

# God's Favorite Word

No. 179

## Introduction.

I. All of us like to receive invitations.

A. Suppose that in tomorrow's mail we received an engraved invitation from the White House, which reads as follows:

“The president of the United States invites you to be his guest for dinner at the White House on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Other guests will be the Queen of England, the Chief of the Supreme Court and other noted figures. The President sincerely hopes that you can be present.”

B. All of us would be proud indeed to receive such an invitation. We would show it to all our friends, We would keep it to show to our children and grandchildren.

II. **One greater than the president has issued us an invitation.**

A. The King of heaven invites us to be His guest. He promises us the finest things on this earth in the life beyond.

B. **He is the Greatest inviter.** All through the Bible He is standing with outstretched arms, crying unto men, “Come unto Me.” This is His favorite word, the word “Come.” It is a simple word, but all the wonders of heaven and earth are wrapped up in it.

III. Let us look at some of the times the word “Come” is used in the Bible.

I. **“Come Down”**

A. One day Jesus was passing through Jericho.

1. **A man named Zaccheus lived there.** He was a tax-collector for the Roman government. He had riches but he was not happy. The people hated him. He was a lonely man with no peace in his heart. But he had heard that this strange man, Jesus, loved all kinds of people. So, when Jesus came to Jericho, Zaccheus rushed to see Him. But Zaccheus was a man of little stature and he could not see Jesus for the crowd. So he climbed up in a sycamore tree to get a glimpse of the Savior. Soon Jesus stopped under that very tree and looked up at Zaccheus. Jesus said, “Come down, Zaccheus. I am going to your house today.” Zaccheus hurried down and took Jesus home for dinner. So moved was he by the presence of Christ that he said, “Lord, I'll give half of all I have to the poor. And if I have cheated any man I will pay him back four-fold. (Lk. 19:1-8).

2. What a change Jesus made in this man's life! He brought salvation to him and marvelous new life.

B. **People today want to see the Savior,** but climb the wrong tree. They trust in their church membership, their gifts, their good works, their character.

1. But Jesus says to them all, “If you want salvation, come down.

2. Come down to Me. Humble yourself. Submit to Me and My Father's will.

C. In 1829 **George Wilson** of Pennsylvania was sentenced to be hung for murder. But President Jackson issued him a pardon. Wilson refused to accept the pardon, saying that he was guilty and wanted to die.

The case was carried all the way to the Supreme Court, which decreed that a pardon was of no value unless it was accepted. So George Wilson went to his death.

1. **The Lord Jesus has issued us a pardon.** It is signed and sealed in His own precious blood. But that pardon has no value for unless we feel that we need it and unless we come to Him in humility, gratefully accepting that pardon.
2. To be saved, to become a Christian, a man or woman must “come down” to Jesus. (Jn. 3:36; 14:6; Acts 4:12).

## II. “Come Unto” - Jesus once looked upon the multitude and said. (Matt. 11:28-30).

- A. There are many sweet verses in the Bible, but I believe these are among the sweetest.
- B. Jesus invites those who are burdened with sin and sorrow to come to Him and He will give them sweet rest and peace.
  1. **Peter** said. (1 Pet. 5:7).
  2. **Paul** wrote. (Phil. 4:6, 7).
  3. **John** said. (Rev. 14:13; 22:17).

## III. “Come Out”

- A. In 2 Corinthians 6:17 we read, “Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord...” As Christians we must separate ourselves from the world and live lives that are devoted to God.
  1. It is said that the **Tigris River** flows straight through a certain lake, yet the river does not mingle its waters with the water of the lake. It retains a taste and color different from the lake. We Christians must be like that. We are not to take on the color of the world, but we are to retain the likeness of Christ.
  2. **Some fish live in a salty sea**, but their flesh is not salty.
  3. **Pearls** live in the dark ocean caves, but they are not black.
- B. So we can live in a sinful world, yet not be of that world. (Rom. 12:1-2; Jas. 1:27; 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15, 16; Rev. 21:27).

## IV. “Come With” - In the Song of Solomon the bridegroom says to the bride, “Come with me.”

- A. Jesus says to His bride, the church, the saints of God “Come with Me and let us enjoy the sweetest fellowship.”
- B. **A great pianist** said, “If I miss one day of practice, I notice it in my playing. If I miss two days my friends notice it. If I miss three days the public notices it.
  1. So if we neglect fellowship with Jesus it affects our commitment and our service. We soon get far from the Lord and our spiritual life and service begin to grow weak and die.

2. Every day we ought to get alone with Him and be with Him and enjoy His fellowship

V. **“Come Up”** - When John, the beloved disciple, was on the isle of Patmos, he said that a door in heaven opened up and he heard a voice like unto a trumpet, saying, “Come up.”

A. This is what Jesus says to His faithful followers. He invites them to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Some day Jesus is coming again to take His followers to the eternal city which He has prepared. They will see the golden streets, the walls made of precious stones, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the angels and enjoy the peace and happiness of heaven forever and ever.

B. **Oh, what a prospect for the Christian!** What a blessed hope! Wars may rage, storms may come, sorrows may sweep over the soul. But the Christian can look up and say, “I have Christ, I have hope, I have a home in heaven because of Christ.”

### **Conclusion.**

I. During the **Civil War** a father went out upon a battlefield looking for his son who had been wounded. On every side he heard the groans of the wounded and the dying, but he could not locate his son. Finally he lifted up his voice and cried out, “John Hardin, thy father is calling thee.” He repeated this cry over and over again, but there was no answer. Finally, he heard a faint voice in the distance crying, “Here, father, here I am.”

II. **Jesus stands today upon the battlefield of life.** He says, “I am calling you, I love you, I want to save you. Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

A. Won’t you say, “Here I am, Jesus. I will believe in You, I love you, I will be buried with You in baptism, I will let Your blood cleanse me from my sins, I will live for You, and I will be Yours forever.

B. Come to Jesus today! (2 Cor. 6:2).

C. Come to Jesus and let Him take you from **death to life**, from **certain doom to salvation**, from **judgment and eternal punishment to heaven**. Come as we stand and sing.