

“Present Practices until Future Glory”

II THESSALONIANS 2:13-17



William Wilberforce

“I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that (abominable practice of slavery), which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, | you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. ...



**a letter from John Wesley to
William Wilberforce**

... But if God be for you,
who can be against you?
Are all of them together stronger
than God? Oh, be not weary of
well-doing. Go on in the name of
God, and in the power of
His might.”



**a letter from John Wesley to
William Wilberforce**

*And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap,
if we do not give up.*

Galatians 6:9

KEY POINT:

In the end, Christians will experience glorious things, not awful things.

- I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)
- II. Where We Will Finish (vs. 14b)
- III. What To Do (vs. 15-17)

Outline of Our Passage

I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)

Outline of Our Passage

- God chose because His choice was the right choice to make.
- The initiative in salvation is from God.
- God elected before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4).
- If you are a Christian, you are one of God's elect
(Matt 24:22, 24, 31; Mark 13:20, 22, 27; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Rom 8:33; 11:17; Eph 1:4-5; II Tim 1:9; 2:10; Tit 1:1; I Pet 1:1).

“God Chose You”

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:1

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you that you
should go and bear fruit and that your fruit
should abide, so that whatever you ask the
Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

John 15:16

*who saved us and called us to a holy calling,
not because of our works but because of his
own purpose and grace,
which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the
ages began,*

II Timothy 1:9

Justification

Sanctification

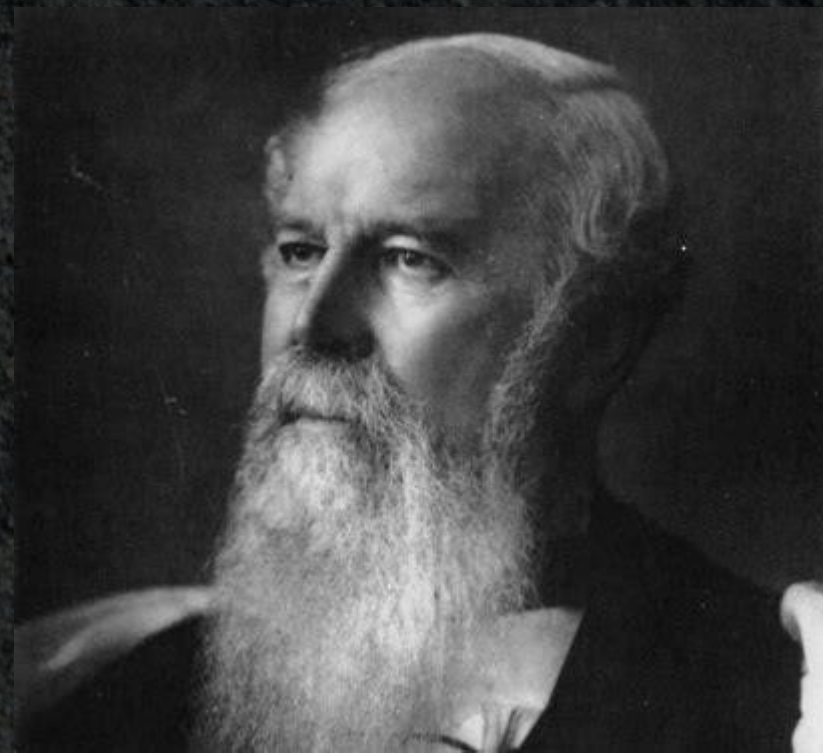
One-time act

Process began at justification

Made righteous positionally

Becoming righteous practically

“Sanctification is that inward spiritual work which the Lord Jesus Christ works in a man by the Holy Ghost, when he calls him to be a true believer. He not only washes him from his sins in His own blood, but He also *separates* him from his natural love of sin and the world, puts a new principle in his heart, and makes him practically godly in life.”

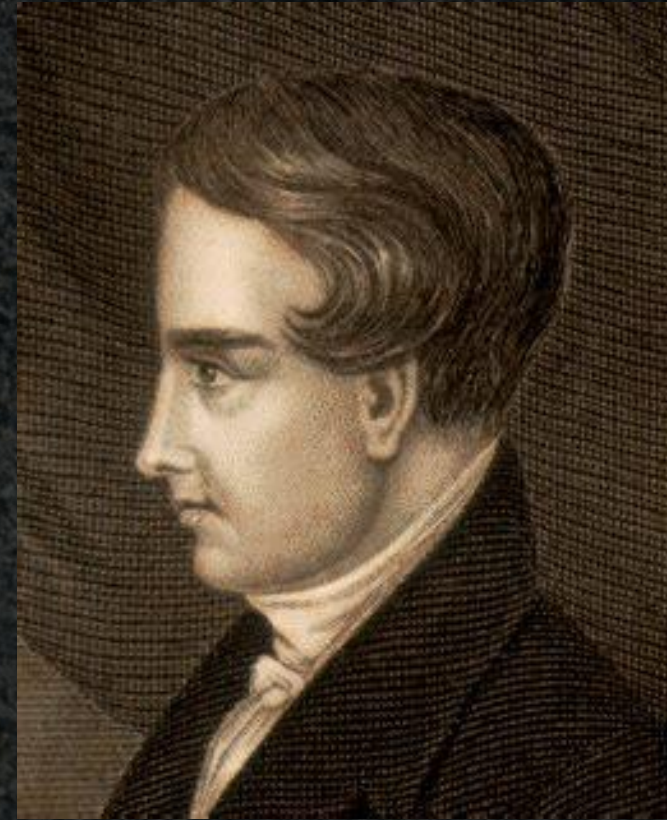


J.C. Ryle

*¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very
boldly by way of reminder,
because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a
minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the
priestly service of the gospel of God,
so that the offering of the Gentiles may be
acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:15-16

“If Christ justifies you,
he will sanctify you!
He will not save you,
and then leave you
in your sins.”



Robert Murray M'Cheyne

- I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)
- II. Where We Will Finish (vs. 14b)

Outline of Our Passage

*¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood,
and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*

*¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen,
white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

*¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike
down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.
He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the
Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,
King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Revelation 19:11-16

*20 “I do not ask for these only,
but also for those who will believe in me through
their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you,
Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be
in us, so that the world may believe that you have
sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have
given to them, that they may be one even as
we are one,*

John 17:20-22

*³ For you have died,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
⁴ When Christ who is your life appears,
then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Colossians 3:3-4

- I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)
- II. Where We Will Finish (vs. 14b)
- III. What To Do (vs. 15-17)
 - A. Stand on the truth (vs. 15a).

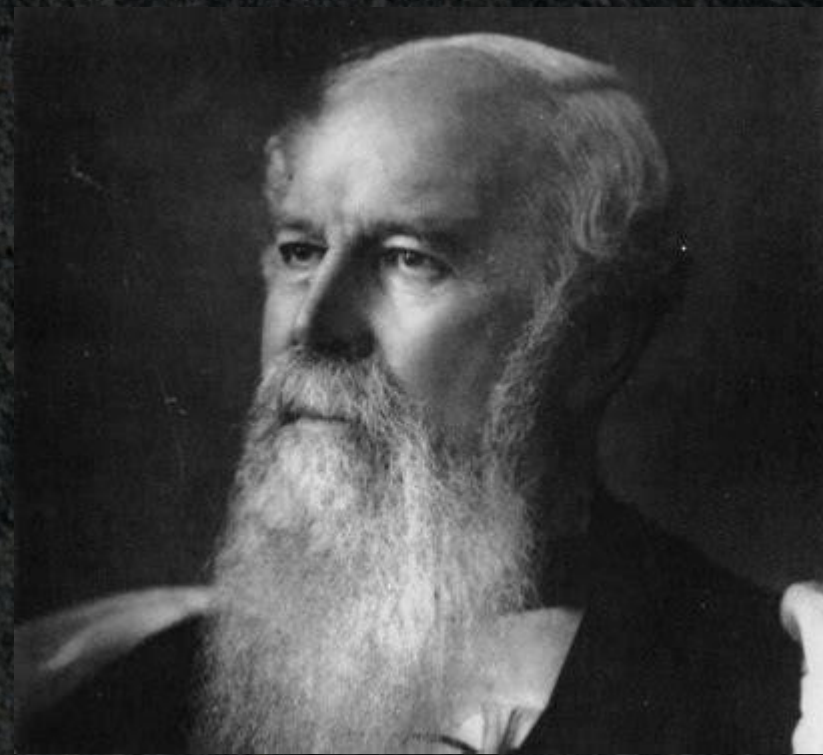
Outline of Our Passage

*In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Judges 21:25



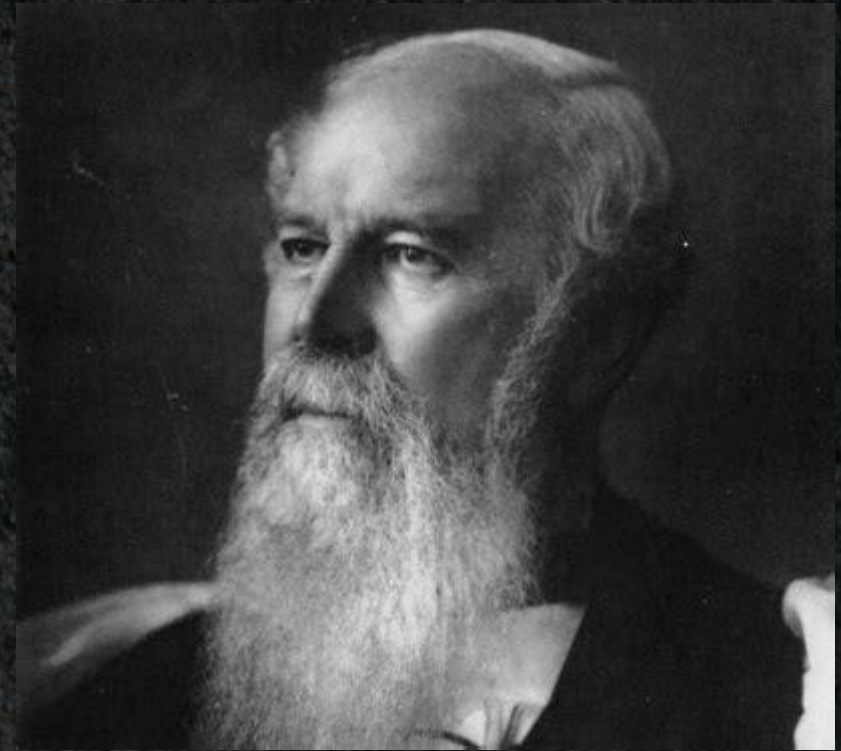
“Dislike of dogma is an epidemic which is just now doing great harm, and specially among young people...It produces what I must venture to call... a jelly-fish Christianity in the land: that is, a Christianity without bone, or muscle, or power. A jelly-fish...is a pretty and graceful object when it floats in the sea, contracting and expanding like a little, delicate, transparent umbrella. ...



J.C. Ryle

... Yet the same jelly-fish,
when cast on the shore,
is a mere helpless lump,
without capacity for movement,
self-defense,
or self-preservation...

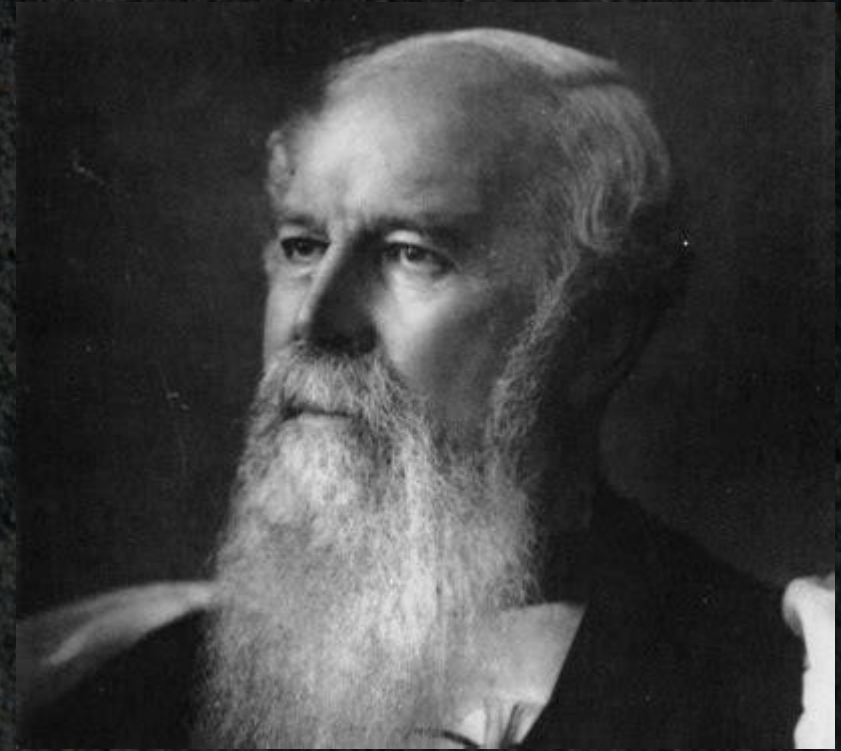
We have hundreds of jelly-fish
clergymen, who seem not to
have a single bone in their body
of divinity. They have no definite
opinions; they belong to no
school or party;
they are so afraid of extreme
views that they have no views
at all. ...



J.C. Ryle

... We have thousands of 'jelly-fish' sermons preached every year, sermons without an edge, or a point, or a corner, smooth as billiard balls, awakening no sinner, and edifying no saint.

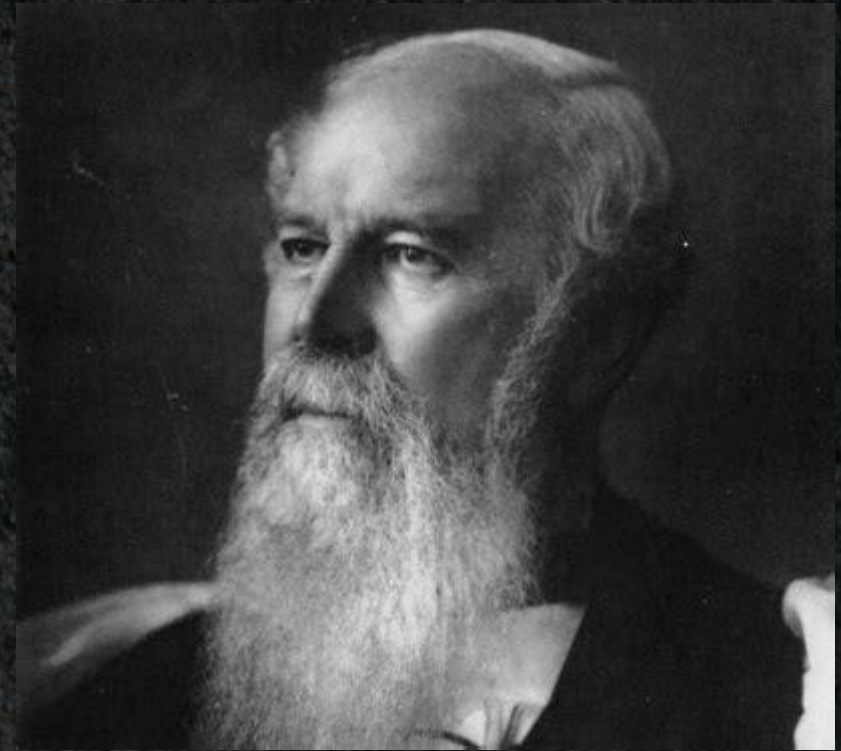
We have legions of jelly-fish young men annually turned out from our Universities, armed with a few scraps of second-hand philosophy, who think it a mark of cleverness and intellect to have no decided opinions about anything in religion, ...



J.C. Ryle

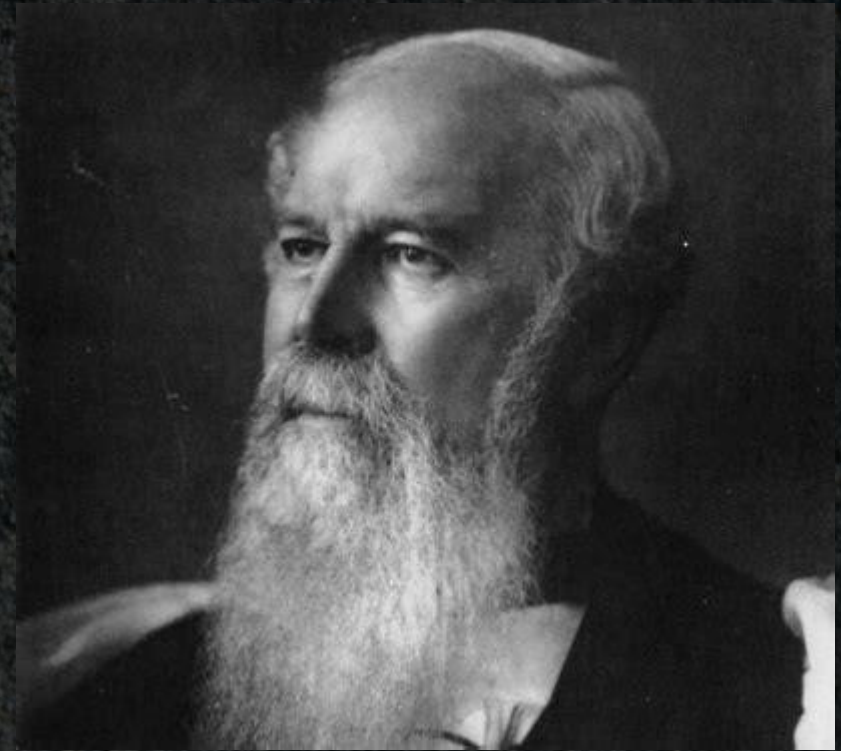
... and to be utterly unable to make up their minds as to what is Christian truth...

And last, worst of all, we have myriads of jelly-fish worshippers – respectable Church-going people, who have no distinct and definite views about any point in theology. They cannot discern things that differ, any more than color-blind people can distinguish colors. They think everybody is right and nobody wrong, ...



J.C. Ryle

... everything is true and nothing is false, all sermons are good and none are bad, every clergyman is sound and no clergyman unsound...
Never was it so important for laymen to hold systematic views of truth, and for ordained ministers to enunciate dogma very clearly and distinctly in their teaching.”



J.C. Ryle

- I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)
- II. Where We Will Finish (vs. 14b)
- III. What To Do (vs. 15-17)
 - A. Stand on the truth (vs. 15a).
 - B. Guard the truth (vs. 15b).

Outline of Our Passage

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

II Timothy 2:2

I. Where We Started (vs. 13-14a)

II. Where We Will Finish (vs. 14b)

III. What To Do (vs. 15-17)

A. Stand on the truth (vs. 15a).

B. Guard the truth (vs. 15b).

C. Be encouraged by the truth (vs. 16-17).

Outline of Our Passage

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

“We have a relationship that can never be changed:
we are children of the Most High.
We have a righteousness that can never be tarnished:
the very righteousness of Christ Himself. We have a resource that can never be diminished:
the power of the Spirit of God. We have a peace that can never be destroyed:
it is the God of peace Himself. ...



James M. Boice

... We have a joy that can never be surpassed: the Scriptures call it 'joy unspeakable and full of glory.' We have a love that will never let us go: God's unconditional love. We have an Intercessor whose prayers can never go unanswered: the Spirit of Christ within us. We have a Sovereign Lord who can never lose control: the King of Kings Himself."



James M. Boice