

Stretch out your hand and take His today;
Bought by Him, loved by Him, never forgot-
ten,
Hid in His heart forever and aye."

H. S. DOW

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"FROM YEAR TO YEAR"

Rev. F. A. Watson*

One of the failures most common to human-ity is a tendency to forget, or to ignore God's blessings. We are all glad to receive gifts from His bountiful hand, but far too apt to forget Him who is the Giver of every perfect gift, and so God has given object lessons to mankind from the earliest time of his dealings with the children of Israel until Jesus broke the bread and poured out the wine for his disciples, saying, "this do in remembrance of Me."

It is recorded in Exodus 13 that God com-manded Moses to institute a memorial feast which was to be observed from year to year. Now, the Lord gave to Moses two reasons for this memorial pass-over feast.

First, it was to remind them of the past. God's people were not to forget, nor were they to allow succeeding generations to for-get, that they had been "strangers in a strange land." "And it shall come to pass that when thy son shall ask thee in time to come: What is this? that thou shalt say unto Him, By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt and from the house of bondage."

And the second reason was that it was to be a token to them, a token of victory in every conflict while they lived in obedience to His will.

These are very good reasons, it seems to me, why we too should remember from year to year the kindness and mercy of God.

We do well to remember that God hath delivered us from the hand of the enemy.

The apostle Paul states it this way: "But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you; being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness."

What a glorious deliverance! It is recorded that, when God's people had passed through the Red Sea dry shod, Miriam lifted her voice in holy exultation and sang praise to the God of their deliverance. Surely every redeemed child of God knows the joyful sound of that deliverance song. Let us sing till we join the glad number who sing it in the presence of God and the Lamb!

This remembrance from year to year should be a reminder to us of all the victories and blessings which have attended us. The great Apostle shouts in holy triumph of a God who always causeth us to triumph. And the hymn writer, John Newton, has well written: "Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have al-ready come: 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far. And grace will lead me home."

But we have noted another reason why Israel was to observe this ordinance from year to year. It was more than a reminder: It was a token.

When God had destroyed the inhabitants of the earth by the Flood, we remember that after the waters had abated, He set His rainbow in the sky. That rainbow was more

than a thing of beauty. It was a token that never again would God destroy the earth by water.

So God said to Moses: "This year by year remembrance is a token." It stands for some-thing. It represents something. It forshadow something.

It was a token on man's part; a token of obedience to God. God had demanded it, then it was incumbent upon man to obey God in every detail of its observance.

It was a token of sacrifice. How many multiplied thousands of innocent lambs were offered up in the long years between that hour and the time when Christ our paschal lamb, was slain.

It was a token on God's part. Not a token alone of victory over all their many foes, but a token of gracious fulfillment yet to come.

He who had said to their Father Abraham: "God will provide Himself a lamb," was giving to his people year by year a gracious token of Him who was to bear the sins of many.

And so it seems to me that as we come to another year, we shall do well to remember God's tokens. We have far greater tokens from Him than this ancient people ever en-joyed. We have the tokens of mercy and grace. The gracious fulfillment of all that was hidden from them is now so graciously revealed to us in Christ.

And let us not forget the tokens of our love, our obedience, and our sacrifice to Him.

I am persuaded that we need to be re-minded of them. It is so easy to forget.

I am confident that anything less than a fulfillment of these sacred pledges will be too little.

For not only does His amazing love de-mand our all, but the day and age in which we live can be served only by those who lovingly, sacrificially yield their all to Him who gave Himself for us.

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THAT BLESSED HOPE

R. Barclay Warren

"For the grace of God that bringeth salva-tion hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

The Christian, having renounced sin and walking in the light of God's grace, lives in readiness for the appearing of Jesus Christ.

There is substantial ground for this blessed hope of the return of Jesus Christ. He defini-tely promised, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself."

Angels also affirmed it: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as we have seen him go into heaven."

The writers of the New Testament as they were moved by the Holy Ghost frequently gave expression to this blessed hope.

This hope is blessed because at His appear-ing all who are in Christ will receive an in-corruptible, immortal body. Sickness will be no more. We shall have a perfect adaptation

to dwell forever with God in His holy heaven.

This blessed hope affords a stimulus to the Christian. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure."

We want to be ready to meet Jesus when He returns to receive His own. We want to be among the redeemed and purified when Jesus comes. What a blessed hope!

LIVING FOR THE FUTURE

E. E. Shelhamer

There are three classes of men. Those who live in the Past, those who live in the Present, and those who live in the Future.

Many, especially the aged, live in the past. They dwell upon past incidents, pleasant and unpleasant. Man's life consisteth not in mere-ly eating and drinking, but in what he delights to think and talk about. It may be hunting, horse racing, or a dozen and one things, but those things that arouse his interest, those things constitute his world.

Another class, especially the young and ambitious, live in the present. They want to get all out of life now, and care not for the things of the past or future, just so they are free from care and responsibility. Anything that appeals to their emotions, or gratifica-tions will get their attention. They live the butterfly life.

Those who live for the future. "Tis not all of life to live, nor all of death to die," but after this the judgment. Only a few people live ahead of their generation to such an ex-tent that they are quoted in the next. No doubt Wesley is quoted next to Saint Paul. In order to project one's influence into the future, he must live in advance of others in self-denial and holy vision. He who has the courage to do this, he who dares to get out of the old beaten-rut of dead orthodoxy and blaze a path into freedom, must be so dead to men's opinions that he would not turn over his hand for the difference between those who want to flatter or those who want to flatten him.

Friend, are you going this route? If so, you must be willing to wait forty years to be appreciated. Then the children of the next generation may catch up with your advanced life and build a monument to your memory with the stones their fathers threw at you. Can you wait that long? If so, you will have good company with Jesus, the Apostles, and Martyrs.

MYSELF

"I have to live with myself, and so I want to be fit for myself to know; I want to be able as the days go by Always to look myself straight in the eye. I don't want to stand with the setting sun And hate myself for the things I have done. I don't want to keep on the closet shelf A lot of secrets about myself. And fool myself as I come and go Into thinking nobody else will know The kind of person I really am. I don't want to cover myself with sham; I want to go out with my head erect; I want to deserve the world's respect, And in the struggle for fame and pelf I want to be able to like myself. For I never can hide myself from me. I see what others can never see. I know what others can never know, So, no matter what happens, I want to be Self-respecting and conscience-free."