

7-09-1975

Evening Lesson. Romans 8.

TEXT ISAIAH 3. 10

The prophet Isaiah was used of God here to foretell the desolation that should come on Israel and Judah for their provocations and the evils they had committed. One noticeable feature of heavy tidings in the Bible is, in the midst of the judgments of God and the foretelling of disaster, distress and desolation the Lord has a kind word of sweet encouragement for His dear people. This is the nature of the Text in the midst of judgments, sorrows, calamitous circumstances and terrible things. "Say ye to the righteous, to My dear people, those I eternally loved, adopted sons and daughters, who love and fear Me, and seek Me daily. Say ye to the righteous: deliver to them this message, - it could not be better.- Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him, because of the foundation he rests on, and because of his relationship with Me in the Covenant; because of what I wrought for them, and because of My boundless love to them, and My faithfulness and immutability. Say ye to the righteous; that it shall be well with him: well as to their state now, in the midst of difficulties, trials, afflictions, because ~~of the~~ ^{the} principle of the victory of Christ will issue in their deliverance. Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: well in the issue of all things." The Hymn was apposite: it has been with me over the last few weeks. "With thee it shall go well." (917) If you are in Covenant union with Him, with thee it shall go well. There is no other issue or verdict: it will end in this: with thee it shall go well. Say it, as to the finality,

"While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eye-lids close in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne." (143)

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings."

Just for a while, if the Lord gives strength and grace, I wish to continue. The Lord has helped us in the morning and the afternoon, and so I wish to say more to you. It is the province and sacred prerogative of those ordained of the Spirit to preach the gospel, in the Name of the

Trinity to say by divine warrant and holy authority,- "Say ye to the righteous," They need it. "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." It may be a message for some of you in particular. It may well be you will look back on this day and this Scripture. The Lord is speaking to you. "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." I will say a little more on holy doctrine and blessed experience, and the fruit of the righteous, and what is to be said to them. It is an amazing word,- well. It is a simple term, and it is altogether comprehensive. It is amazing to know on the earth, before God and from the mouth of God that it is well; to know it is well with your soul to day. I have not tried to find it in The Young People's Hymnal, but there is a Hymn which says; "It is well, It is well with my soul."

Before I go further I will put a penetrating question. How many ~~are~~ are able to say, It is well? to feel before God that all is well. You believe the Lord has had mercy on your soul: that He loves you eternally and has redeemed you; you are His. Sweet mercy flows into your soul as a river: you have a heavenly Home, a place of citizenship. The Lord is yours because you are His. When the Lord blesses you indeed, sheds abroad His love in your heart, grants you forgiveness, and you have sweet visits of His love and power, you enter a season of united blessing, and you can say; "It is well." I want to refer to this. The Spirit of God descends, and the cloud fills the temple, and most of the people of God in worship feel the divine presence. I felt at Brixton the descent of the Holy Ghost. It is a wonderful blessing, when you really feel as the priests when they brought the ark of the covenant into the holy oracle and the cloud filled the temple,- the glory of God. So Jesus by His Spirit comes in an amazing degree and manner as to fill the temple. You can say then; "It is well." You feel you are about on the borders of the Land: it is only over the banks and the river, and you will be Home. Wonderful to be on the borders of the Happy Land! Many of those who fear God express themselves in this language; "It is well. It is a foretaste of heaven; of the time coming "Where congregations ne'er break up, And Sabbaths have no end." Let us bless God for seasons this year in the Dicker Chapel, in London, and elsewhere, where we have felt a foretaste of heaven. There is a divine,

supernatural, heavenly influence on you, that permeates your spirit and you are filled with it: it transports you. You are caught up to His Throne and many of the people of God join and say the same. "It is well." I have wondered what it means: whether ~~the~~ time is very short for the world and ~~we~~ are close to our happy Home. It means a number of us have sweet assurance that the language is ours through grace;

"Then let me mount and soar away
To the bright world of endless day,
And sing with rapture and surprise,
His loving-kindness in the skies." (9)

Can you say the Lord has given you a few foretastes of glory this year? I cannot begin to describe it, because at Brixton I was full of fear, anxiety and weakness, and there seemed to be a heavenly power descend and carry me through. It is amazing: you know it is ethereal, heavenly. It has nothing to do with the flesh. It is a divine, almighty, efficacious influence that carries you away. You feel you would stay in this blessed frame, or go straight Home.

I want to make an observation to the glory of God to show that the Lord is with His people: there is no doubt about it. You say; "I am in a terrible, awful state of destitution." but the Lord has not forgotten to be gracious to His dear saints. Seek the same divine blessing: it would be an answer to the Hymn;

"Descend from heaven, immortal Dove,
Stopp down and take us on Thy wings,
And mount and bear us far above
The reach of these inferior things." (481)

That is what the Lord does. Some of you here,- I do not know if you have recorded it, but I am sure some have received some of the greatest blessings of life in this year. You are fully satisfied the Lord has redeemed you: your sins are forgiven, and you are going to glory, and you begin to join in the everlasting song. This is a blessed confirmation of the Text. "Say ye to the righteous,- in heavy trial and adversity,- that it shall be well with him." It is. So I will pause for you to give your answer. Could you say to day; "It is well. Yes, I believe it is with me."?

"Tis well with them while life endure,
And well when called to die." (412)

This is a great point that I have proved in life, and increasingly prove; for a child of God, one who knows Christ, he is honouring Him by trusting Him and telling Him so. He gives you a promise or two, a token for good. You are in a heavy path, and His purpose is that you trust Him. It is as though He says; "What more can I say?" Trust Him, my friends. This is one of the great lessons the Spirit teaches the people of God, not to live just according to their frames, but solidly to rest on and trust Him. You will prove the truth of the Text. If you say; "I can lift up my head and say it in the sunshine." in the darkness still trust Him. It honours the Lord, and it is so pleasing in His sight. He will honour you. "I will trust and not be afraid." This is a sign of establishment in the faith. You must not live according to superficial frames of mind. When all things dark appear, "say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him." Wonderful!

I will just reiterate the inquiry: could you say to night, It is well? Allow me to mention to you a very simple chain of thought that was with me after tea. I felt weary mentally, and I thought it would be wonderful to stretch on my bed to night. The Lord brought this to my soul. "You have got a bed to stretch yourself on: the Lord Jesus and His Covenant and His atonement." and I blessed and praised God for that bed to stretch myself on: a bed that is not too short nor the covering too narrow. If you have living faith you will stretch yourself on this bed. You are a poor sinner, and there are things you mourn over, but, "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him." Faith will enable you to stretch yourself on this bed, and you will say; "This is where I rest, and in my final moments." You have got a bed to gather your feet into, and give up the ghost and be gathered unto your people. So it was sweet to me. The thing is concerning the Text, you will know it. There is the assurance of it in your soul. You have a blessed assurance and an unctuous realisation of it in your soul. I am here with you for a while to say; "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him." You have proved it: you will prove it presently. It may not be long. "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him."

By the grace of God I will make a further observation on 'righteous', and how God makes a poor sinner a righteous person; one He eternally loves. I felt it incumbent on me to declare the things which are most surely believed among us: the holy doctrine concerning the righteous. Obviously none are righteous after the flesh. The only righteousness a poor sinner receives, and every child of God receives, is the righteousness of Another. Think of God in relation to righteousness, ~~or~~ rightness. God, as to the essential holiness and essential perfection of His glorious Being is righteous. And then when we think of the blessed Redeemer, God's only begotten Son incarnate, a special righteousness belongs to His Deity, and there is a particular righteousness attaching to His holy humanity, He is essentially, intrinsically pure and holy. I love this so much: it is strong meat to my soul and I would love to stay. Concerning His holy humanity, conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the ~~Holy Ghost~~ ^{virgin Mary} and the immaculate conception, a true body and a reasonable soul; not sinful, peccable, mortal. He could only die by a voluntary act; His perfect obedience in His holy, spotless life of obedience for us, He did it for you. His Passion and agony satisfied the demands of Justice, and there was a righteousness wrought out, and it was for His dear people; all of them: for His bride. This is divine doctrine. You say; "How can I ever know it is mine?" You will know it.

So a word on vital experience. There are degrees and stages and phases in spiritual experience. There are touch-stones: when Jesus was made known to you; when the sun shone into your poor, dark, benighted soul, and a precious, lovely, loving Saviour was discovered by the Holy Ghost to your poor soul. When the dear, loving, adorable Person makes known His love to you,- the days of espousals; these are some of the best days on earth, when Jesus shows Himself, showing Himself through the lattice of the gospel, you run after Him. He gives you the first kiss of His mouth, fills your breast with His love. You live for Christ and His gospel, you will know He loves you. O the beauty and blessedness of love; when you get a time of love! The Lord liberates your soul, sets you free and brings to your soul a realisation of your eternal salvation and security. Your soul is happy and free: you know you are going to glory. At that time you will know God has made you a righteous person, You cannot find one sin,- gone. You say;

"Is that possible? I seem to be all sin." Oh yes! it is impossible to find one sin: they are drowned in the sea; behind His back. Your soul is enraptured and you are brought into an ecstasy of joy. I want to speak as to a personal knowledge of it. The day to go to the altar of God comes, and the bride puts on her wedding garment. A wonderful day it is if it is a happy and blessed union, and you have never put it on before. You are assisted, and you stretch out your arms and put it on. It is the same with the righteousness of Christ. The Father said concerning the prodigal; "Bring forth the best robe." It is there. God has this for all His dear people, and both arms and hands of faith will stretch out. God will impute it, ascribe it to you. It is yours. There is nothing to equal it on the face of the earth; to be arrayed in the perfect obedience of a dear Redeemer. " rendered fit with Christ to feast,

And be the guest of God." (805)

-for the marriage supper of the Lamb, and you know the Lord has made you righteous in Him. "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him.

If you are saying these truths dazzle your sight, aren't you glad they do? If you feel your need and desire, bring it forth. I tell you, before you die you will have a wedding garment. He will prepare for you a bright abode. God views you in His dear Son, and He says; "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him," These days are days of holy transport in the soul. Talk about the world fading completely! You will know what it is to feel you are nearly in heaven. With a righteous person there is a righteous, godly life and spirit. O the solemnity, sacredness, reverence! the godly, filial fear and humility! You can feel the influence of such a person in the home or the Chapel: a righteous influence. It breaks your heart to get near such a person. You say; "How rich, favoured they are! They are living on the borders of the Land." "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him."

Why say it? why? They know it is well. There is a reason why. With righteous people the third part is brought through the fire, and, it is through much tribulation that they enter the Kingdom. These dear souls usually have the roughest path to tread, and they go into sore adversity, and they know what it is to suffer being ~~tempted~~ tempted. They have a path

of affliction, trial, adversity, distress as did Job. He said; "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." These things go together: this is the path you will tread. There are precious souls to day my heart goes out to: they are pleading every moment for this. Because of it He says; "Say ye to the righteous," Tell them: keep telling them. "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him." Well now, because you are on the Rock, because the Lord loves you and has redeemed you, your sins are forgiven; He is your Father, Saviour, Friend, Advocate, Counsellor, He has prepared a place for you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. So say it: that is why I am here, to say to the righteous that it shall be well with him.

"for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." I can only give a brief comment on this. My mind was led to the fruit of the doings of a Surety and Substitute: these they will eat, They stand in a Substitute, therefore they shall eat the fruit of what Christ has done for them. They shall eat of the fruit of peace, reconciliation, lovingkindness, tender mercy, compassion. "They have pleaded with Me. They have gone to the Father using My Name. I told them; whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. They shall eat the fruit of My doings, flowing from the Covenant of Grace: the fruit of answers to prayer. They shall eat this." "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him." Amen.