

"THE TWO WAYS."

Rev. H. C. Sanders

Chapter XVII.

Then, too, the plans for the Bride were formulated before the world was. Accordingly God created man in His own image, and set him over the work of His hands. There was then perfect harmony and fulness of joy. The Creator daily left the company of angels, choosing to walk in Paradise and enjoy human fellowship.

Then the enemy came with his infection of deadly eye disease, and apparently, defeated the Divine purpose. Yet we know that our invincible Prince was not taken unawares, for long before this seeming defeat, He had consented to take our human nature, that He might meet and defeat Diabolus on the same battle ground, where the first Adam had now failed. By this victory He would, as we have already noticed, destroy the works of Diabolus, completely restore fallen man to the Divine image, make him overcomer, and open the gates to a better and eternal Paradise.

And now we see this Paradise of God restored, and appearing as a City, where the Holy Trinity elects to dwell eternally with His rescued people. Here man sings a new song of praise and love, while the angels silently listen. Man's fellowship of love and devotion surpasses that of angels, or even man that had not fallen and been rescued.

Between men and angels there is a wonderful difference. For man, not angels, was set over the work of God's hands; while angels are ministering spirits safeguarding the spotless Bride.

Her love is more precious than rubies or gold, and constitutes "the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Another revealed mystery is that man is restored, not only to the image and fellowship of God, but is eternally reinstated and set over the work of His hands, a true helpmeet to our Captain. Thus the Bride is to sit with Him in His throne, helping Him in ruling the nations, and judging even angels. Radiant in the glory of His likeness, she shares His inheritance and finds that the joy of fellowship there fare surpasses that of her earthly career. While here, she was faithful in that which was least: there she is promoted to a larger sphere of service.

The twelve Apostles of the lamb, who drank of His cup of sorrow, and were baptized with His baptism of suffering, find their names in the twelve foundations of that City, and sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. This City had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are rescued shall walk in the light of it. And the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: and there shall be no night there. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth: only they who are written in the Lamb's book of life. And

there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it: and His servants shall serve Him, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Honours are distributed in proportion to faithfulness in service rendered in this life. Moses, Elijah, Daniel and many others shall shine as the brightest stars among the radiant company that sit nearest the Royal throne. The martyrs, and all whose love for Him was greater than life, shall wear crowns of dazzling brightness; while all, with harps of gold, shall find their supremest joy in praising and extolling the matchless love that washed us from our sins, and made us kings and priests unto God and to the Lamb.

Happiness is supreme because righteousness has finally and eternally triumphed, bringing man into his foreordained relationship with his Creator.

Then, while contemplating the revelation of what awaits the faithful army, let us remember that the joy of the Lord is our strength, and that we are, here and now, to breathe the atmosphere of that city, and bear its name. We are by good works and longing prayer, to hasten the coming of Him whom we love, and in whom we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

We are to look unto our Captain, who endured the cross for the twofold joy that was set before Him: of pleasing His Father, and presenting to Himself His Bride in faultless purity and beauty.

Let us, too, endure hardness as good soldiers, arming ourselves with the same mind, and looking forward to the same goal: His soon appearing. For he says, "Behold, I come quickly." We, His Bride, respond, "Amen, even so, come, Lord Jesus."

(The End)

Note.—It should here be mentioned that in the publishing of these chapters, the printer has made the author say many many things that were not intended. For instance, in Chapter VI., where a man is thrown violently from his horse, it reads, "All wondered that no woman appeared," whereas it should have been "wound." In Chapter X the foot notes were sadly mixed among the main paragraphs. Then, too, there is always an advantage if such chapters can be read at one or two sittings. However, all mistakes and shortcomings of both printer and author may now be left with Him whose we are and whom we serve, and from whom came the inspiration to write these chapters.

H. C. S.

O Thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn,
With inextinguishable blaze;
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for Thee,
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

—Charles Wesley.

THE PASSPORT WILL BE LOVE.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. (Luke 10:27.)

It is the man who is to go to heaven who must love. It is not enough that his wife or mother is a Christian. He must know and love God for himself. None but those who have the experience required by the text can enter the abode of the blest. It is not to be a question of culture or accomplishment, or those who never had a chance to go to school would be kept out. Human accomplishments are good as far as they go, but the trouble is that they do not go far enough to bridge the river of death. Love for God is the wedding garment that all must have on, or be banished to outer darkness. No man will be asked on the judgment day whether his parents came over in the Mayflower or not. The great question will be, "Who are you, and whom have you loved?" The king will not stand any better chance than the peasant. By the great test of love alone will standing be decided for eternity. Works will be nothing more than hay and stubble before the fire of the burning throne. It will not be a question of how much we have suffered, what mountain we have moved, or what other great things we have done, but do we love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind. Blessed is the man who can stand this test.

THE HOUSE THAT RUM BUILT.

The Almshouse: This is the house that rum built.

The drunkard: This is the beast that lives in the house that rum built.

Appetite: This is the chain that binds the beast that lives in the house that rum built.

Intoxicating drink: This is the serpent in flowery guise, with artful tongue and dazzling eyes, that welds the chain that binds the beast that lives in the house that rum built.

The rumseller: This is the monster who holds the rein over the serpent who welds the chain that binds the beast in cruel pain that lives in the house that rum built.

Faith does not first ask what the bread is made of, but eats it. It does not analyze the components of the living stream, but with joy draws water from the "wells of salvation."—J. R. MacDuff.

"Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they can't hurt you unless you are wanting in manly character; and if true, they show a man his weak points and forewarn him against failure and trouble."

Who can resolve the doubt
That tears my anxious breast?
Shall I be with the damned cast out
Or numbered with the blst?
I must from God be driven
Or with my Saviour dwell;
Must come at His command to heaven
Or else depart to HELL.