

NO TIME TO PRAY.

No time to pray! O, who so fraught with earthly care As not to give to humble prayer Some part of day?

Visitor Pulpit.

EVER THIS OUR WAR CRY, -VICTORY!

A Sermon by C. H. Spurgeon.

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."—Isaiah liii. 12.

Our great concern is concerning Christ. "For him shall constant prayer be made." It does not much matter what becomes of us, the common soldiers, so long as our great Captain is to the front.

I. The first truth taught us here is that the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ is sure. Sure, first, because these words are a divine promise; and every word of promise that comes from God is established.

Notice, moreover, that this is the Father himself who here puts forth his hand to guarantee the victory. He writes, "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great."

When he says, "I will do it," who shall stay his hand or resist his will? God, the everlasting Father, has staked his honor and his glory upon the success of Christ.

hand to the work of ultimate victory. Read the text again. "Therefore will I divide him a portion," and he shall divide." God gives him the victory, and he takes it himself. The Father grants it, and the Son grasps it with his own right hand.

That is the first thing, then; and the Christ will conquer. It is a divine promise; its fulfilment is guaranteed by the Father, it will certainly be achieved by the Son.

2. Secondly, the victory is as glorious as it is sure: "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great."

The Great King rewards our champion. You have heard of great champions who have been knighted on the battle-fields by their sovereigns: deeds of special prowess have been thus rewarded.

The glory of this victory may be seen, next, not only in the reward coming from so high a source, but from its being manifestly a great reward in the esteem of men, since our Lord is to have "a portion with the great."

When he says, "I will do it," who shall stay his hand or resist his will? God, the everlasting Father, has staked his honor and his glory upon the success of Christ.

Christ has been extreme. I, for one, cannot understand how any honest mind can do other than reverence his marvellous character and the grandeur of the truths which he has revealed. He is great, inexpressibly great, and the day will come, must come, is every day coming nearer, when Christ will be seen even by his enemies to be supremely great.

Notice, too, that a part of the description of this victory represents the Lord as himself dividing the spoil "with the strong." Not merely with great enemies did Christ wrestle, but with strong powers. I might give you a hundred illustrations of this, but I prefer to give you one.

There is another aspect under which we may speak of the glory of Christ's victory; he will share it with his people. The second paragraph of the text is, "he shall divide the spoil with the strong."

III. Thus we have seen that Christ will win the victory, and the victory will be glorious. Now let us declare, thirdly, that the results of this victory will be very substantial.

Let me remind you that, in consequence of what our Lord has done, myriads of souls will be redeemed. How many will escape from sin and death and hell to live for ever, as not revealed.

Next to that will be the overthrow of every form of evil which new reigns in the world, and the extermination of religious falsehood, vice, drunkenness, war, and every horrible mischief born of the fall and of human depravity.

boundless honors shall be given to Christ for his victory over every force of evil. The seed of the woman shall trample on the serpent.

As the result of Christ's death, Satan's power will be broken. He will no longer go forth to rule among the nations.

Death also will have lost its dominion over the sons of men. The Son of David shall restore that which he took not away. More than our first father lost shall Christ bring back.

Now, my brethren, do not get into a state of fright and fear about the Christian religion. Do not go to your chambers and sigh, "Everything is going to the bad, and we shall be all eaten up by the devil."

IV. So I close with this last remark: the whole of this victory results from Christ's own work.

Lend me your best attention for two or three minutes, because this is the pith and marrow of it all; "Therefore will I divide him a portion"—that is logic. Why this "therefore"? What is the argument? Christ shall divide with the strong because—

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of the pierced hand comes to the front, the battle no longer wavers. We glory in his death and in his making common cause with transgressors. But this is not all; it is added, "And he bare the sins of many."

And lastly, there is this fourth reason given—"He made intercession for the transgressors." I can conceive you praying, my dear friend, and God's not hearing you; but if the man who was despised and rejected should say, "Rise, poor suppliant, rise and I will take thy place;" and if the Blessed and Beloved of the Father, whose eyes are as the eyes of the morning, and whose lips are as lilies dropping sweet-smelling myrrh, kneels down and prays, "My Father, by my blood, and agony, save this sinner;" why, it must be done!

Wherefore, pluck up courage. Jesus will yet win. You weak, faint-hearted ones, rejoice. The victory is sure, not because of anything you are, or of anything you can do, but for Jesus's sake. In the name of the Lord, we set up our banners. Hallelujah.

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