

1246.

Our Hope + Inheritance

1 Pet: i. 3-5.

- ¹²¹
 Hymns { 51 "The day of resurrection".
 S. Cont. 0 52 "Jesus, the Lord, is risen."
 122 53 "Jesus lives! no longer now."
 140 60. "Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!"

Scripture. Psa. cxxxvi.

Hymns {
 121.
 122
 123

121-123

121

122

123

Date

April 4, 1915 London

Town

Westminster Chapel.

Place.

1880 and 1881

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1915

I. Peter. 1. 3-5.

This is a great doxology. It immediately follows Salutation, and merges into Consolation. This method of introduction is the more remarkable when we consider the condition of those to whom the letter was addressed. Peter was writing to Jewish Christians in Asia Minor, who were then passing through a time of fiery trial; they were charged with being "evil-doers, enemies to the State; their very name of Christians brought them persecution & oppression. Writing to these, his brethren, - after the flesh, & in the Lord - to "Stablish them, as his Master had commanded him, he began his letter with a vibrant note of praise, a doxology. [It would be a profitable thing to make the text the starting-point of a consideration of the true method of administering comfort. We content ourselves with noting it, in order that we may pass on to consider the doxology itself].

It is a celebration of the life out of which it springs;
The reason of the Doxology - "who - begat us".
That life, so begotten, inspires the Song.
The Song celebrates that life.

Observe its movement;

God is praised - worshipped - blessed.

For life.

The Outcome of Mercy.

By the way of Resurrection.

Resulting in

"Unto a living hope"

"Unto an inheritance reserved"

Thus the Exultation;

Centres in the Much Mercy of God

Celebrates the Resurrection as the medium of its outflow.

Confesses the Two-fold benefit resulting.

Life - which is Hope for Time & Earth.

An Inheritance for Heaven & Eternity.

Our theme is that of the relation of the Resurrection to these things.

A. What the Resurrection meant to God.

B. What the Resurrection means to us.

A. What the Resurrection meant to God.

(This - We first state - and then consider.)

I The Statement.

- i Peters Words. "The God & Father, your Lord Jesus Christ, - according to His great mercy, begat us again - by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
- ii That is "By the Resurrection God created the possibility for the outflow of His great mercy in the gift of life."

II The Consideration.

i The Fact of Mercy.

a. The word is a primitive word, whose history is unknown, but which always refers to Compassion in activity.

[The Hebrew word signified ~~binding or stopping~~]

Thus it presupposes a state of need, in those toward whom it moves, or over whom it stoops.

[Love Grace exists apart from need - but not mercy]

b. The idea then is that of the source of God toward all who suffer.

This is a desire to heal, to keep, to delight, to save.

[Not "Much" Positive - but rather "inward"]

ii The Restraint of Mercy.

a. The impossibility of conferring benefits on those who are in sin; that is, in rebellion against holiness, and under the mastery of evil.

b. This restraint is not an operation of justice, as opposed to mercy; but of mercy itself.

To bestow benefits so, would defeat the intention of mercy.

"Thy Mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 136)

iii The Resurrection breathing down the barriers.

a. Its Value. The Culmination of the Cross.

Sin put away.

The Initiation of the New & Living Way.

Life at the disposal of the Sinner

b. Its result. Mercy acts.

The Sinner is cleansed & energized

The Sinner is lifted & saved.

B. What the Resurrection means to us.

{ Note. { The Co-ordinate clauses beginning "unto"
Each related to "Became us." }

1. A living hope = Hope alive; i.e. Not mortal, perishable.

i. The Resurrection an Interpretation of Personality.

Superior to physical death.

Continuity of essential individuality.

Change & enlargement of potentialities.

ii. The Resurrection a pledge of Redemption.

The Death of Jesus was vicarious.

The Resurrection was vicarious.

Men die and live in Him.

This is the Value for { Some fits Vicissitudes
Earth with its limitations.

ii. An Inheritance reserved.

i. A place & possession in the heavens.

Interpreted by the Risen One. (The post-resurrection Jesus)

Guaranteed by the Ascension. (This Some (soon))

Where He is ~ We shall be ~

Note. Definiteness; and indefiniteness.

ii. Reserved - for those who are kept ~ ready to be revealed.

a. Reserved. Withheld.

Secured.

b. Kept. The power of God on Sentry duty

The faith of Men, Trusting, Obeying

iii. The Characteristics of the Inheritance.

* a. Incorruptible. Unwithering.

Deathlessness. Eternal life.

b. Undeiled. Unsubdued

Sinlessness. Perfect Purity.

c. Faded not away. Unfading

Fadlessness. Glorious Beauty.

This is the Value for ~ { Eternity ~ The Ages
The Heavens ~ The Limitless

* ~~Aphelion, Perihelion, Kai amaranthos.~~

Conclusion.

The Persistence of our Theme.

This is a time of fiery trial to Christian souls.

So far, we are preserved from physical suffering.

These our souls are enduring

We share them also - therefore.

Our spiritual & mental stress is great.

It is even so, that the prophets of Christianity are in danger of being called enemies of the State.

There is a subtle peril abroad of supposing that Christianity should be postponed to a more convenient season.

It is certainly so that in some quarters the very term Christian is suspect.

The Value of our Theme.

Easter Day

A Day of Doxology.

Mercy is the inspiration of judgment

Its operation has been made possible.

Our Hope is still living.

No Slain can destroy it

No Grave can hold it

Our Inheritance is still reserved.

Through { Death
Defilement
Decay

We move on towards the { Unwithering
Unsubdued
Unfading

Heavens & Earth II Pet. III. 13