

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
On Lord's Day June 5th 1910

Text: John 11 verses 25 & 26: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Morning Sermon

We are told that the Lord Jesus Christ loved Martha, her sister and Lazarus. And when Lazarus was sick the sorrowing sisters sent a message to the Lord Jesus Christ concerning his sickness: *He whom Thou lovest is sick. Therefore...Jesus abode two days still...where He was. Then after that saith He to His disciples, Let us go into Judæa again.* We are told in the preceding chapter that the Jews sought to stone Him after He had declared that God was His Father. This was because He said that He was God. On His own confession they sought to stone Him. It is worthy of consideration. The Jews said: *Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God.* He was God Man.

These two weeping sisters thought that Christ would hasten to them, and that their brother's life would be spared. We do not find that the Lord Jesus Christ hastened to Bethany. *This sickness is not unto death, but...that the Son of God might be glorified.* He knew that He would waken him out of sleep. Therefore He tarried two days. Then He says: *Let us go to Judæa.* The disciples were astonished that He should go. But when they saw He was determined to go, Thomas says: *Let us also go that we may die with Him.* I believe Thomas thought he would be stoned to death. But when we come to the time for Christ to die, we find *they all forsook Him and fled.*

The Lord informed His disciples of Lazarus being asleep. They thought He spoke of Lazarus taking sleep. Lazarus was dead, but he was asleep – he was at rest. Jesus tells them plainly that Lazarus was dead. He says: *I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye might believe.* When Jesus came, He found he had been laid in the grave already. As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was come, she went to meet Him. When Mary was informed the Master was come, she hastened to meet Him. Mary said to Jesus: *Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.* She had not faith to believe that Jesus was the resurrection and the life. He was God. I speak it with reverence, that He could, without asking the Father, raise him from the dead. But He appeals to the Father: *Because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.* The Pharisees and the Sadducees were divided concerning the resurrection. But Martha believed in the resurrection.

Then come the words of my text: *Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?* She said: *Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God.* And you will find, friends, as we go through the history, He came to the grave, and He groaned in spirit and wept, and brought forth Lazarus from the grave. *Lazarus, come forth.*

These words I have read by way of a text dropped with some feeling into my soul as I stood at the grave of Mr.-- of the Surrey Tabernacle Benefit Society on the past day. What I saw in those words I cannot put into words. Jesus speaks. The Lord from heaven speaks. He that came to do the will of the Father speaks. To Martha concerning the resurrection He says: *I am the resurrection and the life.* And my friends, if Jesus had not been God, these words would have been blasphemy. I want you to notice the language. *I am the resurrection and the life.* The Lord Jesus Christ was put to death. Peter tells us: *Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust. (1 Peter 3:18)* He gave up the ghost: *Into Thy hands I commend My spirit. (Luke 23:46)* But you will remember what He said: *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (John 2:19)* He knew the time would come when they would put Him to death. We find the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He abolished

death, and brought life and immortality to light. He comes forth from the dead, the resurrection and the life. The church was in Him when He came forth the resurrection and the life.

There is something so sweet, so glorious in this expression: *I am the resurrection and the life*. He raised Himself from the dead. He came forth. He has destroyed death – He that hath the power over the devil. Christ is preached as being the resurrection, and if Christ is not the resurrection, our faith is vain. But Christ is the resurrection and the life. He came forth from the grave. If there had been no resurrection, there would have been no forgiveness of sins – the justification of the church. He was made sin that knew no sin. *I am He that liveth*.

I have sometimes thought of John leaning on His bosom. But when Jesus spake to him on the Isle of Patmos, he fell at His feet. *I am He that liveth - the resurrection and the life*. We sometimes sing:

*“I am,” says Christ, “your glorious Head”
(May we attention give),
“The Resurrection of the dead,
The Life of all that live.” (John Newton)*

Then, if we have been brought from the dead, Christ is our life. I was reading in your hearing just now: *You hath He quickened, who were dead. (Ephesians 2:1)* Is it true concerning you, my dear hearers? concerning me? *You hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins*. Who can bring you forth from this death but He the Resurrection and the Life? He must bring forth the dead spiritually – it is so, my friends. *I give unto (My sheep) eternal life...no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one. (John 10:28-30)* Sinners in the grave hear the voice of the resurrection. He brings them from death.

All true religion, as I have often reminded you these past 22 years (for I now enter upon the 23rd year of my ministry among you) begins with the life of God in the soul. *Ye must be born again*, and nothing can give life but He, the resurrection and the life. Oh bear this in mind, my dear hearers. Christ is the life. Oh have we heard the voice of the Son of God?

*“The sinner sleeping in his grave
Shall at My voice awake,
And when I once begin to save,
My work I’ll ne’er forsake.”*

I am the resurrection and the life. Oh my soul, is Christ thy resurrection, thy life? How this comes right home to one’s soul! How often it is the desire of my heart, to –

*– read my title clear,
To mansions in the skies,
I bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes. (Isaac Watts)*

Paul could say: *He loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)* Can you use such language? Has He brought you as a poor sinner to His feet, and shed His love abroad in your heart? To think you are united to Him by an eternal union? Blessed soul if you have! If you have not, I hope you are reaching out after these things. The desire of your heart is to know Him the resurrection and the life. *That I may know Him*. Are you seeking Christ? Does your heart beat after the Lord Jesus Christ? Is this the outgoing of your soul: “Give me Christ, give me Christ, give me Christ”? Is He the one thing needful? Can you say you seek for this with your whole heart? You know you must perish without Him. You come to Him poor and destitute. You look to Him for life. “Lord, when with Thou come

unto me?" Is this your spot? If so, you have cause to bless Him. He hath quickened your soul. Yours is not a dead soul. God has put your soul in life.

You will feel something of the working of iniquity. He is drawing you with the cords of love. *All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me. (John 6:37)* He says concerning such: *I will raise (him) up at the last day. (v.39)* There will be many risings up before the last day, because in the school of Christ you will have to learn He is the resurrection and the life. He has given you life. You will live to prove this, that there is no life only as He gives it. Every movement of the life is life. Paul says: *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear...* (Colossians 3:4) We have no life, only as we receive life from Christ – death in self: life in Christ. *I am the resurrection and the life.*

*To Thee we look, to Thee we bow,
To Thee for help we call;
Our Life and Resurrection Thou,
Our Hope, our Joy, our All. (John Newton)*

Oh to know Christ as the resurrection, as the life! *I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)* *I am the bread of life. (John 6:35)* Is He your life, your resurrection? Do you live upon Him? Do you eat Him? *He that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me. (v.57)* The living feed upon Christ. They cannot eat anything but spiritual food. They feed upon Him. They have communion with Him. And there is this sometimes working mightily in them to be conformable to Him. They know something of a dead Christ; they know something of a living Christ.

Jesus said unto her (Martha): *I am the resurrection and the life.* Oh blessed resurrection! Oh precious life! Oh what should I do without the Lord Jesus Christ, my resurrection, my life? Now, if you have life, you will want to know these things. I am as sure of it as I am of my own existence. You want to know Christ as the resurrection. He holds the soul in life. Why, sometimes those who have known Christ as their resurrection wonder if they have ever known Him. They feel as dead as it is possible they can be. When Christ came into this world He said: *I am come.* I shall never forget on one occasion these words came into my soul. Now, when grace is in exercise, you want life more abundantly. You want more life. It has ever been so with the living.

And Christ is the life. *It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell. (Colossians 1:19)* Oh to have the life of God more abundantly! Perhaps there is not one in this house of prayer but would say: "Can I live –

*At this poor dying rate?
My love so faint, so cold to Thee,
And Thine to us so great? (Isaac Watts)*

I believe, for the most part, it is so with Zion. Life is very, very low. Is it not so? But when life is received more abundantly, what a difference! How blessed a confirmation! I have shunned God's people sometimes lest my very presence should be an hindrance to them. Do you know what this is? Have you ever trod this path? If so, friends, you will want to know the resurrection. And I believe with all my heart God's people are brought into these spots and places that they may know Christ as the resurrection. God's people know Him as the resurrection when feeling they are dead in soul feeling. There is often then a groan, a sigh, which proves they have divine life in them. Where life is very, very low, they have questioned whether they have life. And they cry unto the Lord as best they can.

*Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear Thy witness with my heart,
That I am born of God. (Isaac Watts)*

Afternoon Sermon

Text: John 11 verses 25 & 26: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?

I told you how I came by the words of my text. It was as they dropped from the lips of the minister conducting the funeral service on the past day of the late Mr. --- As the words dropped from his lips I trust they dropped with some degree of power into my heart. You know, when Christ speaks, there is power in the words. *The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)* I hope you are not strangers to these things. You know what it is for the words to be applied.

The weeping sisters thought the Lord was a long time coming. He does not arrive. Ministers pass by; days pass by. And there are times when minutes are hours, and hours are days, according to our feelings. *Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.* What is the death to Christ? He said to His disciples: *This sickness is not unto death.* Lazarus is sleeping in the grave. *I am the Resurrection and the Life.* Mark this, friends, ***I am the Resurrection.*** He died, but He came forth, the resurrection, the life. He could not be holden by death.

We noticed this morning these things, and then we passed on to speak of the Lord being the resurrection of His people. *You hath He quickened.* I have thought since 4 o'clock yesterday I wish I could convey it to you. Perhaps you will sit under my voice without any particular feeling. You will, unless the Lord quickens you. The Lord died for dead sinners.

*The sinner sleeping in his grave
Shall at My voice awake. (Isaac Newton)*

He has but to say "Live."

Oh my friends, have you a right religion? Those of you who make a profession, are you partakers of the grace of God? Are you the living, the living in Jerusalem to praise Him, to live upon Christ, to serve Christ, to be led unto the deeper discoveries of His person? Those who are partakers of the grace of God often feel death. They want resurrection power, they want more life. I do not suppose there is a man in this congregation this afternoon that has much life. For the most part, friends, it is a day of small things. You do not find many who flourish in the things of God, who speak of the Spirit in exercise in their own souls, whose speech is with grace seasoned with salt. They know much of death, and they need resurrection power. Paul says: *That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)* Would it not do you good to feel the power of His resurrection this afternoon? Religion is a personal thing, and we want to know Him as our resurrection, our life.

He that believeth in Him. Oh what an unspeakable mercy to be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ! I am glad our friend gave out the hymn that he did. I had my book open, and had been looking at that hymn, hoping my mind might be directed to it. It is not always so with us poor ministers. These things escape our memory. I am glad he gave out this hymn:

*He that believeth Christ the Lord,
Who shed for man His blood,
By giving credence to His word,
Exalts the truth of God;
So far he's right, but let him know,
Farther than this he yet must go.*

*He that believes on Jesus Christ,
Has a much better faith.*

*His Prophet now becomes his Priest,
And saves him by His death;
By Christ he finds his sins forgiven,
And Christ has made him heir of heaven.*

*But he that **into** Christ believes,
What a rich faith has he!*

This is God's gift, friends, and it is not in the power of the creature. *By faith are ye saved.* If you have the faith, it is all the work of God in you.

*In Christ he moves, and acts, and lives
From self and bondage free;
He has the Father and the Son,
For Christ and he are now but one.*

He is united to the Person of the Son of God. He and Christ are so joined. He will not be in heaven and leave one behind. Perhaps some of you can go so far in the hymn, and no further. It is a God-given faith. But you want more than this. You want to realise by precious faith that He gave Himself for you, and to be led deeper into the mystery, and to be united to Jesus Christ by virtue of an eternal union. Christ and you are one, and this is a rich faith indeed.

*Though we are saved from guilt and wrath,
Perfection is not found.
Lord, make our union closer yet,
And let the marriage be complete. (Joseph Hart)*

Ah, that is it – for He is the Head, and to be a member of His Body united to Him. Oh blessed soul, this is the faith of God's elect. And this is the faith, I trust, you may be a partaker of.

He that believeth in Me. Oh what a mercy to have this faith in the Person of the Son of God! The Lord Jesus Christ put it to His disciples as to who He was. He put it straight to them: *Whom say ye that I am?* Peter says: *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Blessed Peter: *Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee.... Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:15-18)* I would not give a snap for that man's religion if it is not tried. *Simon, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. (Luke 22:31)* The Lord knew Satan's aim, and sometimes he may so seek to devour you, that you may be brought with tears running down your cheeks. But though Satan seeks to destroy the faith of God's elect, he cannot do it. He may destroy your faith if it stands in your own power, but if it stands in God's, it will stand. There were those who believed in Him that He was the Christ. As many as were ordained to eternal life believed. Oh happy believer! Oh safe believer! The believer possesses eternal life. *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.* But whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born again of God. *He that hath the Son hath life – He that believeth in Him.* If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have life, eternal life. This life is Christ's.

Now my dear hearers, let me ask you: What is Christ to you? *What think ye of Christ?* I know what I think of Him, and what some of you think of Him. *His mouth is most sweet. He is altogether lovely. (Song of Solomon 5:16)* I do think highly of Him. I trust I do love Him. I would love Him better if I could. I am a poor servant of His. I began to think I had preached my last sermon commencing the 23rd year of my ministry here. I had not a text. But these words dropped into my soul which I have read by way of a text. I sometimes think "unprofitable servant." I would serve Him better if I could. Oh, enrich me with utterance and knowledge that I may preach a word in season to exhort, to reprove. Oh Christ is much to me. Is He to you? Would you sell Him? What is the price? 30 pieces of silver? Would that be enough? It was enough for Judas. And there are heaps of professors who would – for

30 pieces of silver. The Christ of God – would you sell Him? I fancy I can read your hearts. Oh, say you, I would not sell Him! He is more precious than friends. *To you which believe He is precious. (1 Peter 2:7)* There is none so precious as Christ. He is precious in sickness and in health.

*And when in death they bow their head,
He's precious on a dying bed. (Samuel Medley)*

Though he were dead. If the believer dies, he dies to live, *though he were dead.* You know, for the most part, believers will taste death – the price of sin. They will never taste its curse. *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.* What Christ endured the sinner will never endure. It will come to this:

*Nor fear to cross the gloomy sea,
Since Thou hast tasted death for me. (John Kent)*

They who were dead. The believer will be brought to death, the house appointed for all living. If a man die, shall he live again? There is no real reason, child of God, that you should fear death. It will come to release you. I sometimes feel I should be glad to be done with all things here below. It is my daily prayer to be prepared when death comes.

*Prepare me, gracious God,
To stand before Thy face;
Thy Spirit must the work perform,
For it is all of grace. (Elliott & Toplady)*

Rich grace, free grace!

*Grace all the work shall crown,
Through everlasting days;
It lays in heaven the topmost stone,
And well deserves the praise. (Philip Doddridge)*

He that believeth on Me. Oh think of it! *Though he were dead, yet shall he live.* I had some few things to say concerning the believer's feeling death. It is sometimes as though death was in all he has to pass through. Do you not feel as though you had not one grain of life? It will do you good. Christ is the resurrection and the life. How are you to know Christ as the resurrection and the life, if you do not feel death in you. You will prove this. Christ, your resurrection, your life. So with the believers it is. Shall he live again? *Yet shall he live.* Oh the time will come when you will be raised from the dead. And *Job* says: *Thou shalt call, and I will answer. (ch.14:15)* You will soon sleep, believer. God called to Lazarus. He will call to you. And you will come forth. Oh the time must come when that which is written will be brought to pass: *death swallowed up in victory. Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. I give unto My sheep eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father is greater than all. Because I live, says Christ, ye shall live also.* These words have sometimes been very sweet to me. Righteous believers in the Lord, weak as you are, you shall not faint.

Persons tell you – you hear it in the churches – that the believer may sin, and die in his sins. It is a lie. It is not in harmony with the blessed Book. *Ye have not so learned Christ. (Ephesians 4:20)* *Whosoever* – whether it be the king on the throne, or the pauper in the workhouse, *whosoever believeth hath the life of God in him,* and believeth in the Person of the Son of God – he shall never die. There are some, it is true, who will be alive when Christ comes. They will be changed; they will not die. *Whosoever liveth.* Oh are you a living one? Are you a believer? If so, you will never die spiritually. You have the life of God. You live. *Because I live ye shall live also. Believest thou this?* The Lord Jesus Christ put it to Martha in this manner. She had faith in Him as the Messiah. He was about to instruct her. He that has begun will carry it on in your heart.