

Sunday

Afternoon.

LIBRARY OF THE
GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

Hymns 402, 249 763.

ST John.
Reading 4 to ver: 80.

Text Phil: 3 ch: ver: 10,LL.

We tried to speak a little about this word this morning, & this afternoon we will try to speak of the experience of it, & the persons to whom it belongs. There is one point about this birth that clearly marks out the people to whom it belongs, that is love. There is not a nobler desire in the world than to know Him. The soul that really knows it, finds it. Happiness in proving it..If the knowledge of Christ in your heart would not bring a joy beyond words, you dont want to know Him in a right way. If God has really brought you to want to know Him unto Eternal life, you have something beyond sheer necessity in your heart, you want to know Him, besides needing to know him. Every heart seeks happiness, & that is why the world is constantly on the move. Here & there you find one or two who find more happiness in the knowledge of Christ than all the world can give.

There are moments in your secret experience when you can look up to God & tell Him one word of His sweet mercy brings more comfort than anything else in the world. There are no unwilling people in Christ's kingdom, they would live there if they could. You will not find earthly happiness without a thorn in it. There is no sorrow in knowing Christ formed in the heart as the hope of glory.

In Roman history at the time of Paul a victorious emperor brought home all his spoils, & he said he only wanted one thing to make his happiness complete. that was, that it might continue. Endurance is a feature of the love of Christ. Blindness of men choose anything rather than things that will endure for ever. How is it I find some sweetness in waiting for thee? A child of God finds more glory in seeking God than in anything else in the World. To think that every thing your soul is wrapped up, in Christ alone. up in, is wrapped up in Christ alone. There is nothing you need or desire outside him.

You will want to know him as he manifested to his dear people. According to God's word there is no acceptance as sinners. Souls are washed in his made clean through his atonement, before they are brought near to God. What is it to know Christ crucified? Faith believes in his person in his office as a ransom and a soul can sometimes creep beside him as this, the Apostle wanted to find his sins covered by the atonement. You will never come to a point about the atonement of Christ by a near head-knowledge of sin. When you have sought the knowledge of Christ have you not been willing to lay down all things that you thought were a credit to you and being willing to see him to see him bleed for you. If the Lord searches your heart and makes you willing to creep to him and see in his death his willingness to save you there is love in this as well as necessity. Has God ever made you want to love him like this? Have you an experience that is never settled unless you do?

God has done something for you, he has made you want to know him in a right way. The father has committed a judgement in to his hand. Lord speak into my heart, let there be svour with it, that it may settle this exercise in my heart. If you can rest your soul on any thing less your religion is not of God. You can go so far as to speak of a want of Christ and yet to live without the word of Christ to confirm you, it will never take you to Heaven. If God brought you before the throne of judgement this day could you produce Christs seal of your acceptance? A child of God wants to know God as one able to speak with authority. That is why you want your Bible to be a guide to Heaven. This is a right way of wanting to know Him. If you have a religion that will depend on less , it cannot be right. Here and there you will get a glimpse of the glory of God, and you will feel there is no union between one so holy and one so sin bound, but you will see in the person of Christ all the fulness of God, so that if you

kwew him you would see God. Pilate looked on Jesus and said behold the man. This is the verdict of the world. John said behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. This is a view of grace, you will say Lord do teach me that I may see him as John did. You may get as low as not to have one real exercise in your heart and no real understanding of his truth, and you do not wonder at it, but you long to have one glimpse of him, so that you could fall at his feet and worship. The poor blind man said, "Lord who is he that I may believe" he did not recognise him, although he had opened his eyes, but the poor man soon believed and worshipped him. You may feel alone and sometimes cast out, if Christ comes to you he will say, "Thou hast seen him and he it is that talketh with thee". He will manifest it one day, if you have a humble desire, still cleave to it. To know the power of his resurrection is declared in the word of God To be the glory of the father that raised Christ from the dead.

The Apostle wanted to know this, so will you to lift you from the death and desolation you are in. You will keep close to gracious things, but only Gods admighty power can lift you up. You say and feel unless God in his rich mercy put forth his hand I shall never be any different from what I am now. You want the power of Gods resurrection put forward. In April my deacon gave out hymn 182, and in my hymnbook at home there is a mark round the fourth verse -:

"
 When frowns appear to veil his face,
 And clouds surround His throne,
 He hides the purpose of His grace,
 To make it better known".

And was a word from Heaven to me. About a fortnight later I was laid aside. I have come to a point that the power of Christs resurrections is manifested in a child of Gods heart from day to day.

"The the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable unto his death"

Christ endured suffering because of sin, and a child of God wants a heart broken by sin, and capable

of feeling the smart of it, he wants to die
to evrything except God, if by any means he might
attain to the resurrections of ~~the~~ dead.