The Voice of the Great God.

— The voice as a means of judging —
— Moth[illegible] voice — God's voice —
— When he says "Come" —
— Places where God spoke to people.
— Abraham — Moses — Samuel —
— Baptism of Christ — So calls to-day —
— Word come —

I How God Calls Us.

1) Through his servants

— Pastor - sister - brother —
— Story of young man at Prayer Meeting
— Uncertainty of life — Thread —
— Man goes out in morning —
— Man cut by sin —
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2) Through Adversity

a) Business "

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— Sickness — Deprived of members —

3 Through Song

— Their effect — Our lesson —

4) Through Conscience

— Evil convictions & guilt —
— Come in meeting of the Lord —
— Secret sin Prejudice —
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5) Through Death

— Obstinate. Dont mind entreaties —
— Taken from us Repentance —
— Too late to make happy here —

II An Individual call

— Come all & Whosoever —
— Saul on his way to Darsus —
— Voice only heard by Saul —

1) Saul reproved individually

— Why do you persecute me? —
— Can we give a reason for
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2) Reproved for present sin

— Martin Luther at Rome —

— No time to repent after deed has been done —
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2) A vital Question asked

— Why etc. What reason can we give
— I died for you —
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— Why didst thou not seek. - I came —
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— If we lived in heathen land —

III. Obey The Voice

— Bible characters obeyed —
— Needful calls — Obey the call —
— Come & C. for happiness & joy. —
— Story of boy who kicked his mother —
— Do not heed loving Christ —
— Spirit & Bride - Come & drink —
— Come ye blessed. —
— Peace & joy shall be yours —

The Voice of the Great God.

(Sermon) John. 11-28

By

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at Peddie 1895

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The Voice of the Great God.

The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

John. 11–28.

There is perhaps no surer way of judging of a person's character, education, or refinement than by means of the voice. It is a window through which we may look at one's inner self, and read him as he really is. One's education is plainly stamped upon the words which he utters. It is impossible to be in the company of a person very long, and listen to his conversation without forming some opinion of that person. There are all kinds of voices; some are pleasing, others are not. In some there is that deceitful ring, and back of whose flowery words lie a tainted heart. In others there is that low, soft, trusting, sound, whose words are but the overflowing of a pure heart. What a soothing effect the soft, gentle voice of a mother has upon the fretful child! When all other means fail, that voice whispering words of endearment into its ear instantly

quiets the passions. How much more good is accomplished by gentleness of manner, and soft loving words than by harsh and unfeeling tones. In much the same way as a mother the voice of God speaks to us, and by his soft, gentle, pleadings; we are made to stop in our course, and listen, and reflect upon what we are doing. When Christ says "Come unto me," it is impossible to resist that voice so full of compassion and love. When the offing of the Pharisees were asked why they did not bring Christ, they answered, "never man spake like this man."

There are many places in the Bible where God spoke to his people; many times his reproving voice kept them in the path of duty from which they were about to depart.

God told Abraham to go out of the land of Haran, into a land which he would show him. And many times on that journey, Abraham walked and talked with God. We also see Moses out on the backside of the desert near the mountain of God, Horeb, watching the flocks of his father-in-law.

and as he was engaged in this duty, behold! a bush near at hand became immediately enveloped in flames; and although it burned with fire, it was not consumed. Presently the voice of God was heard in the midst of the flames calling "Moses! Moses!" and he said, "Here am I." And it was then that God told him of the great work which he had commissioned him to do, that of leading the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the Promised Land. It is recorded many times in the book of Exodus where God spake unto Moses, reproving him or giving him instruction and encouragement.

God spoke to Samuel when he was yet very young. While he was lying in bed, he heard some one call Samuel! and thinking it was aged Eli in the next room, he went to him, but was told by Eli that he had not called, and it must have been God. Eli told him if he heard the voice again to answer, "speak for thy servant heareth." Samuel returned to his bed, but soon the voice came again. Samuel answered as he

was told. Thus God made know to Samuel his plan against the house of Eli. God often calls in the dark hours of the night.

The voice of God at the baptism of Christ, descends like a dove from Heaven, and the waiting multitude hear the words, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." and so we may go on and mention numerous other instances. But, as God spoke to his people in olden times, even so does he to day, though not in a voice which the ear can hear; yet it is as truly his voice. There is no shorter word in the bible than the word "come". and it occurs hundreds of times. God pleads with us in various ways, often unknown to us.

I. How God calls us.

He may call us through the ministry of his servants. It may be your pastor who comes to you with the message, and tells you of God's love for you, yet you do not heed his entreaties He speaks words of love from the Saviour, but you soon forget them. Jesus says "Come", but you

don't do it. Friends say they will pray for you, but you spurn them. There was once a young man who attended a prayer meeting. In that meeting were some of God's saints who opened their hearts, and let the love which they bore for Christ, find expression on their lips. There the young man heard of the love of Christ for all; he heard of the happiness and joy found by living in Christ, from the lips of those who had experienced it, and the young man felt convicted in his heart. The voice of the great God spoke to him through the lips of those whom he had heard speak, but like many others he did not then and there resign himself unto the Lord, and went away with a heavy heart. The next day that young man while attempting to cross the street was struck by a car, and hurled to the side-walk. When his side was reached, he was heard to utter these words, "Too late, I am lost," and died. He had not heeded the still small voice of the Lord; he had let the opportunity pass by

which proved to be his last. Oh, the uncertainty of this life of ours! We are hanging, as it were, by a thread which at any moment is liable to break and cast us into the chasm below. Even in the midst of life we are in death. Many is the man who goes out from his home well and strong, bidding his wife and children a merry good-bye; he hears them, and this is the last time he is seen alive, for at night he is brought in a corpse. Our news papers are full every day of such cases, our attention is directed to them on every hand. Only a short time ago a young lady was called home from a visit by a telegram informing her of the death of her father. He had fallen in front of a large circular saw in a mill, and was cut in twain in the twinkling of an eye.

God often calls us without a moments warning. So, my dear brothers and sisters, when some kind freind pleads with you to come to the Saviour, you may know it is

His good pleasure that you are to be saved, and it is the voice of the good Shepherd speaking through his servant.

You may not heed these gentle calls, and God has to make use of different means.

Often he speaks to us through adversity. Our business perhaps is taken away from us in order that we may look into him. Often we think so much of our business and this world's goods, that we neglect to devote any time to communion with our Saviour. Then he comes in and over shadows us with trouble, that we may learn to give him his due.

Christ always seems nearer to us when we are in trouble, so we are purified by suffering; we are made to forsake our own idols and look unto him who deserves our service.

He speaks to us through bodily adversity. Perhaps by a bed of sickness. At times we are allowed to drift almost to eternities door, and are snatched back to life again. And by this we come to love him who

loves us enough to spare this natural life a little longer. Many have been converted by sickness not only of themselves, but of others. God may see fit to deprive us of some of our members, as a lesson to us. Perhaps the sight may be taken from us. and we are left to grope around in darkness. But through that darkness comes a greater light, and that is Jesus. It is a light which no circumstances can destroy, a light that never grows dim, but lights our path to eternities shore. This light has stood the storms of ages, and will stand until the perfect day.

God speaks through song.

There are perhaps as many people converted by beautiful songs, as by preaching. Often the sweet melody of a singer will touch a hardened heart, when words utterly fail. And those who write these beautiful songs which we sing, are truly doing a great work for the Lord. Men hardened in sin have gone into meeting and listened unaffected

by the words of the speaker, but when such a hymn as "Almost Persuaded" has been sung, the soul long tarnished with sin is softened, and they break down crying "Lord have mercy on me a sinner. I have long wandered from thee. Oh, help my unbelief." The sweet touching words have gone straight to the heart which melted under their influence. The words of God himself come to us embodied in these beautiful hymns; they come through the soul of the musician & poet. When we sing these hymns we should think of them as God's own message.

Then again he speaks through our conscience. We feel a conviction of guilt which we cannot shake off. We may do all in our power to drown this conviction; we may travel to the ends of the earth, yet that still small voice whispers ever in our hearts, "Son, daughter, give me thine heart." I know there are some here to-night to whom God is now calling in this way. Why not come out to-night and make it

right with the Master. I know there are some here who are cherishing some secret sin, some thing in the way of your loving Christ. There may be some prejudice in your heart against the Christian life, caused by some human example whom you would rather take than Christ Jesus himself. God often reproves us for these secret sins, and we are sorely troubled over them. A man's conscience is a pretty sure guide. When God comes to your heart and asks for admission and you let him go away, then you are convicted of having done wrong, and you feel badly over it. Every time God gives you an opportunity to confess him, and you refuse, then you go away bearing with you a sense of condemnation. I know this is true from my own experience, when I would go away without accepting Christ, all during the following days I would feel a conviction of having done wrong. This is the voice of God speaking through our conscience, and pleading with us to turn

and do right. Again the call may come in a
severer way

God calls us through death.
Often our loved ones are taken from us in order
that we may seek God. We are often so obstinate that
nothing but death can soften our hardened
hearts. We may have traveled the paths
of sin so long that our hearts have become callous,
and utterly unsusceptible to any Christian influence.
No word is able to touch our hearts, and make
us seek Christ. There are many cases where
men have for years been heedless to the entreaties
of some of their loved ones to seek Jesus.
All their cries have fallen upon deaf ears. As
long as every thing has gone smoothly no
thought has been given to the call of God.
Soon this loved one who has pleaded with us
is taken home to glory, and we are left alone
with no one to cheer our hearts or make our
days happy, that voice which has pleaded so
often is for ever still, and those marble lips are
sealed by death. Now that all is over we have

a chance to reflect over the words which have been spoken, the entreaties made. It is too late now to make that one's earthly life happy by accepting Jesus, but we can make that one happy in Heaven, for there is joy in Heaven among the angels over one sinner that repenteth.

II This call of the Great God is an individual call.

We have his call to the world in general, "Come unto me all ye that labor," which includes every one from the highest to the lowest. Then we have that individual call, "Whosoever will, let him come." This is a message sent straight to the heart of each one.

As Saul of Tarsus was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians he received an individual call from God. As that great light shone from Heaven and prostrated Saul to the ground, depriving him of his sight, a voice was audible to him from Heaven uttering these words: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Even those who were in company with Saul could not hear the voice, but Saul did, and God meant

that he alone should hear his voice.

Sometimes the call is encompanied with reproof.

God reproved Saul individually with these words. Why persecutest thou me? or why do you persecute me, not why does someone else, but why do you persecute me? God does not ask him why he persecuted the Christians, but Why persecutest thou me. Saul in persecuting Christs followers, was persecuting Christ himself in Heaven, who came and died for all. So, when we injure those about us, and try to make their pathway harder than it would be; then it is that we persecute Christ. We do not think of this as we do these unkind deeds; we may wish to have revenge for some supposed injury, and plunge head long into guilt, while all this time we are persecuting Christ, and causing Him pain and sorrow. In these words of Christ to Saul we find him reproved of a present sin, not something which he had done, but something which he was about to do. So God reproves us often when we are in the midst of sin. His voice come

to us with a convicting sound. There are many things that we do, consciously disobeying God, and breaking his commandments.

While Martin Luther was at Rome, he was one day ascending what is called Pilate's stair case, on his knees, thinking by performing this difficult and painful task, that he was doing a work pleasing to God. Slowly he climbed the steps, but he had not made much progress when a voice like thunder sounded within his heart, uttering these words, "The just shall live by faith." Luther started from his knees in terror and shame, for God had several times before reproved him for similar follies, while he was in the act. So God comes to us, and reproves us for our short comings and sin while we are committing them.

I myself have done many things, and while in the act I have heard God speak to me, and I have felt oh! so mean and sorry for it afterward.

It is no time to reprove a child long after

a sin has been committed, he has then forgotten about it, but while the deed is being done, that is the time to make an effected reproof, for then the sin has something connected with it to counter act it; and when there is a temptation again to commit the sin, the remembrance of this former reproof will come before the mind, and prevent one from yielding to it.

God also speaks when we neglect our duty to him and to others. After we sit in a meeting where there is a chance to serve Christ with a few words of testimony, or where we could perhaps with our words, encourage some one about us; some one who is cast down, simply for the want of Christian sympathy. As we sit in our seat, God comes into our hearts and says, "why do you not speak for me?" We feel it our duty, yet we keep silent, and that meeting brings no blessing to us; for we go away feeling convinced that we have not done our duty.

So, we see that God is always near us encouraging us for our loving deeds of service

and kindness to Him, and to others; and also reproving us for our sins and neglect of duty.

Then again that voice to Saul says, Why persecutest thou me? Canst thou give any reason? No, only the following of his own wrong conception of duty which was the result of his following his own counsels rather than seeking God's.

Can we give any reason for persecuting Christ? no, it would be utterly impossible to attempt it. Christ whispers, "I died for you my children, why will ye treat me so?" Oh, that love which passeth knowledge, free to you and me, and yet rejected and cast aside. What shall the answer be when that voice shall be heard at judgment? Why didst thou not seek salvation? thou hadst many chances. Many times I came to thee with whispers of love and forgiveness, and thou didst not take me at my word. You spurned me, and closed the door of your heart against me, and against salvation. You chose rather to follow the evil one and his paths, than to follow me over the narrow yet sure road to eternal

happiness. Now you have come to the end of your course; you have reached that place fore told ages ago. What is your plea? What is your reason? Can we look God in the face, and give him any excuse for our years neglected and wasted? Can we then atone for our misspent lives here upon this earth? What can we give in exchange for our soul?

Just as sure as the sun is above the earth; just as sure as there is a righteous God in Heaven, we are going to hear him speak to us in this manner; if we do not repent. This will be a terrible call, for it will then be too late. Oh, the misspent lives there are to-day! and how many of them would have been saved had God's word been heeded.

We, to-day can give no excuse for not serving Christ; we live in a Christian land; we hear the name of God preached on every hand; we are at liberty to worship as we will. If we lived in a land where those who believe in Christ, are subjected to the tortures of the stake, rack, or arena, as they

were in the days of Nero, then perhaps there would be some excuse for not obeying God's voice. But there is nothing to prevent us from seeking salvation.

II And one more thought is obey the call comes. When all these worthy characters Abraham, Moses, Samuel, and Paul, heard the voice call unto them, they immediately answered and obeyed. Moses said "Here am I." Samuel said "Speak for thy servant heareth." Paul said "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Let us follow these examples, and not only hear but answer and do what God bids us. He knows best and would not call us were it not for our good. That was a needful call to Moses, for there was a great people to deliver from bondage, only waiting for a leader. That was a needful call to Saul of Tarsus, for it not only saved many from death, but it also was the means of raising up the greatest advocate of God, next to Christ himself. His work shows plainly the need of his being called.

Now my dear brothers and sisters, when God

speaks to you, and asks you to forsake the ways of Satan, when he asks you to come into a higher calling, do listen to the voice and follow.

Come to Christ as the Saviour of your soul; come to Christ for earthly happiness, and for heavenly joys. If you will not answer him, you will regret it throughout all eternity.

A young boy was told by his mother to go to school as the time had arrived, but he refused to obey her. She again asked him to obey, but received the same answer. She then said "you may choose which you will do, go to school, or be locked in your room." His answer was that he would do neither, where upon she took him by the arm to conduct him to his room. The boy flew into a passion and kicked his mother. She trembling and pale staggered back, but just then their hired man passed the door, and seeing his mistress looking so pale and bad he went in the house concluding something must be wrong. He was told to take that boy and lock him in his room. So he was instantly taken by strong arms

and locked in his room. after he had been
three several hours he heard foot-steps on the
stairs, and as they came nearer to his door, his
sister called to him asking him if he was
sorry. She said his mother wished to forgive him,
but his answer was "no, I am not sorry and
do not wish to be forgiven." after a few more
hours, Oct. steps were again heard upon the stairs, but
they were not as rapid as those he had heard
before, but slow and weak. His mothers voice
called to him asking him to repent and be
forgiven, but he refused to please her. She turned
away sorrowful and returned to her room. during
the night his sister came to his room with the
cry "Come quick mother is dying." all the bitter
words now came to his mind which almost
drove him crazy. With all possible speed he
hastened to her bed-side. There she lay pale and
motionless. Grief stricken he fell upon his face
exclaiming "mother, dear mother won't you open
your eyes and say that you forgive me." But
her only answer was a motion of the lips, a

faint smile and she passed into eternity. He had not heeded her voice to repent, now it was too late to seek forgiveness. So it is with us, we do not heed the voice of the loving Christ as he pleads with us. The Spirit and the Bride say come, but the voice falls upon deaf ears. Come and drink of the water of life freely, and thou shalt never thirst. Come ye blessed of my father. Come all ye that labor and are heavy ladened, and I will give thee rest. The voice is heard every hour. Do not put him away; if you do there cometh a time when you will repent. God has called long, but he will not always call, neither will he keep his anger forever. Call ye upon him while he is near, lest he go and never return. Heed his voice, do his bidding, and peace shall be yours, that peace which passeth knowledge, that love which holds us up, and brings us over life's stormy ways. May God bless you and help you to hear and obey his voice.