

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day December 4th 1910

Morning Sermon

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

What an unspeakable mercy if we have a good hope that:

*When this poor, lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave,
Then, in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing Thy power to save. (William Cowper)*

I felt it good to hear you sing God's power to save, and I was made in my soul to say:

*If such the sweetness of the streams,
What must the fountain be?
Where saints and angels draw their bliss
Immediately from Thee! (A M Toplady)*

It is a mercy, friends, to know anything of the person of the Son of God, to prove the efficacy of His blood to cleanse from all sin. And if you do, you will be enabled to join in the language of the redeemed, and put the crown on the right head, and crown Jesus Christ Lord of all, and fall at His blessed feet, and then:

*Loudest of the crowd I'll sing,
While heaven's resounding mansions ring
With shouts of sovereign grace. (Rippon's collection)*

O to have a grain of grace, to be made *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (Colossians 1:12)* Is it not good when the Word of God comes with divine power into the soul, and you have the witness within that God hath delivered you from the power of darkness, and translated you into the kingdom of His dear Son? I do not wonder that the soul is lost in adoration and praise. *Was ever love like this? Let rocks and hills their everlasting silence break.* O to know the love of God! He ever loves His people. All His dealings are in love, whatever cup may fall into your hand.

John was persecuted for His sake. He did not lose anything by being banished to the Isle of Patmos. He saw what he could never have seen anywhere else. The Lord promised him he should taste this cup, and here he is tasting it. He could speak of being a companion in tribulation. He is favoured to be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Some persons speak of the Lord's Day being any day of the week, but it is the day of the week when the Lord rose from the dead. John says: *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia. (v.10,11)* The Lord revealed these things to John, and he gives a description of the Person who spake these things to him in the *1st chapter*. And he fell at His feet as dead. John had seen Christ before this, but not as he saw Him now. The sight was so glorious that he fell at His feet as one dead. And the Redeemer took hold of him, and said: *Fear not; I am the first and the last.*

These words touched my heart the other day: *I am He that liveth.* It is our mercy that Christ liveth in the heaven of heavens. *I am He that liveth...and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* It is my heart's desire that we may see Christ this day, if His holy will. We cannot hope to see Him as John saw Him, but we hope to see Him by the eye of faith. If you have

grace, you will want an ever-living Christ, one that lives for ever. An immortal soul wants an immortal Saviour. I do like to be tested by the Word of God. Do I want a living Saviour? *I am He that liveth.* O how sweet that word has been at times to my soul – and to some of you in this house of prayer too! *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.* (Deuteronomy 33:27) I do not wonder that Moses could speak of such as being happy. O to say: “My God, my Jesus, my Saviour!”

He lives to save to the uttermost. You look at it for one moment. He lives at the right hand of the Father. What should we do if He did not live there to plead our cause, and to present our prayers and praises perfumed with His much incense? All we attend to needs washing in His blood. He died once as Man, but He will never die again. How blessedly the Apostle Paul puts it in *Romans 6:10!* Death hath no more dominion over Him. He lives as the God-Man. I do love to be favoured in my meditation on these things. We want an High Priest that can be touched with our infirmities. He can feel as we feel.

*He knows what sore temptations mean,
For He has felt the same. (Isaac Watts)*

He lives to sustain His people, and to strengthen them in all in all His holy, righteous will. He sustains us under the heaviest loads. O what loads we need to be sustained under, at times! He told His disciples He was going to prepare a place for them.

*He lives, their mansion to prepare,
He lives, to bring them safely there! (Samuel Medley)*

Sometimes you may feel you will not get there. You may depend upon it that the Lord will fulfil His gracious promise in your experience. In this world you shall have tribulations and trials. He lives to bring you safely through all these things. These words come very close: *He that endureth to the end shall be saved.* (Matthew 10:22) You may endure forty years in a profession, and yet not be saved. Shall I endure unto the end? There is an end as far as the righteous are concerned, but not to cut them off. Yes, tried and tempted one, He lives to save you – you think of it, friends – to save you from sin and every evil. Job could say, though his wife had forsaken him, and his children were dead, and his property gone: *I know that my Redeemer liveth.* (ch.19:25) Thy Redeemer ever liveth, child of God, to comfort you, to correct you, and to direct you. He supplies your needs out of His fullness, *for it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell.* (Colossians 1:19)

There is something for faith to rest in here, to rest upon His promises, which have never been forfeited yet. *As thy days, so shall thy strength be.* (Deuteronomy 33:25) Everything may appear against it, but on the other hand, He lives to fulfil His promises. He lives in affinity with His body, the church. There is a union between Christ and His members that can never be broken. He lives to comfort His people. O what a fulness there is in the words I have tried to bring before you! You try to ponder them over: *I am He that liveth.* You cannot say this of any other man. The Lord Himself, the first and the last. He is the fountain of life. He ever lives. I shall be brought to death, but the Lord lives. Christ said to His disciples: *Because I live, ye shall live also.* (John 14:19)

*If my immortal Saviour lives,
Then my immortal life is sure. (Anne Steele)*

As a man, He died, but Deity never died. There was a time when He was born a babe, and grew in favour with God and man. He died, and was buried. *Death, I will be thy plagues.* (Hosea 13:14) He abolished death. He will die no more. He lives for ever and ever.

There is something very sweet in this, but we leave the subject for this morning. The time will come when, if we have union with Him, we shall die no more. And not till then, as I have often experienced, shall we be satisfied.

*O glorious hour! O blest abode!
I shall be near, and like my God! (Isaac Watts)*

Afternoon Sermon

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

These words, as we noticed this morning, were spoken to the Apostle John in the Isle of Patmos. He had a blessed sight of the risen, glorified Saviour. *I am He that liveth* – ever liveth. What a mercy for us that the Lord liveth! As you have been singing:

*He lives (and blessed be my Rock),
The God of my salvation lives;
The dark designs of hell are broke;
Sweet is the peace my Father gives. (Isaac Watts)*

What should we do without a living Redeemer, who lives to save to the uttermost? You have not a grain of grace if there is not this feeling at times in your heart. I want a living Christ, to hold my soul in life, and to suffer not my feet to be moved. The Lord lives in the heart of every redeemed, quickened soul.

I am crucified with Christ – that is, being united to Christ – *nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. (Galatians 2:20)* That is the secret of all real religion. A living soul carries about with him a living Christ. This is the religion I want, and that which I long that you, my dear hearers, may be possessed of: *Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)* A living soul wants a living God. *My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. (Psalm 84:2)* O to know that I have a living God in heaven; to be possessed of Jesus Christ; to inherit God! This is what God has promised to overcomers. O to have fellowship with Him, and to walk with Him, and to be assured from time to time that He lives. O to be:

*For ever with the Lord!
Amen, so let it be!
Life from the dead is in that word,
'Tis immortality. (James Montgomery)*

I am He that liveth, and was dead. What a blessed chapter (*1 Corinthians 15*) that was that I read in your hearing: *How say some of you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is vain. (v.12-14)* He was dead, and was buried. And they all forsook Him in that hour – Peter and John only saw Him die. As man He died, and by His death He conquered death. And He brings life and immortality to light through the gospel. When He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, they were glad. The resurrection of Christ is spoken of as all the three Persons in the God-head having a part in it. God raised Him from the dead, and set Him down at His right hand. He will never see death any more. He will come again, but not to die. *This Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God. (Hebrews 10:12)* *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:26)* He has power to bring forth those that are in their graves. He puts His name to it all. Amen.

What a blessed sight this was that John had! It was worth being banished to the Isle of Patmos for. You have many remarkable instances in the Word of God of God appearing to His saints in persecution. They sit down and wash His feet with their tears, and wipe them with the hairs of their head. I am speaking now of the eye of faith. O precious Saviour, Redeemer, Friend of sinners – a Friend that loveth at all times, and says: *Fear not, be not afraid. I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* So that some may boldly say: *The Lord is my helper. I will not fear.* His eyes are upon us. He has the keys of hell and death. All power is in His hands. John saw this, and His people see this too. “All power is given unto Me. Thou hast given Me power over all evil, that I should give eternal life unto as many as Thou hast given to Me.” (see *John 17:2*) Death and hell – Christ has the keys of them. He can put the soul in life. None can give life, but the Eternal Life. He gives eternal life to His sheep, and they shall never perish. They are well kept; they are in His hands. Christ has made all provision for them, and will keep them all through the journey down to the end.

*O that in Jordan's swelling
I may be helped to sing,
And pass the river, telling
The triumphs of my King. (Gospel Magazine 1804)*

He has the keys of death. We are all dying creatures. We have all sinned, and therefore we must all die.

I heard dear Mr Popham say in preaching the other day: “We do well to ask ourselves: Why must I die?” We were all in the loins of Adam when he sinned. We must come to death; death is passed upon us. Sometimes you inwardly exclaim: “O death!” “Where is thy sting?” says the believer, and he can look death in the face with a holy calm, and long for the hour to come to depart. We have seen this with the eye of faith. Christ has the keys of death.

*Plagues and deaths around me fly;
Till He bids, I cannot die;
Not a single shaft can hit,
Till the God of love sees fit. (John Ryland)*

We may go into the sick chamber, and apparently you may see death stamped upon the affected one, but they cannot die until the appointed time. The doctor may say: “Only a few more hours, and it will be over.” But he has not the keys of death. That afflicted one may be raised up, and live for years. I read an account yesterday of a poor young person who had been afflicted for 20 years. The lower part of her body was dead, so to speak. She had some intimation from the Lord that she would be raised up. Humanly speaking, it was impossible. She has been perfectly restored, and on the second day after she left her bed, she walked three miles. Christ has the keys of death. It is a mercy to realise that our times are in His hands.

There is something very solemn in death. What separations and differences it makes! But when the time comes, man must bow to it. There is no discharge in this war. The grave is ready for them. Sometimes we cannot bear the thought of death coming into our windows. But when the Lord is pleased to sustain us, we can leave it all in His hands. Not only has He the keys of death, but He has the keys of hell. He will never unlock the gates of hell, and let one of His loved ones go to hell. In the 20th chapter of *Revelation* John says: *I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit, etc.* Many a professor does not fear hell. But the child of God trembles at God's holiness. He says:

*Should sudden vengeance seize my breath,
I must pronounce Thee just in death;
And if my soul were sent to hell,
Thy righteous law approves it well. (Isaac Watts)*

That soul will never be sent to hell. That soul is saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation. He has the keys of death, and will bring the dead forth.

Sometimes I try to look at it, and I look at the *Book of Genesis*, and the awful account of the wickedness of mankind. Has God done with them yet? No. Christ will unlock death's door, and the dead shall come forth. Why should it be thought a thing incredible, said Paul to Agrippa, that God should raise the dead? Is not this very solemn – the wicked must come forth, the righteous must come forth. What a solemn day for the wicked, but what a blessed day for the righteous! He will set the sheep on the right hand, but the goats on the left. He will say to the sheep: *Come, ye blessed of My Father, etc. (Matthew 25:34)*, but to the goats: *Depart from Me, ye cursed, etc. (v.41)*. They shall be cast into the lake of fire which burneth for ever and ever.

How do matters stand, my dear hearers? *Is Jesus' blood thy only plea? Is He thy great Forerunner there?* If so, all will be well in time and in eternity. If not,

*Think and tremble,
Death is now upon the road. (William Gadsby)*

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

May the Lord add His blessing.