

Evening Lesson, Hebrews 2. MAY 28 1979

TEXT ACTS 2 V 33

In considering that the Person, the glorious Person who is the subject of our spiritual meditation and adoration is no less than the eternal Son of God, who in His infinite stoop passed through a period of humiliation, standing as Surety and substitute, who gave His life

voluntarily for the sins of His people, may the Holy Ghost enhance the wondrous view of the Saviour given us in the Hymn,

"If I loved my Lord before,
I would love Him ten times more;
Drop into His sea outright,
Lose myself in Jesus quite." (170)

The consideration of that sentence was occasioned in my spirit by the thought, who could be a Substitute and Surety? Only the Son of God incarnate: not a holy angel; no bright angelic spirit could come as Surety and Substitute, and no human being. Only the Person who was God's eternal, only begotten Son as He assumed a holy humanity into indissoluble union with His divine Person. Another view of it is, so the majestic and glorious King of kings and Lord of lords should take an infinite steep, pass through humiliation and ignominy, and know what it is to be "made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The subject of His ascension is from yesterday, and His exaltation is a delightful subject in accordance with the teaching of the Spirit and the work of sovereign grace in the soul. Take all who have a taste of divine mercy and the inflowing of the river of God to their souls. Christ is exalted. You know not how to lift Him high enough, His preciousness is so great. The ambition, goal, theme and purpose of your life and all you do under the influence of His Spirit is to exalt, magnify, adore Him.

"The more Thy glories strike my eyes
The humbler I shall lie;
Thus, while I sink, my joys shall rise
Unmeasurably high." (475)

Christ is exalted. What is the grand object and purport of the ministry? To lift Him high, to exalt Him. It is a wonderful realisation, it is a positive, potent proof that we belong to Him and are taught of the Spirit. It is the theme of your life, your soul, service, worship, devotions. The people of God are given discernment: they soon recognise the presence of Christ and they are set free. They are humbled at His dear feet and He is exalted. It is a wonderful thing. At the funeral service recently at the Bethesda Home dear Mr Gosden opened with

prayer and we were favoured to follow. His opening prayer was like heavenly dew on our spirits. He is obviously one of a meek spirit. "Blessed are the meek." There is everything in that. You know the Lord, you know His grace and mercy, truth and love, faithfulness and goodness, and it meekens your spirit, humbles you, and Christ alone is exalted. You will say, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory," We shall be together in Heaven and have a glorified capacity to praise Him, with no limitations, nothing to hinder us. The subject to day is of the exaltation of the dear Son of God incarnate, the Man Christ Jesus. Feeling the majesty, glory, divinity, eternity of the subject I felt overwhelmed, as though my vocabulary is inadequate, yet 'our sufficiency is of God', and those words were precious; "It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." That is the secret.

By His help and grace I will endeavour to speak a little of the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is desirable to begin thus. You will know according to the doctrine divine and the teaching of the Spirit in your soul, if you consider the ~~eternity~~^{Deity} of the eternal Son of God, He could know neither humiliation nor exaltation. Nothing could be added to God's attributes: nothing could be added to the intrinsic glory the essential majesty of God. You begin to consider by the Spirit the nature of exaltation, it was the Man Christ Jesus was exalted: the Son of God in our nature, exalted in Heaven. We have before us truths that relate to exaltation, the manner of it, and the position occupied by the exalted Redeemer in Heaven. There are two terms that are similar, - "being by the right hand of God exalted," and in the next verse, "Sit thou on my right hand," and it is incumbent on us to try to set before the friends the two wonderful truths. "Therefore" means, because of all He had done. When Jesus bowed His head and said, "It is finished," and gave up the ghost, and therefore accomplished His priestly work of atonement, and because of the accomplishment of all He had come to do, "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted." We believe the right hand of God having exalted Him signifies, with infinite delight did the Holy Father exercise His sovereign power and glory in exalting His beloved Son to His right hand of blessing and favour. It was the infinite delight of the eternal Father to exercise His sovereign power

in the exaltation of His Son. It signifies the acceptability of His sacrifice and all He had done. God was satisfied and pleased. And in exalting the Man Christ Jesus He ascended far above all the heavens, - the ethereal heavens, the firmament, to the seat of His majesty and glory, Paradise, "that he might fill all things." I found delight in the Lesson this afternoon; "Wherefore God also ~~God~~ hath highly exalted him," to the highest degree of glory. "Jesus takes the highest station." "and given him a name which is above every name; That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." - the glorified saints and holy angels, and the dead under the earth. I will stay on this wonderful Name which is above every name. Why is it? You who know the preciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, why is His Name above every name? The reason is; "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There is salvation in His Name. You think of it: "none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." It spells out, if the Holy Ghost breathes into your soul the Name of Jesus you have salvation, unction and power. There is salvation in the knowledge of the precious Person who bears this matchless Name. The Father with infinite delight exercised sovereign, almighty power in exalting His well beloved Son incarnate, the Man Christ Jesus. In our Lesson we read, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour." That is what God did when He exercised His right hand of power, faithfulness and love. He crowned Him with glory and honour. I trust we have spoken to His glory.

We will go to the third point. "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand." So He sits on the right hand of God. What is the word, "Jesus at the right hand of God"? It means His glorious Throne where His essential ~~and~~ majesty and glory shine forth as the Mediator of the New Covenant, and sitting at the right hand of God He exercises His priestly work which is founded on the work of atonement and His Kingly office and power. What does He exercise on the right hand of God? His priestly office of mediation, intercession and advocacy. He intercedes for those who pray, and He is Advocate for those He loves who do not pray. We are guilty; God is holy. He intercedes, and the

pattern of His intercession is in St John 17. It is wonderful to think of His intercession for us in trouble, distress and burdened with sin.

"Founded on right, Thy prayer avails;
The Father smiles on Thee." (117)

It is wonderful to realise that the Lord is interceding for you and your children, and especially if any have wandered from the ways of truth and yet are in the Covenant of Grace. They are not praying for themselves; He is interceding for them. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." And when the people of God are defiled and find a barrier, the Lord is silent, they are far off, guilty wretched, He gives them repentance, melts their hearts, grants them forgiving love and restores them.

"crowned with glory and honour." We have seen a little of His glory. There is nothing in worship if the glory of Christ does not shine, and those beams shine down on the earth. He is 'crowned with glory and honour You long to see and be with Him; to stretch your wings and fly away. Think of the crown He wears, and it is studded with His dear saints in this sense,

"And, as the jewels of His crown,
He'll give them honour, peace, renown,
And full felicity." (67)

What a crown this is! "On his head were many crowns." Every time He blesses you, you will crown Him, adore and worship Him. His precious brow was once crowned with thorns so yours might be crowned with glory. "crowned with glory and honour." This will rejoice you. Also He exercise His kingly office; Jesus reigns. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." and He reigns over His Church and in our hearts. You will bid Him welcome to your heart. You will seek that He should reign over, in, and for you. Take Hymn 320;

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

This is the kingship of Him who is crowned with glory and honour. You pass through darksome paths: you cry, groan and plead with the Lord and He will unfold His wonderful purpose to you in life concerning salvation and in providence. He is crowned with glory and honour. Take your problems, difficulties, holy exercises to your King. Jesus reigns. Tell

your King about every threat, temptation, assault of the enemy, because He has all power in Heaven and in earth. He is crowned with glory and honour. You have got nothing to fear because He reigns: all His enemies are beneath His feet. The wonder of His government is, it is altogether to the glory of God for mercy, salvation, peace, comfort and good. O this blessed King! crowned with glory and honour.

One characteristic of His exaltation is, all He did was full of merit. His holy life, sacred Passion, agony in the garden, His suffering at the pillar, crowning with thorns, His death on the cross, the opening of the fountain for sin and for all uncleanness, His glorious resurrection were all full of merit,- all the blessings of salvation for His people. We have the infinite merit of His Person which relates to all He did because of who He is; the eternal Son of God, co-equal and eternal with the Father and the Holy Ghost in Person, work and glory. Merit related to the blessings of salvation for His people. When He rose and ascended He became possessed of all the blessings He merited for His people for their salvation. It is all under the word, the promise of the Holy Ghost. The Lord Jesus had proclaimed, "John truly baptised with water; but ye shall ^{be} baptised with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." and baptism is the effusion of the Spirit. It is a wonderful immersion in the Spirit and filling of the Spirit. So He "received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost," and Peter adds, "he hath shed forth this,"- shed abroad in their hearts; diffused; and it flows.

So by the help of God I will try to tabulate a few things concerning the shedding abroad of the Holy Ghost. First the Holy Ghost was shed forth on the waiting disciples in Jerusalem, ten days after the ascension to Glory, on the day of Pentecost. They were richly endowed and received the heavenly anointing essential for their commission. They received divine authority, heavenly unction, almighty power in their spirits to go forth to preach the everlasting gospel. As the Lord Jesus was immeasurably anointed with the Holy Ghost, all His servants and people are measurably anointed. Every child of God is baptised by the Spirit. There are several considerations in relation to the gift of the Holy Ghost. He comes on those the Lord has ordained to eternal life and dwells in them. When the Lord Jesus is revealed to your soul

the Holy Ghost is with you. Being with you, you come to recognise that He dwells in you and 'ye have an unction from the Holy One'. This is one of the blessings you covet beyond all to have; to be filled with the Holy Ghost. O that divine influence! that glorious Person! those wonderful graces and virtues, the sacred revealing light, holy liberty, the understanding of the Scriptures, the revelation of the glory of Christ! and the understanding of the Being of God measurably, and the knowledge of sin and need, a revelation of the beauty of the Redeemer!

Think of the power, grace, virtues of the Holy Ghost. His work is to sanctify you wholly, fit you for His service and use and make you like the Lord. The gift of the Spirit is to give you the Spirit and nature of Christ. O the wonder of it! "He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." The whole language suggests that this flows, and many enjoy it. The whole Church of God receive a portion and they are baptised into the Body of Christ. It shows the sovereign efficacy of the power of the Holy Ghost, and He fills all things. The gift of the Holy Ghost in relation to the Church: one is the special gifts distributed to members of the Body of Christ, as understanding, wisdom, faith, discernment, and so on. The next is, those who are favoured with the gifts, virtues and graces of the Spirit are themselves gifts of the Spirit to the Church. So "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;- all spiritual gifts,- for the perfecting of the saints, for work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." You see the beauty of it; compacted together, oneness, unity, peace, concord; each having a place in the precious Body. Wondrous is the promise of the Holy Ghost.

"he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." "that he might fill all things." He fills the ministry He sent with heavenly unction, divine power and authority. It is the method divine whereby the souls of His people are nourished with immortal meat. He fills the Covenant of Grace in all the promises and blessings in the fulness of Christ. He fills all things. In His ascension He fills all His sacred New Covenant offices with faithfulness, love and grace. He is Father, Husband, Friend, Advocate, Counsellor, Guide. He fills all things with His glory and divine faithfulness.

"To His Throne our shouts arise,
One with us by sacred ties." Amen.