Holy Spirit and seriously curtail His use of you (2 Cor. 6:14). For the sake of Christ's Cause and your own spiritual good, I would urge you to cease reading any secular magazines - e.g., "Life," "Literary Digest," etc. - and very few religious magazines, there being nothing in them to search the heart or feed the soul.

Total cost of the 11 parcels from England would be \$2.60. NO "custom" or "duty" is charged in Britain on any parcels of food or second-hand clothing from U.S.A. A used towel or used dishcloths would be acceptable to Mrs. M.: can only be procured here by coupons, and they are needed for wearing apparel. Rice, packet of dried eggs, corn starch, soap, two or three packets of jello, 12 oz. tin of sliced bacon, would be most appreciated by Mr. and Mrs. M. NO candies etc.

So far as I can gauge present conditions, we are either nearing the close of human history, or the world is passing through the throes from which a "new order" of things will emerge: most probably, the latter; if so, an "order" (?) from which God, morality, and decency will, for a season, be given little place. "Civilization" as our parents knew it is in the melting pot. Personally, I do not look for either Romanism or Communism to triumph: rather, that the one will neutralize the other. Infidelity is in the saddle. Our lot is cast in a MOST solemn time, BUT the Almighty is on the Throne, working

out His eternal purpose, and there FAITH may repose. Live for today, and leave tomorrow with God. Because the times are so "perilous" and solemn, I think it behoves God's children to most seriously ponder I Cor. 7:26, 29-32a! The Lord grant unto each of us "good judgment" (Psa. 119:66).....

With best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

P.S. Have you noticed my own cover-page article on the Ten Commandments in 1941 volume?

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

April 5, 1948

Dear Christian friend:

Greetings in Him who is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14); but the hand of faith must be used to draw upon His fullness!

Yours of January 26 - in reply to mine of December - duly to hand. Very disappointed no subscriptions - badly needed. I sent sample copy to Pastor H.B., but no response. But have had an application from Mr. W., India.

Am today mailing you two of 1947 Volumes, plus Boston's book.

With best wishes,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

29 Lewis Street
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Scotland

January 26, 1949

My Dear Friend:

Greetings in Him who says, "Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4). To "delight thyself in the Lord" is not only to meditate and feast one's self upon His glorious perfections, but is also to submit to His authority, and find our pleasure in those things which are pleasing to Him, thereby "proving (inwardly) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2). It is to diligently endeavor to walk with Him along the Highway of Holiness. According as we do so, "the desires of our heart" become more spiritual(!), and so far as will be for His glory and our good (not to puff us up), they will be granted.

Was glad to receive yours of the 13th and to learn you are continuing in a regular course of reading and study: form and maintain that habit now, and it will, by God's blessing, and if you be spared, stand you in good stead in years to come. Be conservative in your selection, and always seek God's help and blessing on what you read! Glad to hear you enjoy the "Studies," and are happy in the ministry.

Thanks for promise to continue trying to get readers for "Studies." It is not easy: so many want to be flattered, and dislike anything which makes them think less of themselves! As you probably know, your brother has become a subscriber. Have also had a donation from Mr. W., India. We are grateful for your prayers. Must ring off: the post which brought yours, contained ten other letters requiring answers.

With every good wish,

Yours by Divine Mercy,

A. W. Pink

P.S. Please say in your next, D.V., if you own a copy of Boston's "Fourfold State."

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