

GLAD TIDINGS, or

Believe And Live

by

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

WORKING FOR JESUS

IT is a source of sublime satisfaction to reflect that the cause of CHRIST on earth is destined to enjoy a perfect triumph.

We have the authority of GOD's word for believing that long as the sun shall shine long as the moon sends her silvery beams across the world, the name of JESUS shall thrill human hearts with the magic of its power.

The Lord whom we serve is erecting a spiritual temple upon the Rock of Ages, and **“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”**

Amid the rising and the falling of empires, amid the rush and the conflict of hostile parties, in spite of the unholy intrigues of political schemers, and the proud boasts of infidel blasphemers, that temple shall continue to increase in strength and loveliness, till the top stone is brought forth amid shoutings of grace, grace!

But how is a result so glorious to be brought about?

- Not by a time-serving policy, and a spirit of unholy compromise on the part of GOD's people;
- Not by keeping in the background the great truths of the Gospel for which Apostles contended even unto death;
- Not by splitting GOD's truth into portions, and calling them essential and non-essential, important and unimportant, in order to suit the taste and to gain the favor of a degenerate world.

No.

If truth is to triumph it must be by the display of a spirit the very reverse of all this; a spirit which bows with the profoundest reverence before the whole of the revealed will of GOD, and cherishes every part of Gospel truth as its life and strength, a spirit which, while it loves the whole body of the faithful, called by what name they may, and while it weeps burning tears over a perishing world, still adheres with stern resolution to the laws and established order of CHRIST's kingdom, and had rather die a thousand deaths than yield up a single fragment of "**the truth as it is in Jesus.**"

This was the spirit of the great Captain of our salvation; this the spirit which inspired the faithful in all ages, and the man who possesses it leaves the impress of his own lofty character upon society, and occupies the high and honorable position of a faithful witness for GOD.

Much is said in the present day about Christian charity, and of the necessity of its controlling the judgment we form of those who differ from us in opinion.

Now it is vastly important that we should possess that charity which is first of all the graces, and without which the most high-sounding professions are but an empty name.

But there is a principle, which passes current in society for Christian charity, which has nothing of charity but the name.

- True charity is the child of heaven; this has its birth of earth.
- True charity rejoices in the truth; this sacrifices truth to expediency.
- True charity is hated by the world; this by the wicked is rapturously applauded.
- True charity thinks of what is right, and leaves consequences with GOD; this thinks of consequences first, and leaves the right to be the child of circumstances.
- True charity "**rejoiceth only in the truth.**" It boldly adheres to what is right, rather than to what is popular, and undaunted by the cry of bigotry which the ignorant and the designing may raise against it,
- True charity "**contends earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.**" It says, "I fear GOD and I know no other fear."

Dear Reader, I entreat you to cherish unshaken confidence in the power of truth. Truth in the hand of The Lord is omnipotent, men may shackle it they may imprison it - they may for a time bury it amid the rankest errors, and the most unseemly and unspoken evils; but loose its shackles, give it room for operation, and it will arise fresh and immortal, and dispel everything around it that wants the impress of its own holy nature.

It says nothing against the power of truth, that error is sometimes so prevalent, that it seems to triumph over it.

As well might we argue against the pervading nature of light, because there are many dungeons in the world that have never been visited by a single ray. When we darken our houses by shutting our doors, and keeping out the light from our windows, is this held as evidence that light is less powerful than darkness?

I fear there are many professing Christians in the present day who have very little faith in the power of truth, or in the overruling providence of GOD; for they will not breathe a syllable against popular error, till they have measured and ascertained to a nicety, the length and breadth of consequences; and how far they may safely venture without giving offence. Why are men so much afraid of consequences now?

O, that like Noah, and Daniel, and Paul, they would but do their duty, and trust GOD with results!

Why should we suspect GOD's fidelity? Why should we act as if he were a Being who sees no distinction between right and wrong, and who is ever ready to abandon the cause of truth and holiness, which He has sworn to maintain? Why should we act as if he were in the habit of breaking his word, and leaving in their trying moments, those who speak truth and work righteousness?

Beloved reader, my prayer for you is that you may be bold for the truth, and that a double portion of the Spirit of GOD may be given you, that when the storms of opposition from the world begin to rage around you, you may feel the pleasant light of the sun of righteousness shining upon your soul, and stand

"Like some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale and midway leaves the storm,
Around whose base while rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

These lines present the picture of a "great head," rising superior to detraction, and fixing a single eye upon the Saviour, while sore beset by the world's opposition. It is such a picture as is presented in the first Christian martyr the devoted Stephen. Think of what that God-like man saw ere he forgave his enemies, and "**fell asleep.**"

"**Behold,**" said he, "**I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**"

He saw JESUS, not sitting, but standing.

Now it is said, "**When he had by himself purged our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**" and when he ascended the Father said to him, as evidence that his work was accepted, - "**Sit on my right hand, till I make thy enemies thy foot-stool.**"

But when JESUS looked down, and saw the dauntless Stephen defending his cause single-handed, in the midst of bloody men, he stood up to receive and welcome the soul of His servant. Like Joseph with his brethren, he could no longer refrain himself.

O, who can tell with what intense interest the Prince of Martyrs stood and gazed upon him who was proving faithful unto death! Glorious sight! Well might Stephen "**rejoice in spirit**" when he saw that Almighty gush of tenderness towards him.

There he saw a Saviour who more than died a thousand deaths for him, and whose sounding bowels longing for his embrace, parted the sky asunder, and made the way to heaven ready, ere he was ready to enter.

Well may he strike now with a bolder hand the celestial lyre, and roll his deathless songs over the hills of paradise. Who can now forbid him to tell of Immanuel's love, or pluck the laurels from the sacred brow of the martyr? He can now roll on his immortal numbers in praise of JESUS, and none can taunt him with singing too long or too loud of his excellencies.

And what, my dear reader, should hinder us from, catching up the chorus?

Is the "**Lamb slain**," less worthy of our praises now than he will be hereafter? What although we hear everywhere around us the hissing, of the serpent? Let us drown his loud hissing, by our louder praises.

Those who work hardest for JESUS now, and are least ashamed of him now, will hereafter shine brightest in glory. While vice walks forth boldly, and reigns rampant, let not Christians be ashamed boldly to acknowledge CHRIST's cause, not in secret places, but in the face of day, not in whispers, but in tones loud enough to convince sinners that they are in downright earnest, and that they fear their eternal destruction, more than any reproaches they can cast on them.

Time was when Christians rose with the sun, and boldly sung the praises of the Lord, and made it the very business of their lives to promote his glory - but "**the god of this world**" not liking such proceedings, raised a storm and drove them into "**dens and caves of the earth.**"

Satan can ill endure the thought that Christians should be as bold for CHRIST, as sinners are for him; and rather than allow them to be so, he will move earth and hell to abash and discourage them. He dreads to see believers stand up for GOD in open day. He knows, indeed, the power of secret prayer, but he knows also that GOD will not own prayer unless it is seconded by action.

When this is not the case, the prayer is insincere, and cannot be heard. Let our prayers then be accompanied by bold action, the bolder the better, unless it be inconsiderate and rash.

Our Saviour not only gives us the cup of life for ourselves, but promises us a reward if we help it round to others. He offers a premium, proportioned to the activity of those who become co-workers with him in pleading with others to receive the cup of salvation.

You cannot wish to have the blood of souls upon you in the great day, when the Master appears; then be now faithful in presenting the Saviour to all who come under your influence.

To be privileged to tell the glad story of the cross; to stand between the Eternal GOD and perishing men, as they rush on in haste to perdition, and entreat them to be reconciled to GOD, is the most solemn work that man can engage in on this side of the eternal world.

This work is not committed to ministers alone, for the Lord says, "**Let him that heareth say come.**"

The persons with whom you daily come in contact, are not the creatures of a day, whose knell is to be rung when the light of life forsakes their eyes. All is not to be over with them when they reach the boundary line that separates time from eternity, else might you have some excuse for your indifference. But they are to live as long as GOD lives, in bliss unspeakable, or in woe of which no imagination can form a conception.

They are now living amid the light of the Gospel, which permits of no neutrality, and which must prove the savor of life or of death to each of their souls. Upon you it may depend whether they are to be saved or lost.

O my Brother, this great responsibility JESUS puts upon you!

It is a responsibility under which an angel might tremble, and would fall upon our minds with a crushing weight were it not that the same Lord who gives the command, promises also strength for its performance. Besides, he only asks us to go and tell his truth, he does not ask us to go and be successful; for success is His work, not ours.

The sinner may scorn your message, and fling back the truth you utter with a proud contempt; but the fact that you have warned him with tearful earnestness, and with a loving heart, will acquit you of all blame in the day of the Lord.

A father, one beautiful summer afternoon, went out to walk in the fields, with his little daughter, a child of some four or five years of age. While the little one amused herself in picking flowers, and chasing butterflies, the father sat down under the shadow of a tree, and fell asleep. He slept but a short time; but when he awoke his loved one was no-where to be seen. In earnest tones he called her name, but echo only answered his voice, when discovering a precipice at one side of the field he rushed to its edge and gazed over, when to his horror he saw the corpse of his dear child, her fair hair stained in her own blood!

Who can tell the anguish of that father? He blamed himself with her death, and in wild and frantic words called himself her murderer. It was a heavy burden upon his mind till his dying day.

Dear parent, take heed that you do not slumber and sleep in spiritual indifference, while your dear children are dropping into hell! If their bodies are suffering, you run in eager haste for medical aid, and hang over them in deep anguish; but neglect not the disease of the soul! Send for the Great Physician in believing, and importunate prayer, saying "**Come down ere my child die.**" He will hear you, and make your children, GOD's children and heirs of Eternal Glory.

THE END

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