

### CHRIST THE SURE FOUNDATION STONE

"Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." Isa. 26 : 16.

That the prophet is here speaking of the Messiah is clearly evident. That the prophets had marvelous visions of the coming of the Messiah and of His wonderful propitiatory sacrifice for the redemption of the race is very clearly seen from the prophetic records. Then this foundation was to be so firm and lasting that faith could erect a structure which would be so firm and secure that all the forces of evil, even "the gates of hell" itself, would be powerless to overthrow or destroy.

This foundation Stone was to be tried, to be precious, and to be sure, and, thank God, it has stood the most severe tests which men or wicked spirits could inflict and will stand forever.

#### *Jesus Christ is the Foundation Stone of God's Own Laying*

The term, foundation, is architectural and represents that part upon which the building, as a whole, rests. In other words it denotes the beginning of something which is to develop into some achievement which will be praiseworthy and productive of good. Christ then is the foundation stone on which is erected that spiritual edifice, the Church. Without this foundation there could have been no spiritual edifice. With it we have, not only the foundation, but that marvelous structure which has sheltered and fed multiplied millions of the human race.

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of the Gospel*

Had Christ not come into the world, and by His coming erected this glorious foundation, the race of men would have been doomed to death eternal. By His coming He made provision for the salvation of the race. All the privileges of the gospel, all its blessings, all its glory and grandeur and hope emanate from Him.

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of the Sinners Acceptance With God*

God could not have offered mercy to fallen man outside the intervention of Christ. His obedience, His atoning merits, became the ground or the propitious remedy for the sinner. He then is the foundation of our justification and pardon. Through Him we have access to God. He is the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. "We have redemption in His blood even the forgiveness of sin."

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of the Christian's Hope*

Had Christ not come we would have been without hope in the world. Through His coming, His death and His resurrection "we are begotten again unto a lively hope." Through His blessed Gospel, He "has brought life and immortality to light," and His atoning merits have laid the foundation for the bestowment of God's mercy and favor, and, eventually, eternal life. No wonder Peter said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." This hope of the Christian not only relates to our present and complete salvation from sin but also to a victorious death, a glorious resurrection, an entrance into heaven, and an eternity of bliss in His presence forever. All these hopes are centered in Christ. Through Him alone we conquer. Through Him only can we die happy and by Him shall we be resurrected and be admitted into life eternal.

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of Our Peace*

"Being justified by faith, we have peace

with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." He came and proclaimed peace. He imparted peace when He was here on earth. He is the foundation of all peace. He bestowed peace upon His disciples after His resurrection. He is the author of all peace. He imparts that peace within "which passeth all understanding." Oh that the world would but catch the vision of the Christ who alone is the foundation of all lasting happiness and peace.

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of the Church Universal*

"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." He is the solid and secure rock on which the Church universal is erected and "the gates of hell" are unable to "prevail against it." The church may be likened to a temple of which Christ is the secure foundation. One writer has said, "Holy men, and prophets, and apostles, are all stones in this superstructure, but Christ alone is laid, as the foundation, who bears all its massy weight,—on which it entirely rests. And whether we consider the church, in its militant state on earth, or its glorified and triumphant state in heaven, Christ is the basis of the whole. Each and all of God's spiritual family, from the newborn babe on earth, to the most exalted beatific spirit in glory, rest wholly upon Christ as the foundation."

#### *Christ is the Foundation Stone of Life Eternal*

Had Christ not come to earth, had He not suffered in our room and stead, there would have been no foundation on which the sinner could build any hope whatsoever. But "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have everlasting life." "Christ also loved us and gave Himself a ransom for us." "And this is the record that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." Seeing then that Christ is the only sure foundation stone of both spiritual and eternal life we should be sure that we are building our structure, not solely upon the doctrines and creeds and systems of men, but upon the sure foundation stone of Christ himself. It is not safe to build solely upon the mercy of God for He is just as well as merciful and will by no means, other than the divinely appointed, clear the guilty. It is folly to trust in our past, present or future good works, for without the saving grace of Christ these are but filthy rags in His sight. But thank God, in all ages, thousands have come to Christ,—the rich, the poor, the learned, the illiterate, the savage, the refined, the moralist, the profligate,—and have found in Him the sure foundation stone of spiritual peace, and joy, and hope, and life eternal. He has been proven sufficiently strong, in youth and old age, in prosperity and adversity, in sickness and in health, in life and in death to comfort, and uphold, and give ultimate and eternal victory. Oh beloved, let us be sure that our hope of life eternal is built upon Christ the sure foundation stone.—*The Holiness Era.*

### LINCOLN'S ATTITUDE ON THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

On December 10 to 13, 1913, I had the pleasure to be a member of the committee of a thousand who waited on and submitted a prohibition amendment to congress. We were really two thousand, but when we marched up Pennsylvania avenue and entered the capitol grounds, we were joined by a committee of one thousand from the W. C. T. U., so that we were in fact a committee of three thousand members. It was one of the largest committees that ever called on congress.

The committee was so large that neither the house of representatives nor the senate chamber could accommodate us; so on the capitol steps we were received by Senator Shepherd of the senate and Congressman Hobson of the house, who received our message which was introduced in both house and senate that day. The message was delivered by ex-Governor Patterson, of Tennessee.

Amongst us was an old man by the name of Major Mervin, who was introduced to us as having been one of President Lincoln's private admirers. He was a very tall man with rather long white hair. Standing before us, he seemed like one of the prophets, and subsequent developments have proven that he was. His remarks were in the main as follows: "If this measure, which we have this day submitted to the congress, becomes a part of our constitution, you must not expect our country to become dry over night. It may take a generation or possibly two. Intoxicating liquor has existed and the people have drunk it to their own detriment since the days of Noah. It is associated with strong traditions and backed by tremendous capital, and it will take a long time to overcome both. It has been a long and hard fight to carry this prohibition measure to the capital of our nation as we have done it today, but I believe we are all agreed that the cause is worth all the time, effort and substance contributed to get prohibition, and it will be worth as much to keep it and make it effective. Let no one think the fight is done. This only marks the end of the beginning of the battle. The greatest part of it lies ahead of us, but what was worth giving to get it is also worth giving to keep it."

When asked to tell us what Lincoln's attitude was relative to the liquor question, he said: "Lincoln told me one day, 'Less than twenty-five years ago in New Orleans I saw them sell people. I saw them tear families apart and sell them like cattle. I also noticed that some of these people, who were being sold, were intoxicated with liquor. I vowed then that I would devote my time, talents and strength that there might not be a slave or a drunkard in our fair land. By the help of the Almighty and the American people, we have lived to see the first realized, and I pledge all that I am and have to the realization of the second.' And that very day Lincoln was shot. That tells you Lincoln's attitude on the liquor question, and I appeal to all of you, gathered here at this momentous occasion, to convey to the people of your communities Lincoln's attitude to the liquor question and appeal to them to follow his example."

Major Mervin's remarks made a tremendous impression on me, and I have repeated them on many occasions. We laud Lincoln on his birthday as our greatest man and praise his many virtues, but if we really admire and appreciate his virtues, those same virtues would be just as admirable and desirable in ourselves. If all those, who express their appreciation of Lincoln and his virtues, would apply them to their own lives, it might not require two generations to make our fair land a dry land, and if our society women who clamor for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment would try to live with a drunkard for a month, they would clamor for its retention, observance, and give it their hearty support. By Rev. H. B. Kildahl in The American Issue.