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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham
on Saturday evening 11.9.76

Hymns 345, 277

Reading 1 Peter 1.109 and Psalm 1

In these choice verses the Apostle Peter is writing to the stranger scattered abroad in these different countries, not strangers to God, but strangers to the world in which they are living. He refers to their blessed standing, their election according to the divine foreknowledge of God the Father. This precedes all experience and all ultimate issues that follow. Here they are, here we see them secure, although we may often doubt our personal case but here they are "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father", and everyone of them will be in heaven one day, as many of them are, and many since the Apostle Peter wrote this Epistle. What a wonderful mercy if you and I are incorporated in this divine decree - unalterable - no change of circumstances or the concerns of this poor passing world can alter it. They are elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. Every one of them is eternally known, eternally appointed unto eternal salvation, but it is not designed that they shall have a bed of roses down here because the Apostle refers to "the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire". This is not just a little passing inconvenience but something to put us to the test and to prove whether our religion is real or not. When the trial is sanctified to us it is made precious, not till then. "The trial of your faith being much more precious" has a wonderful issue awaiting it, a wonderful consummation, it is "found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ".

So beloved friends we can look back to God's eternal decrees, we can view the present situation - the Lord's dear people passing through this wilderness below - we can in some measure, with faith, anticipate their eternal joy and happiness that is reserved for them in heaven, an "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away". May the Lord bless our souls, make us right if we are not right, turn out everything wrong, give us to read our title clear and to rejoice in the love of God and the pardon of our sins and the hope of an interest in electing, dying love. Amen.

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