

EVERYTHING BY PRAYER

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."—Phil. 4:6.

1. The Revival of the Church by Prayer

For "we are all an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; . . . and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away"—Isa. 64:6. "Turn us again, O Lord God of Hosts, cause Thy face to shine; and we shall be saved"—Psa. 80:19. "O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy"—Heb. 3:2. "Wilt Thou not revive us again; that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?"—Psa. 85:6.

2. The Evangelization of the World by Prayer—

Then will we "teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee"—Psa. 51:13. "O send out Thy light and Thy truth"—Psa. 43:3. "That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations"—Psa. 67:2. "That the world may believe"—John 17:21. (See further I. Tim. 2:1-6; 2 Pet. 3:8-9; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8 and 17:30; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 11:25-33).

3. The Advent of the Lord by Prayer—

"Oh that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down. . . that the nations may tremble at Thy presence!" Isa. 64:1-2. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."—Rev. 22:20. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven"—Matt. 6:6. (See further Acts 1:11; I. John 3:2-3; Tit. 2:13-14; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 22:7-12.)

Christ's last words before ascending to heaven commanded the world's evangelization by a spiritually quenched body of believers (Acts 1:18); and the first words that came from heaven after His ascension promised to that body of believers His sure return (Acts 1:11). Therefore the three things that seemed to be closest to His heart, and for which because of their importance He would have the Church unceasingly to pray, were—

REVIVAL! EVANGELIZATION! ADVENT!

THE RESURRECTION

By I. M. K.

If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. I. Cor. 15:14.

These words of the Apostle are worthy of our consideration.

Previous to this writing Paul had declared his conversion before the council which aroused great indignation. Ananias, the high priest, commanded those that stood near him to smite him on the mouth. Then Paul cried out: "Men and brethren, of the hope of the resurrection of the dead I am called in question."

There was a controversy between the Pharisees and Sadducees—the latter declaring there is no resurrection, but the Pharisees believed it to be true.

Paul earnestly preached of the resurrection and in the words of our text says, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. The same questions arise even in these last days concerning this subject. Many sects have arisen—and modernistic views are rampant. Many have the audacity to stand behind the sacred desk

and declare their belief that Christ was a good man but not divine—hence He did not rise from the dead. All this regardless of the many times in the New Testament where it is emphatically declared, not only by the angels, but by the women who early visited the tomb, also by the disciples and many others to whom He appeared and talked with after He was risen from the dead. Paul also said, "Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?"

According to our text we may as well close our Bibles and cease preaching if we do not believe and preach the resurrection of Christ.

We praise the Lord and rejoice that we do believe what the scriptures saith, not only of His birth and marvelous life on earth, and of the miracles which He wrought and transformations which took place at His word or touch and of the tragedy of the Cross but of the resurrection as well.

Therefore our preaching is not vain, for when we thus honour Him, our King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, He wonderfully blesses the preacher and people.

And through faith our prayers ascend to the throne of grace, and the answers are broadcasted from the battlements of Heaven, convicting souls of a need of a Saviour, and convincing the true believer of the possibilities of attaining a deeper work of grace in the heart, when the Holy Spirit applies the blood to cleanse away the very nature of sin.

The saints of God should be glad and rejoice this Easter-tide, for He that was dead is alive forever more—that will make it possible, some glad day, to see Him face to face. We too shall arise to meet Him in the air.

WAITING ON GOD! ITS CERTAINTY OF BLESSING!

"Thou shalt know that I am the Lord; for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me"—Isa. 49:23. "Blessed are all they that wait for Him." Isa. 30:18.

What promises! How God seeks to draw us to waiting on Him by the most positive assurance that it can never be in vain: "They shall not be ashamed that wait for Me!" How strange that, though we should so often have experienced it, we are yet so slow of learning that this blessed waiting must and can be as the very breath of our life, a continuous resting in God's presence and His love, an unceasing yielding of ourselves for Him to perfect His work in us. Let us once again listen and meditate, until our heart says with new conviction: "Blessed are all they that wait for Him." The very prayer of Psalm 25 is found: "Let none that wait on Thee be ashamed." The very prayer shows how we fear lest it might be. Let us listen to God's answer until every fear is banished, and we send back to heaven the words God speaks "All they that wait for me shall not be ashamed." "Blessed are all they that wait for Him."

The context of each of these two passages points us to times when God's Church was in great straits, and to human eye there was no possibility of deliverance. But God interposes with His word of promise, and pledges His almighty power for the deliverance of His people. And it is as the God who has Himself undertaken the work of their redemption that He invites them to wait on

Him, and assures them that disappointment is impossible. We too are living in days in which there is much in the state of the Church, with its profession and its formalism, that is indescribably sad. Amid all we praise God for there is, alas, much to mourn over! Were it not for God's promises we might well despair. But in his promises The Living God has given and bound Himself to us. He calls us to wait on Him. He assureth us we shall not be put to shame. Oh that our hearts might learn to wait before Him until He Himself reveals to us what His promises mean, and in the promises reveals Himself in His hidden glory! We shall be irresistibly drawn to wait on Him alone. God increase the company of those who say: "Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield."

This waiting upon God on behalf of His Church and people will depend greatly upon the place that waiting on Him has taken in our personal life. The mind may often have beautiful visions of what God has promised to do, and the lips may speak of them in stirring words, but these are not really the measure of our faith or power. No; it is what we really know of God in our own personal experience, conquering the enemies within, reigning and ruling, revealing Himself in His holiness and power in our inmost being—it is this will be the real measure of the spiritual blessing we expect from Him and bring to our fellow men. It is as we know how blessed the waiting on God has become to our own souls, that we shall confidently hope in the blessing to come on the church around us, and the key-word of all our expectations will be; He hath said: "All they that wait on Me shall not be ashamed." From what He hath done in us, we shall trust Him to do mighty things around us. "Blessed are all they that wait for Him." Yes, blessed, even now in the waiting. The promised blessings, for ourselves, or for others, may tarry; the unutterable blessedness of knowing and having Him who hath promised, the Divine Blessor, the Living Fountain of the coming blessings, is even now ours. Do let this truth get full possession of your souls, that waiting on God is itself the highest privilege of the creature, the highest blessedness of His redeemed child.

Even as the sunshine enters with its light and warmth, with its beauty and blessing, into every little blade of grass that rises upward out of the cold earth, so the Everlasting God mets, in the greatness and tenderness of His love, each waiting child, to shine in his heart—"the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Read these words again, until your heart learns to know what God waits to do to you. Who can measure the difference between the great sun and that little blade of grass? And yet the grass has all of the sun it can need or hold. Do believe that in waiting on God, His greatness and your littleness suit and meet each other most wonderfully. Just bow in emptiness and poverty and utter impotence, in humility and meekness and surrender to His will, before His great glory and be still. As you wait on Him, God draws nigh. He will reveal Himself as the God who will fulfill mightily His every promise. And let your heart ever again take up the song: "Blessed are they that wait for Him." "My soul, wait thou only upon God."

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