

## Conclusion

If you have read these words preached to this little struggling congregation, then the Beatitude has definitely beaten the despair and depression that sometimes overcomes us.

Perhaps a dimly burning wick and a bruised reed are good metaphors for our own congregation in its present condition, but because God looks with favor upon us, Christ burns brightly in his Word, and his creative fire spreads all around.

These words are certainly not practical. But they merely need to be believed, so that our personal renewal can overflow into a familial, communal and national one. Our light, our flame certainly flickers, but let's draw closer and gain strength from the glorious flame of Christ burning behind us. It is not really behind us, above or below us, but hidden in the invisible reaches of God's Spirit and Truth, it is very nigh at hand.