SERMON BY REV. BOWERSOX

(Continued from first page)

a final testimony to His true divinity. The great storm of His troubled earthly life was now over.

The angry billows, that had lashed and frothed and rolled over Him in their fury, subsided; and lo, there was a great calm.

Like a weary child, welcoming sleep on its mother's bossom, though thorns were His pillow, and the cross His hard, unyielding bed, Jesus died.

A King in life, He remained a King in death. No wonder that even rationalists like a Rosseau, deeply impressed thereby, have admitted: Jesus Christ died like a god.

Again, this last word of Jesus from the cross gives us new light on the soul's state after death.

By nature we know absolutely nothing about death, except that it is the sad but universal fate of the children of men.

All else that we know about it with any degree of certainty, we know only through the revelations vouchsafed to us in God's word; and while even that does not tell us all that we might desire to know about death, it tells us all that we need to know in this life, for our salvation.

Without the revelations of that divine word, we would know neither what death is, nor whither it leads.

The realm of death would then be to us an unknown land, and all our theories about it would be but the wildest speculations.

All purely human attempts to throw light upon it have failed, and necessarily must fail, because every avenue to its approach for investigation from this side of the grave is cut off from us by a veil of impenetrable mystery.

God's word alone gives us the needed light upon this subject; and in that word it is especially Jesus, who has given us most of our knowledge of the mysterious realm beyond the portals of death.

He who Himself came from the great beyond, who spake of what He knew, and testified of what He had seen, who Himself passed through the portals of death, and came forth living from the tomb, has given us His testimony, and we believe His witness.

Here, then with His last utterence from the cross, spoken on the very threshold of death, He lifted for a moment, as it were, the veil separating this life from the future, so that a ray of heavenly light filtered through, and came glimmering into these mists of earth, to enlighten our minds and cheer our hearts.

Father, into Thy hands, I commend my spirit, with these sacred words our Savior now bowed His head in death, and gave over not His divine nature, but His human soul, into the safe care and keeping of the Heavenly Father's almighty and loving hands.

As a precious treasure, Jesus commended, gave over, entrusted, His soul, for a time, into those faithful hands, to reclaim it again at His resurrection on the glorious Easter morn.

Now we know, by this additional assurance from His sacred lips, that the human soul is immortal, that it is not annihilated by death, that its continued existence does not cease; but that the soul lives on after death, and that the grave is not its goal.

Now we know that, for the believer in Jesus, death does not mean a step into the dim and dread unknown, like a blind groping in a fog, or an uncertain plunge over the edge of a precipice in the dark.

Now we know that for the child of God death is not a passing away into nothingness or uncertainty, but that it is a blessed going home to the Father, and to the full and undisturbed enjoyment of the promised inheritance of the saints in light.

It is but the gateway, beyond which lie the brilliant fields of Paradise, with the glorious and many-mansioned abode of the Father, in the Beautiful City beyond the hills, where the Lamb is the light thereof.

Now we know that death is not a sleep of oblivion, as Cato soliloquized, and as some sects teach; nor a migration of the soul through numerous changes and varying states, as heathen of old speculated, and as modern errorists have revived and redressed those speculations.

Now we know that at death the soul leaves the body and returns to God for judgment.

Then the soul of the child of God is safe in the care and keeping of the heavenly Father.

There it awaits the resurrection morn, when its body also will be raised glorified, and will be reunited with it.

And there, in the meantime, it enjoys bliss unspeakable and pleasures forevermore in the kingdom of glory, in that Paradise of God, whither Jesus's soul went at death, where He promised to receive the soul of the penitent thief, when He said: "To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise," and where He promised to receive the souls of all His faithful followers, when He declared: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

Finally, let us not fail to note how, in this last word from the cross, Jesus gives us a precious example how we should meet death aright.

Soon we also must go the way of all flesh. Many of us are yet in the prime of life, others even in the first fresh bloom of youth, when hope beats high and death seems far away.

But, swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; and soon, for each of us, life's curfew will toll the knell of parting day; for, here have we no continuing city.

And when death's kunckles are heard knocking at our door, that experience for us will be no child's play.

It is no easy thing to die. With right, death has been called the King of Terrors; for, death is the wages of sin.

It entered the world as a curse; and, since we are all sinners, presses its claim against us.

Death ushers the soul before the judgment bar of the incorruptible and righteous Judge of all the earth, and ends for us the time of grace. Therefore, if the preparation for meeting it is not complete then, it is too late.

What a serious admonition to make the proper preparation in time?

Aside from the physical pain to be endured, and the natural shrinking from the dread ordeal of the unnatural separation of soul and body that God meant should be together, aside from the cruel severing of tender cords of affection binding us to loved ones left behind, that which makes death so dreadful, is especially the spiritual struggle which it brings.

Then the tempter comes to make his last and probably fiercest assaults upon the soul, accusing it of its many sins, and seeking to drive it to doubt and despair.

Who will then be able to help the soul to conquer in that last battle with the subtle adversary who hesitated not even to match swords with our Lord Jesus?

Then no earthly power can help. Our friends and relatives will stand by our bedside, sorrowfully beholding our struggle, but helpless to succor us.

Then Jesus alone can be our hope and refuge, who said: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me." Then, in that final struggle, when, like Jacob at Jabbok, we wrestle in the darkness at the ford of death. He alone can help us in calm faith and unshaken hope to commend our spirits into the Father's hand He alone, who Himself was dead, but behold He liveth, and holds in His pierced hands the keys of death and hell.

Therefore Jesus has gone before through the dark valley, that they who, through fear of death were all their life-time subject to bondage, might be delivered and have peace.

From Him, then, let us learn how to meet death aright; namely, with child-like trust in God's word and promises, and with heartfelt prayer for His strengthening and sustaining grace.

Note that Jesus met death with God's word on His lips and in His heart. As through His entire life that Word had been His constant companion and source of strength and comfort, so now, in the hour of death.

What an example for our admonition? Use your Bible more diligently, meditate, more faithfully and live more fully in that word, and it will not fail you in death.

The child of God that by daily and devout use of God's word has become intimately acquainted therewith and steeped in its spirit, will have, in the hour of death a blessed fund of Scripture truth, to strengthen and comfort, to sustain and keep him in that trying hour.

But he, who all through life neglected his Bible, and time and again forsook the services of God's house, thus despising preaching and God's word, need not be surprised in death to be forsaken by Him who said: "Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee."

Note also that Jesus died with prayer on His lips. His entire life had been a most intimate communion with God in prayer, a fulfilment of the scripture injunction: Continuing instant in prayer.

What an example that also gives us for our admonition? Pray more earnestly, pray more frequently, for, if true prayer was never learned before, it will scarcely be possible to learn it then, in the presence of death. Simply to say: Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit, will not help then, if that be not the expression of real faith.

And if you were never truly concerned about your soul's welfare in days of health and strength, so as to make your calling and election sure, a few pious sighs will not make everything right again in the hour of death.

He who would die blessed, must be able to pray as Jesus did here, not only with the lips, but in true sincerity with the heart.

In such prayerful and believing contemplation of Jesus passion, death, and resurrection, the child of God finds his only hope and comfort in life and death.

Having lived in blessed communion with God through faith in Jesus all-atoning blood and merits as his only hope, he can fearlessly face death, for him no longer the King of terrors, but now by grace of God a welcome friend and deliverer.

Looking unto Jesus, he can say: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

Yes, reconciled to God by the death of His Son, he can even breathe out his spirit with these consecrated words of Jesus:

Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit.

How many of God's saints have pillowed their heads in peace upon that prayer as they went to their last rest?

That was the dying prayer of Stephen, Polycarp, Bernard, Huss, Luther and Melanchthon.

So may we meet death when it comes. Let me die the death of the righteous; let my last end be like his.

And, as life's taper burns low and one by one flicker and go out, we shall not be left in darkness, for Jesus will be with us, the Light of the world, who has said:

"He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

"Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with Me?" —Amen.

MILLERS

Mr. and Mrs. George Hoover spent several days the past week visiting relatives at Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry K. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Miller, and son Earl, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Miller, and Misses Fern, Ruthetta and Luella Miller spent last Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Martin, of near Hampstead.

Mrs. Mary Krebs and Mr. John Krebs, of Baltimore, spent last Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Kerchner.

Last Friday evening, March 23rd, a surprise party was given Mr. William Graf, it being his 35 birthday. It was a complete surprise as Mr. Graf was unaware of the occasion. The evening was pleasantly spent, although the weather was very unpleasant. Refreshments were served. At a late hour all departed to their homes wishing Mr. Graf many more happy birthdays. Those present were: Messrs. and Mesdames Hatton Sullivan, Nelson Garrett, Lloyd Miller, Everett Miller, Howard Garrett and children, Jesse Hare and children, Raymond Stree, Martin Kelley, William Gray, Oscar Garrett; Mesdames Charles Mc. Frederick and John Graf; Misses Lottie Hare and Margarette Giller, and Messrs. Russell Albin, Milton Miller, Murray Miller, Harold and Kenneth Sullivan and Melvin Miller.

Mr. Edwin Shaffer and friends, of Baltimore, spent last Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hare. Mrs. S. H. Hare is still confined to her bed.

Mrs. Preston Bollinger spent last Thursday visiting relatives at Glenville.

Mrs. Amanda Lessner, of Hanover, spent several days the past week among friends here.

EASTVIEW

Those who called on Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bitzel and were entertained on Tuesday evening of last week were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Klee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wicks, Mr. and Mrs. John Conaway, Mrs. Kate Conaway, Misses Elizabeth Klee, Elsie Conaway, and Ethel Bitzel, and Robert Bitzel and Ollie Bailey.

Mrs. Ernest Wolfe, of Ogg's Summit, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Thomas Jones, one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Conaway entertained on Saturday evening and Sunday last Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Saddles, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wicks, Mrs. Kate Conaway, Messrs. Ernest Shower, William Barber, Ollie Bailey, of this place and Mr. C. H. Leppo, of Roland Park, Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ogg were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Leppo on Sunday evening last.

Those who called on Mr. and Mrs. Harry Klee on Tuesday evening of this week were Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bitzel, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wicks, Mr. and Mrs. John Conaway, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Carr and family, Mrs. Kate Conaway, Misses Ethel Bitzel and Elsie Conaway and Ollie Bailey and Robert Bitzel.

Mrs. Charles Wicks and her mother, Mrs. Kate Conaway, spent Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. William Hoffman, of Ogg's Summit.

We are very sorry to hear of the illness of Mr. George Klee, who was our former neighbor. We hope for a speedy recovery.

Mr. Ray Hook, who has been having trouble with his eye, went to Baltimore this past week for treatment.

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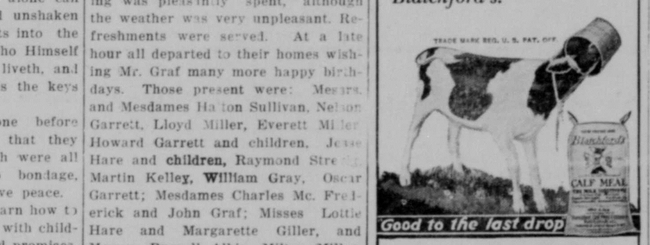
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COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE

Hereafter, and until further notice the County Commissioners of Carroll County will meet at their office in Westminster every Mondy and Tuesday of each week for the transaction of business.

By order,

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CARROLL COUNTY, IN EQUITY. NO. 5141 EQUITY.

EX PARTE

In the Matter of the closing of the affairs and dissolution of the NEW WINDSOR ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER COMPANY, a body corporate.

Upon the aforegoing bill of complaint and exhibits, it is this 8th day of March, 1923, by the Circuit Court for Carroll County, sitting as a Court of Equity, ordered that all persons interested in the said New Windsor Electric Light and Water Company, a body corporate, shall show cause, if any they have, on or before the 9th day of April, 1923, why the said New Windsor Electric Light and Water Company should not be dissolved on the 16th day of April, 1923, provided a copy of this order shall be published once a week in each of four successive weeks prior to 2nd day of April, 1923, in some newspaper published in Carroll county.

WM. H. THOMAS.

True Copy, Test:
Edwin M. Mellor, Jr., Clerk.
3-9-4t

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