

1224.

The life of Faith in the Day of Calamity.

Psa xcvi. 1. 2.

58

Hymns 50: "The Lord is King! lift up thy voice"

53. 43 "God, my strength & fortitude"

0. 318: "So let our lips & lives express"

Scripture. Habakkuk i - ii. 4. 20. iii. 17-19.

Handwritten notes in the right margin, including the number 58 and some illegible text.

Date	Town	Place
Aug 9. 1914	London	Westminster Chapel
Mar 13. 1916	Manchester	Central Hall

Psalm XCVII. 1-2.

"The Lord Reigneth"

Let the earth rejoice;

Let the multitude of isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about Him;
Righteousness and judgement are the foundation of His throne.

Introduction.

The affirmation with which this Psalm opens states inclusively the truth which was the theme of our meditation here on Sunday evening last. Tonight I am principally interested in the second verse - - - (Quote) - - -; which however must be considered in relation with this affirmation.

How often in days of sunlight, and prosperity, and gladness have we quoted those words.

We have affirmed them as true.

They have expressed our faith honestly and sincerely.

A faith is that by which men live

"The just shall live by his faith".

Faith has to do with things not demonstrable by the activity of the senses.

"Faith is - - - the proving of things not seen".

It is sure of them facts.

It perceives them so.

The strength of life is proved in days of stress & strain.

So therefore is the value of faith.

I looked; aside the dust-cloud rolled, -
The Master seemed the Builder too;
Upspringing from the ruined bed,
I saw the New.

The Day of the Lord is at hand, at hand!
Its storms roll up the sky;
The Nations sleep slaving on heaps of gold;
All dreamers toss and sigh;
The night is darkest before the morn;
When the pain is sorest the child is born,
And the Day of the Lord at hand!

Today.

The Clouds and the Darkness are palpable.

{ The heavens are black with wrath
The Earth is red with wreck.

{ The only gleams, matting the Darkness visible,
are those of the lightning, born of the clash of the
clouds, with each other, or the earth.

What have we to say concerning the declaration
that Righteousness & Judgment are the founda-
tion of the Throne of God?

We affirm our conviction that it is true.

① The Witness of History.

← ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ { Out of Tragedy, Convulsion, Desolation, -
Prosperity, Peace, Beauty, have emerged.
- His by the government of God. -

② The Central Historic Word.

{ "This is your hour & the power of Darkness"
That was His hour & the victory of Light.

③ Our own experiences.

{ Comparatively insignificant.
But microcosmic

How then shall we live by this Faith?

First. We must know it

{ The measure of intelligent appre-
hension is the measure of strength
in faith.

Secondly. We must act in harmony with it.

{ The sin which destroys is biologically
to conviction.

A. Our Faith

I The Fundamental Affirmation.

"The Lord Reigneth."

Love over Hate

Light over Darkness

Life over Death.

II The Word of Interpretation.

"Righteousness & Judgement are the foundation of His Throne"

i The meaning of the Statement

a. The principles of His Government.

The Moder Motives.

Foundations - Motives which the Throne requires.

b. The purpose of His Government

The Goal towards which He moves.

Foundations - Motives which the Kingdom requires.

ii The Revelation of the Statement.

a. Righteousness. The Inspiration of Judgement

Straightness - Conformity to Standards.

The Unveiling. } Truth -- v. A Lie

} Grace -- v. A Murderer.

b. Judgement The Activity of Righteousness.

The executive activity which realizes.

c. E. G.

1. Isaiah V. Graphic Contrast.

D. Shedding of Blood. R. A. Struck.

2. John. R ~ ~ ~ D ~ ~ ~

III. The Faith

i The Reigning One

ii The Principles.

iii. In Spite of Cloud & Darkness. Nay; By means of them.

a. War is man's wickedness

b. Out of it

1. Rebirth of the Soul

2. Renewal of Moral Conscience.

B. Our life.

I The Situation.

i Our Country at War.

Our sons are marching to bloody death
Our women & children are sick
Desolation & distress are with us.

ii After strenuous efforts for peace.

This is granted, but must not be forgotten
Sir Edward Grey's statement, and the White-
paper published on Wednesday leave no
room for doubt on that score.

Not to have intervened sooner have been
to have consented to disregard the
obligation of national morality.

iii. In behalf of weaker nations, and in the interest of Righteousness and Justice.

We have fulfilled the first part of Polonius'
advice to Laertes.

We must now fulfil the second.

"Beware
Of entrance to a quarrel; but being in,
Bear't, that the opposed may beware of thee."

7. The Activity of Faith.

i. Prayer.

- a. Christianity means Access.
- b. Access means

}	Confession.
	Repentance.
	Mediatorially.

"Thus it becometh us ~ ~ ~ ~"

c. Intercession.

1. For the Glory of God.

- { We need have no fear.
- { This is not the aggrandisement of a Deist.
- { It is the Satisfying of a Father.

2. For Peace.

- { Always remembering that such must be prayer for Purity.

3. For all who Suffer + Serve.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| The Sufferers. | { Mind |
| | { Body |
| | { Estate. |
| The Servers. | { Soldiers. |
| | { Doctors |
| | { Nurses. |

4. Once more!

Dare we listen?

Matthew. V. 43-48.

ii Conformity to the Principles.

a Righteousness.

1. Grace.

Compassion.

To enemies within the gates.

To all who suffer.

2. Truth.

Unswerving loyalty to the right.

b. Judgement.

The Activity which ensures results.

a Self-Sacrifice.

b. Service.

Conclusion:

Man lives by faith

It is the final resource —

Lips reveal faith.

Let us live by this faith —