

## Nevertheless

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1984

### Luke 5:4-6

*“Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.”*

I have a one-word-topic today; it will be easy to remember. It is the word “Nevertheless.” This is my subject. I am reading from the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Luke verses 4 through 6. Listen to God’s Word:

*“Now, when He had finished speaking, he said to Simon Peter; launch out into the deep and let down your net for a draught. And Simon answering said unto Him; Master, we have toiled all night and have caught nothing, nevertheless, (that is what I want you to remember) at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had done this, they enclosed a great multitude of fish.”*

If you can just get a hold of this one thought that I am going to try to present this morning; I believe that it will change your entire life, the word, “*nevertheless.*”

The setting is this; our Lord Jesus Christ had walked down by the seashore. Multitudes of people gathered about Him to hear Him preach. In fact, there were so many people as He was standing down by the lake that He stepped into a ship, a little boat that was pulled upon the shore.

I was in the West Indies recently. I went down to the marketplace where a situation similar to this existed. The fishermen had brought their ships and pulled them right up on the land. Half of the ship was upon the land and half of it was in the water. They would sell their fish right out of the boat, right out of the little ship.

In the Scripture, there were two ships pulled up there on the shore. One of them belonged to Simon Peter and one belonged to one of the other men. Our Lord Jesus Christ was so pressed by the crowd that they kept crowding in upon him.

He just stepped up into the ship and stood there, probably upon the bow of this little boat, and addressed this crowd of people and spoke to them. When He had finished preaching

(He knew the person to whom the ship belonged), he saw him over there washing his nets.

You see, the men had been out all night fishing. They had not caught anything. They would pull their little boats upon the land. They were out washing their nets, mending them, taking care of them, and folding them up and storing them, waiting for the next time they would out to fish.

He turned to Simon and said; “*Simon, get back into your boat and go out into the deep and let your net off the side and catch some fish.*” That is when Simon said to Him; “*Master, we have toiled all night. We know these waters; we have fished here all our lives.*”

“We know the tides, we know the fish, and we know the weather and the climate. We know when they are hitting and when they are running in their schools and when they are not. *We have toiled all night and have caught nothing.*”

“*Nevertheless, at your word, I’ll let down the net, because you said so; you said do it. I don’t care what is for it or what is against it, or the failure that I have experienced in the past. If you tell me to do it, I will do it.*” Peter caught a multitude of fish.

If we could only learn that valuable lesson in reference to the Word of God, that valuable lesson; “*let God be true and every man a liar.*”

I don’t care how many degrees a man has, how much education he has, how much influence or power he has. I don’t care if he is a doctor, a lawyer, a philosopher, educator, a teacher, or a preacher. It does not matter. “*Let God be true and every man a liar.*”

These were experienced fishermen; they knew their trade. They made their living fishing. They knew the signs, the tides, the fish and all of these things. They met with no success.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the things that were against it, they let down their nets and they caught a tremendous amount of fish because Christ said so.

We make a terrible mistake when we submit the Word of God to our wisdom, to our thoughts, and to our ideas. We make a terrible mistake. His ways are just not our ways. “*There is a way that seemeth right to us; the end is destruction.*” His thoughts are just

not our thoughts. Our wisdom is foolishness with God and His wisdom is foolishness with us.

My friends, I am telling you, and I am saying it as kindly as I can; you will make no progress, none whatsoever, (null and void), you will make no progress, I promise you that. You will make no promise toward knowledge of God and salvation, until first of all, you bow totally and completely to the authority of God's Word. That is just so!

As long as you put a question mark on the Word of God you will remain in darkness, ignorance, and death because the Word is the only rule of faith and practice. That is what Peter is saying here.

Our Lord said, *"You launch right out into the deep and cast your net over the side."* Peter said, *"Lord, I have been out there all night long and I have caught nothing."* Here is the key, *"nevertheless at your word."* That is what we have, the Word of God. It is called the *"Word of God."*

My friend, man's wisdom says; "creation out of nothing is impossible." That is what man's wisdom tells him. God says, *"Nevertheless."* God said, *"In the beginning, He created the heavens and the earth."*

Man's wisdom denies the fall, denies representation. It denies original sin and denies the consequences of Adam's sin. Nevertheless, God said; *"In Adam all die. By one man sin entered the world and death by sin. So death passed upon all men. "Nevertheless;"* that is what God says.

Man's wisdom denies the Scripture which says, *"In Adam all die; nevertheless,"* that is what God declares.

Man's wisdom denies the miracles of the Old Testament. It denies the drying up of the Red Sea and tries to explain it away.

Man's wisdom denies the *"manna falling from heaven."* It denies the *"rock giving forth water."* It denies these things. Nevertheless, it is God's Word, *"nevertheless."* God's Word declares that these miracles took place.

Man's wisdom denies that God became a man. They say, "God can't become a man. God can't die on a cross." Man's logic says, "No," *"nevertheless."*

The logic of a fisherman tells me that if you fished in one spot all night and caught nothing, pull in your nets and go home. That is what logic says.

Logic says, "Get a good day's rest and go back again. *"Nevertheless, at your word I will let down the net."*

That is what I am saying, human wisdom says that God can't become a man and can't die in the flesh. God's Word says that He did. The Scripture says, *"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."*

Man's logic and human wisdom says that the way to God is by works. They say, "Do well; do the best that you can and live in heaven some day; God's got to reward you." That is what human wisdom says.

*"Nevertheless,"* God's Word says; *"it's not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He hath saved us."*

Man's wisdom denies the resurrection. What? Do you mean that a man dies and he goes back to the dust and rots and decays? Do you mean that worms eat his body and 500 years later you take up the remains in a nickel paper bag?

Do you think that some day God is going to speak and man is going to come forth in the flesh with flesh and bones and live forever? You might say, "I can't believe that."

No you can't; you are exactly right; human wisdom can't do it and can't therefore, believe it. You can't explain it and therefore, you can't believe it. *"Nevertheless, the word of God standeth sure."* That is exactly right!

He said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away but not one jot or one tittle will pass from my word until every bit of it is fulfilled."*

God said, *"There will not only be a first resurrection but a second resurrection, a resurrection to the life and a resurrection unto death."*

This is what I am saying, *"Nevertheless;"* it is in spite of whatever opposition, in spite of whatever logic or argument you have, whatever human wisdom, thoughts or ideas you have.

That is what He said, He said Peter; “*you cast your boat out into the sea and let down the net.*” Peter said, “Lord, everything is against it.” Then he said, “*Nevertheless, at your word I will do it.*”

My friends, the Word of God is the soul foundation of faith. It is not in your feelings or your experience. Whatever the conflict is, whatever the opposition, when you say, “I don’t understand;” ‘*nevertheless,*’ I believe God’s Word.” “*Nevertheless*” is the answer to every situation, every one.

I am going to give you a few that I have jotted down today, different situations in which this one word can be used. This is my primary point today in this message, if I could get you to look to the Word of God

Quit looking to human reasons, human wisdom, human logic, and all of these things that folks come up with. People will say; “I know what the Bible says, but, but.”

Can you hear Peter when our Lord says, “*Launch out into the deep and let down your net,*” and you say, “but Lord, but Lord?” No, no, “*nevertheless, at your word I will do it.*” That is when he was blessed. He caught a multitude.

What about this matter of prayer? Where does this word fit in, in the matter of prayer? Turn to Matthew 26. I’m talking about prayer for any need, any problem, or any desire.

The Lord Jesus was in the Garden. He left His disciples over there and He went a little farther. The Scripture says, “*He went a little farther and fell on His face.*” This is in Matthew 26:39. He prayed, saying, “*Father, if it be thy will, let this cup pass from Me.*”

I know what I believe about that cup. If I get into that discussion of that you will lose the point I am making. I’m not going to get into a discussion about what He was referring to here when He was praying.

I want you to see something here. Whatever that cup is, we will leave that for another time. He said, “*Father; if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me;*” (solve this problem, this difficulty and lift this burden).

“*Nevertheless,*” it is “*not my will but thy will be done.*” That is the way to pray. I’m telling you, that is the way to pray.

That is the way the Lord prayed. This is to be our attitude in prayer at all times. Lord, “my child is lost and he needs Christ. I beg of you; I plead with you and I pray in

Christ's name, reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to my child, my husband, my wife, my friend, family, or congregation."

*"Nevertheless, it is not my will but thy will be done."*

My wife and I had a son who went to Vietnam, (the war in Vietnam), a long time ago, 15 years ago. I prayed very definitely, that God would keep him safe, deliver him from harm, and bring him home. You know that I did just like all of you did.

It is like how we pray now for our young men who are in danger in other places; I pray. I did pray this way and I believe that I meant it. I was satisfied with God's decision. I said, "Bring him home safely. *'Nevertheless, it is not my will but thy will be done.'*"

You will never pray in the will of God until you can pray that way. I know the argument people will give you. I know that one fellow wrote a book one time on something about prayer. He said, "Back God off into a corner and demand this of God."

You are not in a position of making demands unto God. God is not obligated to us. He doesn't owe us His favor. He doesn't owe us His mercy. Anything this side of hell is mercy; that is right!

If our Lord Jesus Christ prayed this way, how much more, do I need to learn to pray this way? Huh? *"Father; let this cup pass. Nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done."*

In the matter of ministering the Word of God, it says in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12 that the apostle Paul suffered great persecution for preaching the Gospel of grace. You read in the New Testament about his afflictions and his troubles.

I know a little about them but not much. I have never resisted unto blood or suffered unto blood; I never have. I have never really paid a serious price for what I am preaching.

Paul did, he says; *"for the which cause I suffer these things."* He suffered stoning, shipwreck, scourging and was beaten with rods and all of these things. He was in prison and in the deep. He was in peril with his countrymen and false brethren.

He suffered terribly for preaching the cross of Jesus Christ. I am telling you, anyone who does preach the Gospel of God's grace are going to count many more enemies than friends.

Our Lord said, *“Marvel not if the world hate you. They hated me before they hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love his own. But, because you are not of the world, as I am not of the world, the world will hate you and persecute you.”*

The religious world is the worst enemy that the Gospel has. Preachers, religious leaders, the religious people, hate the Gospel of God’s redeeming grace more than the people who are drunks, harlots, and publicans that are on the street corner. That is exactly right!

They will persecute the preachers of the Gospel. That is what Paul said; *“I suffered for preaching the Gospel. This is mentioned in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12. “Nevertheless, I am not ashamed. I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day.”*

So, I say, let men rage; I will preach God’s divine sovereignty. I will preach God’s elective grace that is in the Word of God. I will preach divine predestination. I will preach man’s responsibility. I will preach men, *“dead in trespasses and in sin.”*

I will preach man an effectual, particular, atonement which Christ accomplished on the cross. I will preach the effectual, irresistible work of God’s Holy Spirit and the preservation and perseverance of the saints.

I will preach the return of our Lord and everlasting hell for unbelievers. I will preach everlasting glory for believers. I will let men rage, argue, and rant. I will let them gnash their teeth or do whatever they want to. *“Nevertheless, I am not ashamed; I know whom I have believed.”*

Persecution may come and go; *“nevertheless,”* I will still declare what I know God’s Word teaches. We are not going to tip-toe through the tulips. We are not going to compromise for the sake of friendship. We are not going to compromise to get your support or anyone else’s support.

Almighty God’s Word stands alone. *“Let God be true and every one of us liars.”*

Sure He is Sovereign. Sure man is a sinner. Sure God elected a people. Of course Christ died. All shall be brought to know Him whom He gave to the Son before the world began.

Men may resent original sin; *“nevertheless,”* it is in God’s Word. Men may resent God on the throne. They don’t resent God on the throne on dealing out His alms, you know, when He feeds them or is clothing them.

They said, *"We don't care if you feed and clothe us."* They don't resent that but God on a throne they hate. *"Nevertheless,"* we preach God on the throne.

Men may deny Christ's sacrifice. They will say, "We don't want that bloody religion. We don't want that slaughter-house religion. We don't want that 1<sup>st</sup> Century theology."

It goes back farther than that; *"He is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world."* My theology goes back farther than the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. It goes back farther than the 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C.

It goes back when God dwelt alone, before the sons of God shouted for joy and before God hung the stars in space. *"He was the Lamb slain."*

Men may doubt eternal condemnation; *"nevertheless,"* it is there. That is what Paul says, *"I suffer persecution; I was cast out as evil."* Men will lie on you by saying, "He preaches this, that, and the other."

Of course, I usually find that those who hear you the least know the most about what you are preaching. *"Nevertheless, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; it is the power of God unto salvation, unto everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith."*

Fourthly: In this matter of false doctrine and false prophets, there isn't anyone who knows the Gospel who is not distressed about what we are seeing and hearing in this day in the name of religion. It is enough to turn the stomach, a strong stomach, what I see on television in the name of religion.

Most of these fellows out of Oklahoma, Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana and these other places, turns the stomach of a strong man, in what they claim to do in the name of God. Anyone who knows anything about the Gospel has got to be sick of what he is seeing and hearing today.

They are hucksters begging for money in every breath. They have a 30 minute program with 25 minutes spent begging for money. They are con-men and they are con-artists. They are hucksters and someone needs to cry out against it.

Here is what Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:18-19; *"false preachers concerning the truth have erred; they have tried to overthrow the faith of some."* They have accomplished

their mission; they have overthrown the faith of some. *“Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, “the Lord knoweth them that are His.”*

False teachers come and go. They build their empires and build all of their denominations. They always put their names on them. They build their empires and call them by their names and they lead their monuments and they come and go; *“nevertheless.”*

Some people are fooled, deceived, and swept along, in this horrible tide of deceit and error that glorifies the flesh and dignifies the flesh. It brings God down from His holy place. It denies His righteousness and makes salvation a work of man instead of a gift of God.

People are caught up in this pressure. They go along, *“even deceiving, if it were possible, the elect,”* God said. *“Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His.”* Yes He does!

The Lord knows them. The people of God which are chosen by His grace, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and called by His Spirit, they shall never be turned away because their hearts and eyes are set toward Christ as the soul object of their faith.

He said, *“All that My Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh, I will in no wise cast out. I come to do my Father’s will and this is my Father’s will who hath sent me that of all which He has given me, I will lose nothing but raise it up at the last day.”*

*“I pray not for the world. I pray for them that Thou hast given me.”* They won’t be deceived. They will not be deceived. *“Nevertheless,”* though con-men come and go, though hucksters rise and fall, though empires rise and fall, though men deny the faith, though men are swept up in a great tide to follow them, *“nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure.”*

He knows them that are His. He said, *“I know my sheep; they hear my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one will ever pluck them out of my hand.”*

Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:10; *“I endure all things for the elect’s sake.”* That is what I am trying to do; I am trying to tell you the truth.

Truth is not popular, not in this day. “Don’t rock the boat,” they tell you. “Don’t bring out strong doctrine, just say what everyone will accept, and what everybody will support, and everyone will send their money. Don’t rock the boat; don’t get into deep doctrine.”

Brethren, my concern is for your soul, not my well-being. My concern is your soul, not my next suit of clothes. My concern is your soul and God will take care of the rest of it.

Paul said, *“I endure all things for the elect’s sake that they may obtain the salvation which is in Jesus Christ.”*

I’m not concerned whether this program is on the air next Sunday or not. I’m concerned right now of telling you the truth. If God wants it on it will be on. If He doesn’t want it on it will go off, who cares? Can you see what I am saying?

I hear these fellows saying, “If you don’t send some money we will be going off the air.” Well, hallelujah! What if you do? You may think that this is a work of faith, if you don’t send a dollar, we will get off the air.

That is not faith. Anytime you tell anyone other than God your needs you have left faith. Tell God your need; He supplies the need. If He wants you on the air, you will stay on; if He doesn’t, get off. That’s the way I feel about it.

I am going to tell you the truth one more time. If I have one more week you will hear it one more week. If I have ten more weeks you will hear it ten more times. *“God knows them that are His.”*

In the matter of weariness of this world, listen to Paul; he said in Philippians 1:21, *“for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I live in the flesh I serve God. (I have no choice but to do His will). My desire is to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”*

“I would rather die right now and go be with the Lord,” he said. *“Nevertheless, for me to abide here in the flesh is best for you.”* Do you see what he is saying? This word goes all the way through the Word, *“nevertheless.”*

Of course the true believer desires to be done with this world and to be done with sin, trials, and all of these things. *“Nevertheless, for me to abide is best for you.”*

What is best for you is what is important. It is not what is best for me, what is best for you. That is what Paul said, *“nevertheless.”*

Paul wanted to go home. He was weary. He was tired of jail cells. He was tired of being cussed out. He was tired of having rocks thrown at him. He was tired and weary of the way; the road was so long. The hills were so steep, he said; *“I would rather go home and be with God.”* *“Nevertheless; Thy will be done.”* Do you see what I am saying?

What about the future? 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:10 says, *“The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with a great heat. And the earth also and the works shall be burned up. The heavens being on fire will be dissolved.”*

Can you imagine such a thing, when the entire world will melt with a fervent heat and the elements shall be dissolved? The heavens shall pass away with a fervent heat, *“nevertheless;”* there is that word again.

In the face of all of this destruction, in the face of all of these annulations, all of it will pass away.

*“Nevertheless, we, according to His promise must look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein, dwelleth righteousness.”* That is the same as what Peter is saying, *“according to your word, I will lay down a net.”*

I ask you today, without the Word of God, what are you looking for? You don't have anything to look for. There is nothing written across the sky. All the writings of men are of recent days. What do you look for? What is your foundation?

It is not in what you think. The fellow before you thought something else. The fellow before him thought something else. There's one infallible, inerrant, verbally inspired, word of truth, and that is God's Word.

That is what Peter is saying here, *“let it all dissolve; let it all melt; let it all pass away. Nevertheless, we according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth.”*

What I am saying to you is this; whatever you face in your reasoning, your logic, your arguments, your education, your intellect, your thoughts, or ideas, *“nevertheless, at thy word.”*

That is where I am going to stop right here. What God says I believe; *“I believe and therefore, I have spoken.”* I will continue to speak, will you listen?