

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF  
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Introduction - The Story of the Background of His Growing Tape Ministry  
II Timothy – Themes From Chapter Two (Part I)  
Delivered at The Salvation Army Iowa Officers' Councils  
September 23, 1969

**Editorial Note: From 1962 – 1972, Sidney Cox lived in the retirement home of The Salvation Army in Detroit, Michigan known as “The Eventide.” His beloved wife, Violet was in failing health and ultimately died in 1967. During the last several years of her life, she suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis which rendered her a virtual invalid. Sidney was her care giver and during this period he ceased his travels to preach and teach.**

**Following Violet’s death, he was able to resume his travels. He was still sought after by The Salvation Army to preach and teach. On this occasion in 1969, at the age of 82, he had been invited to lead services at the Iowa Officers’ Councils of The Salvation Army. This is a large regional gathering of Salvation Army officers during which they receive training and guidance to serve them in their local corps ministries.**

**All of these officers would have known about Sidney Cox, a former Salvation Army officer and his career and life. Many would have known him personally. He was an iconic figure in Army circles and almost universally known.**

**John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. December 29, 2008.**

And I'm so grateful for the privilege of coming. I'm regretting that it seems as if I'm almost at the end of the traveling ministry that the Lord has given to me, because, to be quite frank with you, and I'm not sure that I ought to say this, but to be quite frank with you, I'd like to come back again. I sure would. I'd like to see you all again. But I don't know whether I'll have that privilege, but we'll meet you in heaven. We sure will. And then when we do, I'll be able to introduce you to somebody who has been here all the long time.<sup>1</sup>

Sometimes folks say to me, I think a little pityingly, “we feel a little disturbed about you, being alone.” But I'm not alone. Not at all. And one of the problems that comes when you face a situation such as I find myself in, one of the problems is to prevent “aloneness” from becoming “loneliness.” There's a difference, there's a difference. You can be alone without being lonely. Now, that's so with me. I'm alone in that respect, but not lonely. Not at all. How could we be with folks like you around? And the Lord has been so good to us and I'm very grateful indeed.

I'm sure you won't mind if I just put in a little personal word here about something that I'm intensely interested in. It's already been introduced. But I'm tremendously interested in this matter of tape

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<sup>1</sup> He is referring here to his beloved wife, Violet who died in late 1967 – two years prior to this occasion. Violet served with him throughout their Salvation Army career and was well known by most Salvationists.

recording. And one of the things that I have in my mind, and it seems to be coming more clearer as the days go by, and I think it is a leading of the Lord, is that when I find myself in a place where I can't travel long distances, and I may have a little more time at home, that I can give myself to a ministry that the importance of which has been growing in my heart tremendously. And that is the ministry of getting out material to folks who can use it, by tape recording. And it's amazing how this thought is developing in my mind. I have material on tapes that has been gathered from various Bible colleges where I've been teaching: the Toccoa Falls Bible College, the Miami Bible College, and two or three others. And in nearly class, there was somebody with a tape recorder. And I have these tapes. I've got 16 or 17 tapes; 7 inches each one, on the epistle to the Hebrews; a complete set of tapes on the book of Revelation; a set of tapes on the book of Job, and things of that kind. I could go on: the gospel of John, and so. And frankly, what I'm wondering about, I'm hoping, is that God will help me to do something with those - something where I could transfer them on to another reel of tape and then send them out to somebody who can perhaps use them.

I have a friend who has just used one of these tapes and it has solved the problem of his Wednesday night mid-week meeting. Because sometimes that becomes a problem, doesn't it? And you just wonder what you can do, and you get half a dozen saints of God there and you wonder what can be done about it. But I sent him a tape that had two messages on, one on each side. And he called his folks together and put that on one Wednesday night. And he was wondering, and so was I, whether people would listen to a tape recorded message that didn't have the personality there, you see - somebody actually teaching it. But he said "My people sat on the edge of their chairs listening to this. And it was amazing. And I stopped it every once in a while and said, "now look, do you want to go back and hear that over again? Was there something in there that you'd like to think about? Would you like to hear that again?" And so he took it on through, and the next Wednesday night he had twice as many people as he had the first one. And then he took it to one of his preacher friends and they started the thing going there in their church, and the result is that gathering around this thing, and this has all happened within the last two months, it has grown in interest, and it has been an encouragement to me. And I'm looking into your faces and wondering, would the Lord help me to do something like that for you? Now you're only representative, because I can see people in all parts of the world that I can do that for. And I thought I'd tell you, just so that you can pray for me about it. So that the Lord's will will be done.

I belong to what is called the Salvation Army Tape Fellowship. It was started by a group of Australian Salvationists a good many years ago, or several years ago. And we correspond around the world by tapes. And we gather material that is of value. For instance, if in the kindness of your divisional headquarters, I get a hold of a copy of this tape, I'm going to take pieces of it off - maybe a little bit of something here. And I'll send it here and there and somewhere else. And some of it will go to the Howard Institute in Africa, and some of it will go to people in England who are corresponding with missionaries and shut-ins and all the rest of it there. And some to other parts. And it's amazing what a ministry there is. And I think that perhaps the Lord is going to help me to get in to this and have something to do with it.

Let me tell you a story. And you'll hardly believe this. It'll only take a moment or two. But the folks in Australia, two or three years ago, maybe longer than that now, they wrote to me and they said, we want you send us a little three inch tape, because that's the kind you have to use when you're sending overseas. And you can't use these cassette things because people overseas haven't got the machines for

them. They will have after a while, but now they don't. But they said we want you to send us a three inch tape, and on one side put your testimony. Tell us how the Lord saved you. Tell us the story of your conversion. And then on the other side put the story of two of your songs. Well, I did that. And I sent it to Australia. And after some of those folks had heard it on that side, they started moving around the world. And it eventually landed up in Seattle, Washington. And there, a friend of mine who is also interested in tapes, Major Lloyd, got hold of this, and I'd been at his corps two or three months before, so that he recognized the voice and all the rest of it. And after he'd used it in his corps he sent it to a corps officer in England, with whom he was in touch. And this corps officer in England used it in his meetings. He said, "Now, we're going to sing so-and-so, and naming the song. But before we do, I want you to hear the voice of the man who wrote it. Here's the story back of the song, and it's being told to us by the man who wrote the song." Well, you can imagine what that did with that song, can't you? And a strange thing about it was, that seated in that audience was a distant relative of ours - a man who I've only seen once, and then only for a moment or two. But he was sitting, strange to say, in that audience. And when he heard this, he went to the man who had the tape and said "I want you to let me have this tape because the man whose been talking to us is a distant relative of mine and he has a sister who is 91 years old, and nearly blind, living in a little English village, and I keep in touch with her. And I want to take this tape so that this woman in the little English village can hear the sound of her brother's testimony. And that's exactly what he did. And he took that tape that was started around the world and it eventually landed up in a little home, in a little English village. And my sister, 91, she's 93 now, and nearly blind, heard the sound of my testimony. And it went around the world like that.

And it's almost miraculous, my dear, what happens when you start a little bit on a tape like that and it's going around the world. In the last six weeks I've received a tape from the Howard Institute in Rhodesia. And they sent a message on the one side and on the other side was the sound of those students singing my songs. The songs you've been singing. Singing my songs in their own language and then in English as well. And it's amazing. And then you see, I can get a hold of a tape that has the sound of a chorus or something of the kind. And I send it to them, and I send a copy of the song. And I say, now look, here's the song we've been singing and here's the sound of the folks singing it. And it goes on and on and on.

I tape records. There are a number of my songs that are on records. Some of them there that you wouldn't hardly know. This is, that they were on records, but they haven't been done by Salvationists at all. They've been done by other people. I've got beautiful records of my song "Out From His Wounded Side". And it moves me to tears every time I hear it. I hear the lovely voices of Ray Felton and Helen Barth singing, *He's The Same Today As Yesterday, My Great Unchanging Friend*. And I put it on there and I get my little old tape recorder that isn't half what I hope the Lord will give me one of these days, just a little portable thing, but I take it by the microphone and put it on a three inch tape and I've sent it to friends here and there and all over. And it's amazing what a ministry there is.

And what I'm hoping for is that the Lord will help me to take some of this that he has given to me, and that's down on tape, to transfer it in some way. To edit it and transfer it and take out references that shouldn't be there. And send it to folks like you, perhaps, who would be glad to get something like that for a Wednesday night meeting or some other time. I don't know whether you'd be interested, but you've got my address, at any rate, in the Dispo.<sup>2</sup> You can get in touch with me, and I'll tell you

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<sup>2</sup> Reference is to an annual compilation of all Salvation Army officers serving around the world containing their

something else, and I don't want to discourage the Colonel about this. If I send you a tape, I won't charge you for it. Did you hear it? I won't even charge you the cost of it. Not at all. And I'll tell you why. I've got a rich, heavenly Father. You see? And he'll take care of that, now I don't know how. And I don't care. But he will, and when I send them out, he makes it possible for me to do it. You see what I mean? And I just wanted to share that with you. You folks are some of the nicest people I've ever met in my life. And I just wanted to share that with you so that you might know, if you don't hear of me moving around like a certain famous character who went to and fro in the earth - you'll find him the first chapter of the book of Job. But if you don't hear of me doing that sort of thing, you'll know what I'm doing. You'll know that I'm not just sitting around wasting my time, that I've got something else to do. Someway to express the fire that's still burning in this heart of mine. And I just wanted to tell you about that. And I hope you'll remember me and pray when you do it.

If you ever need anything in the way of a song, don't hesitate to write me. I'll be so glad to reply. If there's something that I can get for you in the way of songs, I know a good deal about Salvation Army songs. I've been involved in them for more than 50 years. And I know a good deal about them. I've got a great many of them. If there's any way in which I can gather some for you, or if you need copies of any of the songs, like the things we've been using here. And I can send them to you. You give me the privilege of doing it, will you? And I'll be so grateful to you. You don't need to be grateful to me. But I'll be so grateful to you, for giving me the privilege of perhaps being some use to you. And I'll be so grateful.

Now, dear, we've been talking about II Timothy there and we've been moving along a line. I want you to turn your eyes to the Word of God for just a few minutes. And I'm going to take out this old watch of mine so that I don't get beyond the time. It's two o'clock right now. We can finish in not too long from now. But I don't want to leave the final thought with you, and I believe the Lord wants it left with you. You know, we've been looking at locations. We've been looking at a home, for instance, where Timothy was a young boy. And we've been looking at various places. We moved into the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, and we found ourselves on a battlefield. We found ourselves in the sports arena somewhere or other. We found ourselves on a farm. We found ourselves in a workshop, where we watched a workman who "needed not to be ashamed" because he "rightly divided the word of truth," and as he did with God's Word what God intended it to do. And you know, one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to help you to do that. You can't rightly divide the word of truth yourself. But the moment that you commit yourself definitely to the Holy Spirit, it's amazing what he will do. Now, that isn't just words. That works out. It sure does.

It works out, my dear, in the matter of scripture memorizing. Now scripture memorizing, dear, is not a matter of going through a routine of somebody with a textbook on how to memorize scriptures. Now there, those things are all helpful. But the real secret of scripture memorizing is in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. And if we've just got spiritual sense enough to just take it at its word, it's amazing how it works out. The Lord Jesus said, "When the Holy Spirit is come, he will bring to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you."<sup>3</sup> And you remember, that works. If you definitely commit that to the Holy Spirit, it works. It doesn't say that he's going to bring to your remembrance that which we have

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appointment and address – "The Salvation Army Disposition of Forces." Salvationists casually refer to it as "The Dispo."

3 John 14:26

been too lazy or sinful or indifferent to put into our remembrance. You put it in, and he'll bring it out. And it's amazing how that works, when you definitely and simply and faithfully commit yourself to his ministry. That's what he's there for. If we don't trust him to do it, we almost insult him, don't we? Here he's waiting to do something for him, and we haven't got spiritual sense enough to trust him to do it. And it's amazing what happens when you just trust yourself to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

You may think I'm talking out in the some ethereal realm somewhere or other, but I'm not. I'm talking right down to folks who wear the same kind of shoes I do. I know about a little bit about it in my own heart, what he's done. And what he can do. And it's wonderful what happens when we pour the Word of God into ourselves. I was in Oregon several years ago, and I went into the home of a man who had just retired. He had been a forest ranger in the Oregon forest for 40 years, and a wonderful Christian - a deacon of one of the churches where I was working with at that time. And I went into his little home to visit with him. And I said to him, "Now, you've been an active man, out there in the forest and all this sort of thing for 40 years. What are you going to do now? Now you're retired. What are you going to do now that you've retired?" And you know, his face just lit up. And he said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to do what I always wanted to do all my life. I've always wanted to pour the Word of God into myself and I've never had time, and I've never known really how. I'm going to take one Bible correspondence course after another, and I'm going to pour the Word of God into my heart." Did you hear it? A man retiring. And this is what he's going to do with his retirement, you see. What a queer little duck he must have been. Well, I'll tell you, my dear, you wouldn't have thought so if you had looked at him. Not at all. If you could have seen those hands of his. If you could have seen that shining face of his. If you could have heard his throbbing heart when he says "I'm going to pour the Word of God into myself. Never had the chance to do it. Now I'm going to do it. I've got a chance. And I'm going to take one correspondence course after another and just pour the Word of God into myself." I'm telling you. What a strange old duck he must have been, to think that he was going to do that in his retirement. And by the way, my dear, what are you going to do when you retire? You don't need to tell me....cause I know most of it.

Now, we've come to a location here that is quite interesting. We've come to a house and it's spoken of as "a great house." It's a structure. Now, I want you to notice first of all that this house is quite different to any other house, the one in which we are now. Old Peter describes it in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of his first letter. He describes it as, "a structure of which the Lord Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone. And in which every believer is a lively stone in the building of God."<sup>4</sup> Now, did you hear that word "lively"? Because it means 'alive'. It's a stone that's alive. Now, we're talking about a house, dear, that is quite different to any other house. Because everything in it is alive. The house itself is alive. Now that's different to any other house. Everything in this house is dead, but that house is alive. A lively stone in the building of God. Everything about it. This house is dead, the walls, the floors, everything. There isn't anything that's alive except us. And here we are, in a place that's dead. But that a place is alive. It's alive. And everywhere you find God building a structure.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Ephesians, he's taking all the believers and fashioning them into a building into in which he can dwell with glory and honor and delight - a dwelling place for God. Why, sure. When you turn to the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, it's a city. And the writer of the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, and don't ask me who wrote the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, because I don't know, and for your information, you don't either - written by somebody named

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4 II Peter 2:5

Mr. Anonymous. But in that 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm, you'll remember that he says, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."<sup>5</sup> Do you know any other city like that? Do you know any other city? What about Chicago? One bomb, and it's gone. What about Detroit? One bomb, and it's gone. But there's a city that isn't. And when God builds a structure, it's there to stay for eternity. And everything about it is alive. And one of the great things that God has done for us, even though we may not comprehend it and may not care much about it, he has made us an integral part of the temple that God is building. I want to tell you, it ought to thrill us clear to our back bones; the very thought of what God has done for us and what God is doing with us. The thought that was in the mind of God when he took somebody as common place as you and me and said as he looked down the infinite stretches of time that had not yet become time, and said there's somebody that's coming there, and I'm going to take that one and put them into the building of God. My, we're no ordinary people, my dear. We're no ordinary people. We ought to walk the streets of whatever community we're in with our shoulders back and our faces shining. Why, certainly we should.

***Audio Track 6 - blank for a few seconds at the end. The remainder of this sermon is contained on CD 81-3.***

***Audio Tracks 7 & 8 - very faint and fuzzy but transcribed below. This appears to be from a different sermon, and does not appear to be a continuation of the above sermon.***

Love's controlling power. Love controlling our thinking processes. The Holy Spirit doing that thing that he promised to do to those who would.....of the world give us the gift of the transformed mind. Did you hear it? That's what he can do. That's what he's waiting to do. He said we don't have to figure all these things ourselves. Though many, many times, and I've been \_\_\_ and so have you, when we've faced a problem and we've said, Lord, help us with this problem, and then the moment that it's over we go and figure it out ourselves. Sure we do. And whenever we do that, we're wrong. And whenever he does it, he's right. We'd better learn to let him do the thinking. We sure had. Power, love and of a sound mind. Power, for impossible tasks. Love, for impossible people. A sound mind, for impossible problems. And I'm looking into the faces of some of the nicest people I know and everyday of your life and service you're facing all three of them. You're facing impossible tasks, tasks that you can't do alone. And you're facing constantly, impossible people. I know the agony that comes to your heart sometimes when see alas and you've given the best you could and poured out your very lifeblood sometimes. And you go away thinking you've been passing pearls before swine. I know. And so do you. ....that love for impossible people. And you look into the faces of people constantly and you say in your heart "How can we love them?" And you can't, that's right. You can't. That's for sure. You can't. But he can. And he can put that love for impossible people in your heart here. And he can put that wisdom for an impossible task. And he can put that wisdom again into that mind of yours, transformed by the \_\_\_ of the Spirit for an impossible problem that you can't figure out. He'll do it, if we'll just let him. The three again. Did you notice it? Did you notice it?

I want to stop for just a moment because we'll be going on from there. I don't want to break the thread of what we're doing, because all we're doing right now is thinking our way through this simple little, beautiful bit of God's Word. That's all. We describe it ..... We've come a long way then we're just

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<sup>5</sup> Psalm 46:4,5

thinking our way, step by step down there. Oh, my dear, I hope you're finding something that you can use. I hope you can find something that you can use, something that will be a little blessing to your own heart as well as to be carried on, and passed on to some of the folks that you're ministering to. I hope so.

But there's one thing that I want to mention here. It doesn't break it really. But I want to bring this in as aside. And I want you to make a note here - that Paul's pattern of teaching was always the same. And you'll find it here. Now we've been talking long enough for us to just mention this and you can immediately place it where it ought to be. Now Paul's pattern of teaching is always four fold. Always. First of all, there is instruction. Second, there is exhortation. Third, there is illustration. And fourth, there is warning. Now you'll find that invariably: instruction, exhortation, illustration, and warnings.

Instruction – this is what we ought to do. Exhortation – be sure you do it. Illustrations – this is the way to do it. And warnings – this will happen if you fail to do it. And you'll find it invariably in the Word of God. All the way through you'll find it. Here's is this old man from the Roman prison cell, talking to the young man who is going to carry the burden of the churches. He's already got a big slice of it on his shoulders, where he's the young bishop of Ephesus. And here he is. And he's saying to them, this is what you're saying to them, “This is what you ought to do. And you be sure you do it. And this is the way you do it. And this will happen if you don't. This will happen if you don't.” You will find it invariably, my dear. But that's the pattern of it. And it's so simple, isn't it? Four simple little words. But every one of them is just alive with power, if we'll just recognize them. Instruction – this is it. Exhortation - be sure you do it. Illustration – this is the way to do it. And warning – this will happen if you fail to do it. And we've got another (inaudible) that are there. You see, we find as we have been traveling along here, right from the Roman prison cell at the beginning until we have come halfway through the first chapter of II Timothy, we have been following... (Audio ends)