

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8

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The Risen Christ



“ THAT BLESSED HOPE ”

(By The Editor)

The apostle Paul in his letter to Titus calls Jesus “that Blessed Hope”. This was not a new name given to our Lord. The same apostle speaks of Him as the “Hope of Israel” which term was also used by Jeremiah many years before Paul’s day. Because of God’s promise after the fall of Adam, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head, his ancient people looked forward with hope for a great deliverer to come, who would be their saviour.

The poets sang, and the prophets prophesied of his coming hundreds of years previous to the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem’s manger. Job sang, “I know that my Redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.” Balaam spoke of his coming on the wise, “There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel”. Moses also spoke of the coming of a great prophet. That hope of ancient Israel was fully consummated when Christ was born, by those who recognized him, as good old Simeon, who took the child up in his arms, and said, “Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace; for mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation”.

We scarcely realize how large a place hope fills in our lives, how much, success in material things depends on worldly hope. The farmer ploughs and sows in hope. In hope of a harvest. And men in every walk or vocation of life are laboring, sacrificing, suffering, and pressing on to reach their objective, sustained by this indescribable something which we call hope. In these recent years of financial depression, and scarcity of employment which many hundreds have felt so keenly, and when year after year has passed without bringing any appreciable change, what is it but hope of something better in the near future that has encouraged them to faithfully toil on and do their best from day to day. It is when that star of hope which we all follow in times of darkness, becomes obscure; that discouragement and black despair set in, and many who do not know Jesus and the power of his grace to sustain in times like these, to whom living becomes unbearable, who go out and commit that awful tragedy of self destruction. I have often thought when I have read and heard of such things, how many of those unfortunate souls and their relatives who are left might have been saved that awful suffering, if some one who knew them could

have whispered a message of hope in the ear of that despairing soul. I heard of a man who because of reverses in business became very much discouraged, lost all hope, and was about to give up the struggle in despair, but; met a friend, who told him he would help him to make a new start in life. He told him that he had a brick of gold that was very valuable which he would give him; but on conditions that he must not dispose of it, or sell it to turn it into cash as long as he could possibly live without doing so. The man in need agreed to the proposition of his friend, took the brick of precious metal, and went back to his home greatly encouraged. He went to work with a new zeal and courage which soon brought back to him better days, and finally prosperity, so he did not have to dispose of his brick of gold, and decided he would return it to his friend who gave it to him as he did not need it now, and upon doing so, the friend told him the brick was not so valuable as he thought it was, for he had found out that it was only copper and not gold at all, whereupon the man who had been helped replied, “That may be true, but; it was gold to me.”

And so it was, because it brought back to his heart that hope which he had lost, and without which he would have failed. I think we can understand better now what the apostle meant when he said, “We are saved by hope”. The Christian hope is distinguished from worldly hopes by the excellency of its object. The objects of worldly hopes do sometimes fail or vanish away; but the Christian’s hope rests securely on the unchangeable, eternal promise of God which can never fail. It was this hope that sustained God’s saints in times of great affliction, in prison dungeons, that made them shout triumphantly while burning at the stake. The hope of a better resurrection and immortal glory. Jesus might well be called “That blessed Hope” because of the blessings that He brought to His disciples and to mankind in general, when He burst the tomb asunder and rose from the dead. Note how the gloom of despair had gathered round His disciples after his crucifixion, how two of them whom He joined as they walked to Emmaus told him about the sufferings and death of Christ, and then added in mournful

tones, “We trusted that it was He who should deliver Israel”, but like all his other followers who had gone back to their former avocations, they had lost hope. The strongest imagination cannot picture what this world would have been if Jesus had not kept His promise and come back from the dead. The gospel story which has meant salvation to the millions on earth would have never been told. Hence darkness and hopeless despair would have been the portion of all men. Thank God Jesus is the sun of righteousness whom the prophet promised should arise with healing in his wings.

Again because Jesus rose we also have hope of a future resurrection of our bodies which shall be made like unto his glorious body, which hope has robbed death of its sting, and will rob the grave of its victory at his glorious coming to earth again. Then note the cleansing effect which John declares this hope has upon us individually who look for His coming, “Every one that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as He is pure.” Hence we find in the triumphant resurrection of Jesus a hope and strong incentive to complete salvation from sin now, for all His children want to be found of Him in a presentable condition, which the apostle Peter declares is “in peace without spot and blameless.”

Again Hope is one of the three permanent graces of Christianity spoken of by Paul in I Cor. 13. After many of the byproducts of redemption have served their day, and passed away, after prophesies have failed, tongues have ceased, and knowledge has vanished away; he declares, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity”. This Hope is also the Christian’s anchor which holds him steady in times of storm. The great apostle writes to the Hebrews. By two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered even Jesus”.

While worldly men who are sustained by a worldly hope must struggle on through more or less uncertainty, the Christian rejoices in his hope because God is his foundation. Hence, the apostle writes, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope, though the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Thanks be to God for the risen Christ who is our Blessed Hope.



Mrs. Harshorn Mullen,
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