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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

By the Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D. D.

April 8th—Why We Believe In Immortality. I Cor. 15:16-23.

Easter is a suitable day on which to contemplate the subject of immortality. It is the day on which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On this day He brought life and immortality to light. Easter is a day full of hope and joy. Its message is that of life, eternal life. On this day we celebrate a victory over death and the grave. The whole subject of immortality, however, is veiled in mystery. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." There have been a great many conjectures. Men have advanced their theories. They have given up some and brought forth others. There are those who dismiss the whole subject with a wave of the hand and declare that this is all of life, that there is no future and no beyond. There are others whose faith in immortality is so strong and resolute that they are willing to stake their all upon it. They are confident that there is something beyond the present life—that behind the veil there is life in even richer and fuller measure than here on earth. Of course, this fact cannot be proven by any authentic formula nor even by scientific theories. It is one of those great, spiritual truths, which must be believed rather than demonstrated. It is a matter of faith, rather than of proof. All the great realities of our religion are matters of faith. They must be believed. They cannot be demonstrated like a theorum in geometry. They belong to a different order. They must be spiritually discerned. We believe in immortality not because it has been proved, but because it commends itself to our spiritual faculties of discernment.

There are, however, many evidences of immortality which lead us to its acceptance as a spiritual fact.

First—the Bible says so. Now, things are not necessarily so because they are in the Bible, but the Bible is the revelation of God through the life and experience of the people through many ages, who believed in Him. The Old Testament saints believed in a hereafter. They probably had some crude conception of it, nevertheless there was something in their nature which told them that this life was not all of life, but that the soul has had elsewhere its setting and its rising. Job raised the question. "If a man die shall he live again?" And he answered it by saying, 'I wait until my change comes." When we cross the threshold of the New Testament the radiant hope of immortality bursts into full bloom. Jesus taught it and illustrated it in His own life. "He is not here; He is risen," the angel said. The Apostle Paul proclaimed it over and over again: "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." The Bible everywhere teaches and takes it for granted that there is a life beyond.

Second—Nature says so. God has written His revelation not only in the Bible, but also in the great book of nature. We set it in the fresh springtime that bursts over all the earth. We read it in every blade of grass, in every budding tree. We see it in foliage and flower. There is a resurrection in the world of nature. Nothing is ever lost there. Nature fulfills the mandate of Christ: "Let nothing be lost." Apparently there is death at work, but in reality nothing ever dies. It is transformed, changed from one stage and state into another. The leaf falls from the tree only to rise again in another form and so the seasons come and go and death and life follow each other in the great procession. There is only change, but never utter destruction. The worm that crawls at my feet in due time bursts into a butterfly and feeds on honey. If God can do that, if He can change such a vile creature into such a beautiful form with colored wings, can He not also change this vile body of mine into a glorified body fitted for another realm in God's great universe? God's House is very large. "In my Father's House are many mansions" and we move from one mansion into another. Nature teaches us this great lesson even if revelation has not taught it to us, so that the Indian saw the great Spirit in the setting sun and beheld Him in the rising sun and knew that there were realms beyond the setting sun. So man in every land and clime has either dimly or clearly read in the book of nature the great truth of immortality.

Third—Instinct says so. Our souls were made for God and we are restless until we rest in Him. God would never have put these intimations of immortality into our hearts if there were not something real to correspond therewith and in which they would find fulfillment. The very fact that God gave us eyes to see implies that there is light in which to see. If there were no light we would need no eyes. Because we have ears there must be sound. So likewise because there are these longings within the soul there must be that which corresponds to them and fulfills them, otherwise God would have mocked His every creation. The complement of this life, therefore, is the life beyond. God would not have put the mother-heart into women if there were not somewhere in the universe the child that would respond to it. He would not have put these hopes and longings and aspirations into our hearts and then fooled us at the end. Only because there is a place prepared for us whither Jesus has gone and where He now is do we have this feeling for fellowship, this homesickness of the soul within us, and there it shall be realized and fulfilled and we shall be satisfied when we awake in His likeness. The soul there will be at home.

Fourth—Our present life demands it. We see the force of this statement more fully in the life of Jesus. For thirty years He prepared Himself for His life's work and then engaged in active ministry for three years when He was put to death by cruel men. We all feel that if that had been the end His life would have been very incomplete. What is the use of so much preparation when life shall be cut off so abruptly? This is likewise true in the lives of other men. There are some such noble and radiant souls that when they pass from us they must still live. It cannot be that God was so careful in the making and then when the realization was almost at hand He cut them down and all the process of their previous life went for naught. Somehow our incomplete life here would seem to demand a realm where our lives might be rounded out and where our aspirations and our ideals might be realized. Here we are burdened, here we are often defeated, sorely pressed. Here we have weights that weigh us down. Our wings are clipped. We cannot mount and soar as we would. We are like birds beating against the cage of our imprisonment. There are forces stirring within us that cry to be released. At death we break the bonds and rise into the full freedom of our spirits. But the future life will be not only a continuation of the present life, but something of a finer and higher order. Our last thought here will be our first thought there. Our choicest ideals here will find their finest fulfillment there. So we pass from glory unto glory. "It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Spring Time Money Saving Sale

Forged Steel Spading Fork	98c
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Barney & Berry Roller Skates $1.69 and	$1.79
16-in. Ball Bearing Lawn Mower	$9.98
All Steel Coaster Wagon	$4.98
2-blade Stag Handle Pocket Knives	49c
Steel blade Garden Trowels	23c
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Stainless Steel Paring Knives	19c
Simmons Wheel Barrow .	$5.49
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Simmons Combination Brush set	98c
Boy Scout Axe	98c
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Steel Wool	5c
5 & 6 ft. Folding Rule ...	29c
Floor Mops	59c
Can Openers	9c
Soap Savers	9c
Dover Egg Beaters	16c
Extension Sink Strainers.	19c
Chore Balls	10c
Tin Funnels	5c
Food Choppers	$1.29
Toilet Clippers	89c
Barber Shears	89c
Bread Knives	23c
Corn Poppers	19c
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Improved Uniform International

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
(©, 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for April 8

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST (EASTER LESSON)

LESSON TEXT—Mark 16:1-20.
GOLDEN TEXT—Because I live ye shall live also.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Comes to Life Again.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Christ Rises from the Grave.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jesus, Our Living Leader.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Power of the Resurrection.

I. The Ministry of Love (vv. 1-1)

1. By whom (v. 1). Mary Magdalene, the mother of James and Salome. They brought sweet spices with which to anoint Him.

2. When? (v. 2) Early in the morning of the first day of the week.

3. Their perplexity (vv. 3, 4). They questioned as to who should roll away the large stone from the mouth of the tomb. To their surprise they found the stone removed.

II. The Angel in the Tomb (vv 5-8)

Jesus knew that these women would come to the sepulcher with perplexed and unbelieving hearts so He had an angel waiting there to announce to them the fact of His resurrection. Note the angel's message:

1. "Be not afraid" (v. 6).

2. "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified" (v. 6). This threefold designation with marvelous clearness shows (1) His humanity—Jesus. (2) Lowly residence—Nazareth. (3) Ignominious death—crucified.

3. "He is risen; He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him" (v. 6). These words throw light upon His birth, humility and shameful death. He who was born in lowly circumstances and suffered the shameful death on the cross, is now the conqueror of death. His resurrection gives meaning to His death. "If Christ be not risen your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17).

4. "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter" (v. 7). As soon as it was known that Christ was risen from the dead they were to tell it to the disciples. The disciples all needed this blessed news, but Peter especially, since He had utterly denied Him.

5. "He goeth before you into Galilee, there shall ye see Him" (v. 7). Christ had told the disciples that He would rise from the dead and meet them in Galilee, but their unbelief kept them from this blessed truth.

III. The Appearances of the Risen Christ (vv. 9-14).

These appearances had as their object the restoration of the disciples from their awful failure and discouragement and convincing them without a peradventure of a doubt of Christ's resurrection. Since His resurrection was to be the central theme of apostolic preaching, it was necessary that they have a certainty of knowledge as to this matter (Acts 1:3). Without the resurrection of Christ His death would be meaningless. Out of the ten or more appearances, Mark selects three.

1. To Mary Magdalene (vv. 9-11). Mary's heart responded to the Savior who had graciously delivered her from demons. Her sufferings were no doubt terrible. She was first at the tomb; her devotion was amply rewarded by being first to meet the risen Lord. Though her faith was weak she went at once and told the story to the disciples.

2. To two disciples on the way to Emmaus (vv. 12, 13). Luke gives full particulars concerning this appearance (Luke 24:13-25). Jesus had walked, talked and eaten with them.

3. The eleven disciples (v. 14). Christ appeared to them while sitting at meat and reproved them for their unbelief. The fact that they steadfastly resisted the testimony that Christ had risen, and yet afterward were willing to risk their lives in the proclamation of this truth proves the genuineness of their faith.

IV. The Commission of the Risen Lord (vv. 15-18).

After the disciples were convinced of the truth of His resurrection, Christ sent them forth to "preach the gospel to every creature." What a glorious and supreme task is this. What a blessed issue to those who believe and how awful to them that believe not. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (v. 16).

V. The Activity of the Enthroned Christ (vv. 19, 20).

After giving the disciples their commission He ascended on high and from the unseen sphere directed their activities. Wherever they went He confirmed their word. He does the same for His disciples today.

Our Thoughts

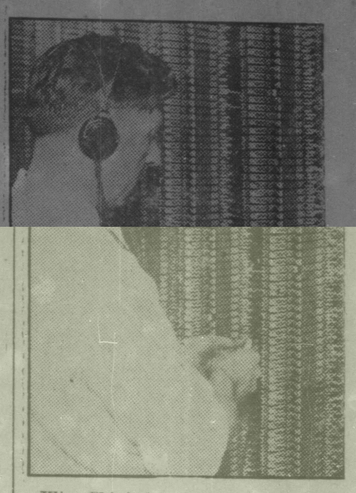
We should manage our thoughts as shepherds do their flowers in making a garland; first, select the choicest, and then dispose them in the most proper places, that every one may reflect a part of its color and brightness on the next.—Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The Presence of God

Man is more blessed or less blessed in the same measure as he is aware of the presence of God.—John Tauler.

EVERY DAY MOVING DAY IN TELEPHONE COMPANY

Location of Over 41,000 Stations Changed Last Year Officials State



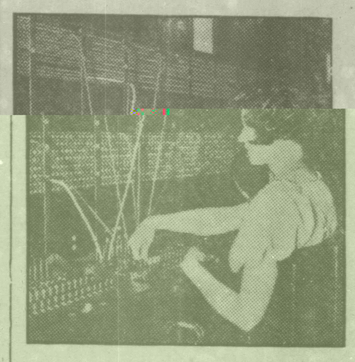
Wire Chief changing a telephone line on the central office main frame.

In the telephone company every day is moving day. Last year more than 41,000 telephones were moved from one location to another in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, say officials of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company and associated companies.

Moving telephone equipment may include the telephone or bell box on one's premises, or private branch exchange switchboards from the largest multiple type connecting hundreds of telephones to the smaller monitor or cordless switchboards which connect only six telephones. In certain cities there are regular moving seasons and thousands of people plan their moving days months ahead, but unfortunately the majority overlook taking the telephone company into their confidence. They seem to think that moving a telephone is a small job and that it is only necessary to call the telephone business office a day or two before the actual move is made and expect to have the service all ready by the time the household goods arrive. However, this is far from being a true statement of the facts, telephone officials state.

The telephone company is anxious to have as much notice as possible as to when people are going to move and where. By giving the company advance notice it is able to marshall its forces and plan the work so that there may be as few interruptions to service as possible. Those who put off notifying the management until the last minute will more often than not be disappointed in the time that it takes to have the service re-established in their new location.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS' VOICE PLEASES PUBLIC



"THANK YOU"

The telephone operator with a pleasant, animated voice, with a ready and cheerful reply, is more than a telephone operator. She is an important part of the institution. It is here where the customer or prospect gives his signs, your signal, his rap to get in.

Did you ever notice that a fraternal society always has a cheerful, well-liked man at the outside wicket? It's something to think about.—Silent Partner, New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON SERVICE PROTECTED BY CABLE

Less Than Six Per Cent of Telephone Wire in Md., Va., W. Va., and D. C. Now Open Lines

Washington, the nation's capital, has one of the most modern and best protected telephone plants in the world. During a severe snow and wind storm recently, only 11 of the 144,000 telephones connected with the switchboards of that city were put out of service although snow drifts piled up; the wind howled and the icy hand of winter held the city in its grasp.

On the day of the storm Washington telephone users made about 690,000 calls; about 90,000 more than are made on normal days, telephone officials say. Washington is now served by more than 535,000 miles of telephone wire of which 99.3 per cent is in cable.

In Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, there are now more than 2,952,000 miles of wire serving the telephone systems of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company and associated companies. Of this total wire mileage, 94.6 per cent is in cable, officials of the telephone company state.

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