



New Geneva

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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God's Promise to Preserve His People

In his treatise *On Temptation*, John Owen spent much time expositing the Bible's teaching on temptation. Specifically, Owen referred to Matthew 26:41 and Revelation 3:10. At one point, Owen discussed God's promise to preserve his people—the promise John mentions in the Revelation text. Here are Owen's remarks:

Now, in every promise there are three things to be considered: 1. The faithfulness of the Father, who gives it. 2. The grace of the Son, which is the matter of it. 3. The power and efficacy of the Holy Ghost, which puts the promise in execution. And all these are engaged for the preservation of such persons from the hour of temptation.

1. The faithfulness of God accompanies the promise. On this account is our deliverance laid (1 Cor. 10:13). Though we be tempted, yet we shall be kept from the hour of temptation; it shall not grow too strong for us. What comes on us we shall be able to bear; and what would be too hard for us we shall escape. But what security have we of this? The faithfulness of God: "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted beyond your ability." And wherein is God's faithfulness seen and exercised? "He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23); his faithfulness consists in his discharge of his promises. "He abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (2 Tim. 2:13). So that by being under the promise, we have the faithfulness of God engaged for our preservation.

2. There is in every promise of the covenant the grace of the Son. That is the subject-matter of all promises: "I will keep thee." How? "By my grace with thee." So that what assistance the grace of Christ can give a soul that hath a right in this promise, in the hour of temptation it shall enjoy it. Paul's temptation grew very high; it was likely to have come to its prevalent hour. He "besought the Lord," that is, the Lord Jesus Christ, for help (2 Cor. 12:8), and received that answer from him, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (v. 9). That it was the Lord Christ and his grace with whom he had peculiarly to do is evident from the close of that verse: "I will glory in my infirmity, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"; or "the efficacy of the grace of Christ in my preservation be made evident." So Heb. 2:18.

3. The efficacy of the Spirit accompanies the promises. He is called "The Holy Spirit of promise," not only because he is promised by Christ, but also because he effectually makes good the promise and gives it accomplishment in our souls.

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Rejoice and Tremble

The fear of God as a strong biblical theme thus stands as a superb theological guard dog. It stops us from thinking that we are made for either passionless performance or a detached knowledge of abstract truths. It backs us into the acknowledgment that we are made to know God in such a way that our hearts tremble at his beauty and splendor, that we are remade at the deepest level. It shows us that entering the life of Christ involves a transformation of our very affections so that we begin actually to despise—and not merely renounce—the sins we once cherished and treasure the God we once abhorred.

~Michael Reeves, *Rejoice & Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord*.

Dr. Louis Hill Called Home to Glory

The board, faculty and staff of New Geneva Seminary announce that Dr. Louis A. Hill was called home to glory on July 15, 2021. He served the seminary as an adjunct professor of Biblical Studies beginning in 2001. His courses in New Testament Survey and The Life of Christ were strategic in helping the seminary

train pastors, missionaries, chaplains, and church leaders for more effective ministry. In his teaching ministry as President of Reformed Discipleship Ministries, a servant organization committed to teaching the Bible and Reformed theology, Dr. Hill also held conferences and seminars across the United States. Dr. Hill also worked with the Navigators, overseeing work in the Western and Rocky Mountain regions of America. Prior to that he taught and served as an administrator in public schools in Georgia. Dr. Hill lived confidently under the sovereign hand of God. We can say of him as was said about David: "When David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep..." (Acts 13:36). Please pray that God will uphold his family through this time of grief. You can read a tribute honoring Dr. Hill from Dr. John Leaf, one of his former students, on the back page.

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He also, then, is engaged to preserve the soul walking according to the rule laid down. See Isa. 59:21. Thus, where the promise is, there is all this assistance. The faithfulness of the Father, the grace of the Son, the power of the Spirit, all are engaged in our preservation.

Owen, John. *The Works of John Owen*. Edited by William H. Goold. Vol. 6. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, n.d. p. 141.



A Tribute Honoring Dr. Louis Hill

by Dr. John B. Leaf

Dr. Louis Hill was a professor at New Geneva Seminary, and I was blessed to have been among the many who were his students. He was an exceptionally engaging and clear communicator, often weaving personal stories into the fabric of his lectures. He was known and beloved as a teacher and preacher in the Rocky Mountain Presbytery and beyond. But what he was known for most especially, beyond all other things, was his love of God's Word and his love of God's people.

He taught in the Sunday School classes at Village Seven Presbyterian for many years, and because of his special abilities as a teacher, people would flock to hear him. In a seminary in which the average class was eight students, he would draw 24. In a church in which the average Sunday School Community was 30, he would draw 100. This, in fact, created difficulties. It was not unusual for Dr. Hill to cause a bit of trouble. I don't think he meant to do so, but I don't think it bothered him much either. Church policy was such that communities met, and various teachers rotated through—a quite valid plan. But there was a group of people who chose to simply go wherever he was teaching, contrary to church policy. These nomadic folks were lovingly called the "Hillites."

Dr. Hill took to heart the notion that we should preach the whole council of God, and he was both unashamed and unafraid to do so. As a guest preacher one Sunday, he preached a particularly "no-holds-barred, fire-and-brimstone, repent-for-the-Kingdom-of-God-is-near" sermon. It was unsettling to many, and he may have appeared insensitive, but it was his very sensitivity that caused him to preach it. More than anything, he wanted people to repent and walk with God.

The path of a fulltime seminary student is a difficult and time-consuming one. Dr. Hill had lived that life himself and wanted to ease the suffering of those who followed. He expressed that all the other classes were hard enough and that he did not want to add to the burden. Due to this, and to his total embracing of the doctrines of grace, he was known for being a real "softy" when it came to writing and grading exams. The multiple-choice questions were rather obvious, the fill-in-the-blank answer was often "Jesus," and

all the answers to the true-false portion were "True!"

His procedure was to start class by taking a quiz, and one time a student brought his quiz forward and handed it to Dr. Hill with nothing on it. This student was serving in the military during a particularly active period, working more than full time and trying to finish his studies while raising a family. He explained that he had had no time at all to prepare for class and apologized. Dr. Hill took the quiz, wrote a big "A" at the top, and said, "There is Grace even for this."

Dr. Hill was first my professor and then my role model and finally my friend. As he aged, he first lost Kay, his wife of 56 years, whom he had met at 15, which devastated him, and then became ill himself. We lived in the same neighborhood, so I would often stop by to check on him and discuss life and theology, which to us were one and the same. My wife and I had just become empty nesters and kept making too much food, so I would just run it over to him and sit and talk for a while. What a privilege that was!

When the end was in sight I visited more frequently. He was 81, had two types of cancer and had just beaten Covid. That was just the sort of guy he was. He would not go down from a virus that had been politicized. In the midst of his suffering, he did not lose his sense of humor. My visits basically entailed entertaining him with my stories and simply rambling on until he was tired of listening. One day he said, "John, I love you, but I need a nap now." The next day when I entered his room, I saw that little smirk that told me he had a joke ready to for me. I stood next to the bed and grumbled, "Yeah, what is it?" He lowered the sheet that had been covering his shirt which read, "Do me a favor and stop talking."

I assure you, he finished strong, and he has heard, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." He never complained. His faith did not waiver. His students at the end were his caregivers. I had the honor of being a pall bearer at his funeral, but perhaps an even greater honor than that is that I will be teaching at New Geneva this fall in the same room in which I was his student. The gravity of that does not escape me, and I can only hope that I will be to another generation of students what Dr. Louis Hill was to me.

