June 6th, 1795

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, June 6, 1795

John Newton

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Mr. J. Campbell
Grass Market
Edinburgh
My dear Sir, 

I have 2 or 3 yrs to thank you for. One of the 21st April, the other of 13 May by Mr. Sutcliffe, who brought it on Tuesday. I asked him to dinner, but he was engaged. He promised to come again, but I have not seen him since. Burgess sent me 2 letters, one from his father, who is, I believe, the son of the one who wrote me to write to you. So I sent a letter to your care for my sister, who I suppose is at this. I wish to give you an opportunity of writing to her. It is 12 yrs since I saw her, but I trust you will find her a truly gracious woman.

You have so kindly sent me with anniversaries. We lastly provided a 2nd

Two hundred of the fourth, I have given many of the third remaining.

As I am very ill, I cannot go to my letter friends, but then I have a two days, how long I should be in England, or cannot. But I wonder were you not about to be a standing rule of faith and doctrine to the Church. Of the Church and faith, I am not much to say, we shall not have any, and understand these points, nor give the same authority for a doctrine. Do I think they may be fairly inferred from other parts of Scripture, possibly we may have made them well.

But Paul says expressly, that the rice, which is not strong meat, but which is dull, I will gladly say, that I now mention the words in preaching. When they are in my eyes, they make a part of my sermon, and my discourse. And I think these doctrines should be in a sermon, like a text in a chain, which connects every drop, but is no when it is a body in a lump.

I hope you will not enjoy the love peace & present of your new table.

It is pleasant to dwell where he dwells, whether in a Palace, a Cottage, a Prison. I have not much dignify, which of the Church are our above, and make a place to be with us. I am not more kind of Abp., Consistory, Synod, Council, Canons, Bishops, Rectors, Ministers & Individually in their respective places, are like flowers which will present their golden scent, much larger, of kept singly, than when gathered in a garden or valley.

For this the Church a judge, or a man of the whole body, is not directly upon any. We hear when each person has to say, then each one judge & acts for himself. Thus as the Lord's, we sometimes do in election, we always agree, this is harmony of judgment. Perhaps it might be a good rule, when spiritual matters are decided by vote, that the majority should determine the point. For in most places the Four, are more likely to be right than the Many.

I can assure you, I am in your strong company think it. I am very glad, I have much cause to be thankful here, I am well. 

I am well. I am well. I am well. 

I think, in respect of them, we are properly the Independents. The Bishops in England, intend write to me once more than the Bishops in Italy. I expect no reason to appear, it comes to our name, once in three or four years. But one question, an act, new & faults found by our superiors.
I always thought there was a gospel in our bands, which
the priest Chapin had till the last of his days, that the same gospel
had told the same story; I am glad you have found it so. Some so-called
a family that had suffered great loss by fire. I found the rescued of the house
in tears. I told Madame I wish you joy. The answer, when she wished the
joy of the fire? No Madame, I wish you joy that you have a treasure laid up,
which the sun cannot reach. This turn stopped her grief; she wiped away her
tears and smiled. To the sun breaks that the clouds do shine, after an April shower.
Riccambone wrote an account very secret, yet a much con-
quered after Chapman, the bookseller and Printer for many settle, but they only
promised him six, and these the long expected are not yet arrived. I put in some
line for a friend, I can't write it. I believe I told you that Mr. Riccambone
had written to me about a New Edition, which I declined from, because as
the law requires, it was at any person's option to print another, which might
spoil the sale of his. I heard Mr. Pyne (the editor of the Swan Magazine) to advise
Chapman, to write to Mr. Riccambone, to get an account to publish his father's works,
for which I thought, especially if he would write a short preface, then & then some
brief notice, he had a wish. Some promising consideration; it perhaps, in this way,
he might receive his copies. It might be deemed as coming from him, with
a few notes of his own, as a New work. I am not a lawyer enough to be sure of this.
But if Mr. R. is not yet engaged with Chapman, I don't wish you to think of
the book, to make enquiring, if I write to Mr. R. — A New Edition in 12
— I believe in seven parts, it seems to be printed cheaper in London, than here. Only
the paper of the type should be good. For our new division, you cannot read upon
our paper. But for a piece of Mr. R. being bound, friends have the right,
comes, I find myself more disposed for supper than for prayer. The truth is that I cannot confine myself much to rules except Spiritual ones. The thought of having a great number of friends to preach to, as well as preachers, as the same hour or minute, is pleasing to the imagination. But the Lord hears prayer whenever we call upon him, without regard to our denominations of times (his own day excepted). I often pray close the seasons which end best with my circumstances & convenience. Sometimes my mind is thus engaged on the public accounts, which we daily see in the streets. But really I find it not easy to know how to pray. Many think, you many presume to say that God does not give the credit to the latter contrary with the Nations, especially with our Nation which considering our superior godliness & advantage if I seem to be worse in these things upon this account. Does I pray, that he should give up his cause, to leave his enemies to try, solely, by his friends, should be commanded by the method. The man may see his fate, to make them know that He is the Lord. I do not mean Personal love & joys, nor sometimes sanctified to the society of the soul. If that person is my friend, I ought to be rather thankful than sorry for those trials which have this effect. As may live in a Nation. If the French were permitted to lead, & the Spaniards force the world to half the kingdom, provide such calamities, ven the meanes of stirring up multitudes who & new love can heal in one & om, if such the Lord be good enough, to make their whole heart & such a season of distress, might be the happiest time that. But many, that must be the best time when the best cause flourish. We are apt to be too selfish, too little concerned for the glory of God & the good of souls. Let us pray that the Gospel may spread that the Lord may raise his work in the midst of years, whatever may become of our fitful desires! As it becomes us submissively to leave the matters of accomplishing his great designs, to his wisdom.

Happens what will, I shall be wise with them that fear the Lord.

This means to live themselves in his secret, always 'praying to keep them under the shadow of his wings. He can protects them, when many fall among them, or he permits them to suffer with others. The Lord, he will, give them strength according to their day, make all the deep work together for their good, so that either way they can not. The time is short, but people will soon be as the end of this journey, then they will not be much concerned for what they met to upon this road. I pray with submission, for peace at home & abroad. But when I look upon the state of things, it is true, the prayer from a conviction of duty, then the faith that it will be so. But the Lord's thoughts are higher than mine, as the heavens are above the earth. Who knows but the may yet to his fierce anger? The light of the Gospel, are certainly upon the increase in England. This is the only good sign of the times, I can discern.

If I cannot this friends, I trust, you must pray for it. I shall beg you to pay the title tax for a letter from you, whenever you please to write, & have no other conveyance, & the other add her best wishes to my poor person at rest. I am sincerely yours,

6 June 95

John Newton