

# Build Thee More Stately Mansions, Christians Cry

## CHRISTIANS POSSESS ALL THINGS SAY WALL

Baptist Pastor Explains That Christians Should Not Think Too Lowly of Themselves

### SERMON ON OUR LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

Too Many Say That They Are Mere Grasshoppers and They Act Like Grasshoppers, and the Sins of Men Who Think Too Highly of Themselves Are Not Equal To the Sins of Those Who Too Much Discount Themselves

The Christian possesses everything, all the preachers, the teachers, the learning, the world, life, and death, said Dr. Zeno Wall in his sermon Sunday morning on our "Limitless Possibilities."

"Therefore," said Pastor in his letter to the Corinthians, "Let no man glory in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all things are yours; and ye are Christ's and Christ is God."

It was from this text that the minister drew the conclusion that while no Christian has a right to think of himself more highly than he ought, he has no right to place upon himself a lower estimate than his Savior has placed upon him, or to think of himself more lowly than he ought to think.

Paul blessed fully and firmly in Jesus—nothing too good for him, and nothing too hard for him. He, too, believed in his Lord's redemption, which freed—believed that Christ could do for them "exceeding abundantly above all that they could ask or think."

believed that His glory would be with them, "in the church," world without end. There are, in my judgment, two cautions that we must always make first, that of thinking too highly of ourselves apart from Christ, and second, that of thinking too little of ourselves in Christ, and it is this last caution that needs to be stressed today, for most Christians, unless my study and observations have led me to the wrong conclusions, place too low an estimate upon their religious life.

Without Christ, to be sure, we are nothing and can do nothing, but with Christ we can do all things, and possess all things. We have, I fear, too many Christians who say: "We are, in our own sight, as grasshoppers," and then they act like grasshoppers, and soon the world looks upon them and us as a drove of grasshoppers. We must, my brethren, ever be humble—Christlike—be childlike, but there is, we must keep in mind, a humility which is very close akin to cowardice—a humility which is just another name for laziness. We need Christians who will quit themselves like men, and be strong. We must pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks.

**Must Not Think Too Lowly**  
The sins of men who think too highly of themselves are nothing in comparison with the sins of the men who think too lowly of themselves—these who take too narrow, too limited, too mean a view of themselves. We worship and serve a great God—a wonderful Savior, and who else calls us to a great task he would have us play the part of a man in a great way, instead of behaving like a grasshopper. We, to be sure, are plants, but in the light of Christ, and his teachings, they are no more than grasshoppers. Our blessed Lord has the love, the life and the power needed in overcoming all evils.

We are told, in the physical world, that a body in motion, no matter how large, or with what velocity, can be stopped, reversed, and made to move in an opposite direction, by the application of sufficient opposing force.

but ministers by whom ye believed. I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase, so then neither is he that planteth anything, neither is he that watereth; but God who giveth the increase.

Oh that I might be able to lift your eyes unto Him from whom all blessings flow. Too often we see you look at, and think about none other than ourselves. We appreciate your love and your loyalty but we must lead you to see His ways.

They are but broken lights of Thee, O Lord, more than thou art.

We—the pastors and evangelists—are nothing more than voices speaking for God—nothing more than vessels bringing living water. One of us plants, another waters, but God himself gives the increase. Let us thank God for all of his true servants—but let's never think of them as being able to give life, for only Jesus can do that. We, your servants, together with all who have ever lived, belong to you so why should you be discriminating. Thank God for all, and that they all belong to you—us. Paul the Apostle is yours, Apollos, the orator, is yours, Peter the great preacher is yours, Timothy the evangelist, is yours, and John, the beloved, is yours. ALL ARE YOURS. Oh how rich the world is in this particular; as, multiplied thousands of great and good men and women have lived and left their footprints on the sands of time, and the utterances in our libraries.

We possess, in the second place, the world—the kosmos—the material world. The Christian is the only person who can understand that paradox of Paul's when he said, "as having nothing and yet possessing all things." This wonderful physical world about us belongs to those who belong to Christ. He owns this world who uses in it the hands of God, and uses everything he sees for the glory of God. The material world, therefore, was created for man's highest good and for God's glory. Oh what a wonderful beautiful physical world we have! Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. The heavens in poetry, and beauty and splendor declare the glory of God!

**Christ in the Physical World**  
The rivers, the lakes, the mountains, and the fields speak of him, and the birds sing His praises. Brethren, you can find all kinds of fossils with the men who live upon this physical world, but you can find no fault with the material world itself. It's our sinners to be cultivated, beautiful and enjoyed. It belongs to Christ, and if we will but live near Him—have continuous fellowship with Him, seeing His face in every dewdrop, in every rose, in every mountain and field, in every bird, in every river, and in every mountain and field, then we can truthfully say that we own the world—"that we have nothing and yet possess all things."

"Let on by Thee, Lord Jesus, The best is yet to come; For I am always proving, 'Tis better further on."

**Possession of Life**  
With the Christian the present is always good and the future always bright. We journey, not toward the night, but toward the light, and each experience of this grace is better than the last, for if we walk in the light, all is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sins. 1 John 1:7.

We are, in the third place, the possessors of life. We have life, spiritual life, a kind the peoples apart from Christ do not have, nor do they know about.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them (apart from Christ), for they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14 Jesus himself said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10. Spiritual life, therefore, is Christ's free gift to all believers, and is something wholly different from immortality. We are not dear friends, immortal just because Jesus came and died for us. Immortality is God's gift to all people, but everlasting life is Christ's gift to all who believe in Him.

**Immortality and Eternal Life**  
Man is immortal whether he will or not; and his immortality cannot be stamped out by death, as some seem to think. But eternal life is something which man can accept or reject according to his own will. It is a gift—something offered which many have not nor will not accept. "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life," says Jesus. I wish it were within my power to tell you the difference between immortality and eternal life as offered by my Savior and Lord! This simple illustration may help. You are two moleculators beside Jesus on the cross—one on the right hand and the other on the left. Both are immortal—but have immortality within them. One by faith said to Jesus: "Remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom," and he answered and said, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise," and thus then he became a partaker of the eternal life which Christ offers to every man who comes to Him by faith. Eternal life is fullness of life—not just mere existence. Eternal life is immortality awakened by the Spirit, redeemed by Christ's blood, beautified by His grace, and manifested by His power and glory, and it is always going, growing, and glowing. We who have eternal life have joy in the morning, happiness at the noon-day, and glory and peace at the evening hour of life.

**Possession of Death**  
DEATH. Death to the sinner is looked upon as being his worst enemy, but we who are saved looked upon it as being our friend. Hence the reason for one man's fearing death while the other welcomes it. Death, to be sure, separates us, for the time being at least, from our loved ones, but it ushers us, at once, into the presence of our ord for to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord. 1 Cor. 13:3 Paul, therefore, did not fear death. He, at one time at least, seemed to yearn for it, saying, "I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better." Phil. 1:23-24. To be separated from this earthly home means

to enter our eternal home—that place which is being prepared for us, and there to join "the general assembly and church of the first born."

"Our knowledge of that life is small. The eye of faith is dim. 'Tis enough to know that Christ knows all."

And that we shall be with Him. We are, in the last place, possessors of both the present and the future—"things present and things to come"—belonging to us who are in Christ Jesus. The present is ours. We should therefore, see something good in the present. David served his own generation by the will of God. The present is all we have; we can only serve this generation, and I trust our service shall be, according to the will of God.

There is a class of people who feel, and have always felt, that they could just move out west, or into some other state, that they would soon discover a gold mine or strike oil. Oh how delusive the other place is—the tomorrow is. Today is God's day, and the only day we have. There, too is a class of Christians who feel (as they have always felt) that this life is a bad day—that they haven't got a ghost of a show to make good—that all things are going to wreck and ruin and that all of their efforts will be worthless, and hence they have sat down to wine and pine for a better day. If you belong to that class I bid you wake up, open your eyes to the many opportunities which, like snow flakes are falling fast about your feet. Hear Paul as he says: THE PRESENT IS YOURS—seize it, make the most of it.

The future, too, belongs to us—"things to come are yours." To me the present is good, and the future is as bright as the promises of God; good because Christ has hidden us from all nations and peoples with His tidings, promising to be with us all the way, and glorious because he is coming back again for the purpose of carrying us unto Himself.

Oh the limitlessness of our possessions in Christ! All of the teachers, preachers and Christian workers of the present and past belong to us; this beautiful world belongs to us; this wonderful life—this new life, in Christ belongs to us; death, which ushers us into a larger and fuller life, belongs to us, and all of the things present, and the things to come likewise belong to us.

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul. As the swift seasons roll, Leave thy lowly quest past; Let each temple, pulpit and altar Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast; Till thou at length art free, Leaving thine out-grown shall by life's unresting sea."

### Big Break in Revival Came on Sunday Night

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and the world always knows to which class they belong. And just as the world always despises a coward it always applauds a hero. Joseph and Daniel have come down to us as inspiring examples of the heroes of ancient times, and they were heroes of the highest type. They were not afraid to be good all the way through. Neither of them would compromise with sin or compromise his own integrity, but each came out of prison to ascend a throne as prime minister. Paul's heroic spirit, steadfast and endured more than almost any man of history, except Jesus who was the greatest hero of all the ages.

**Examples of Moral Courage**  
Later there was given us the inspir-

ing examples of Luther who said, "I will go to the dust of Worms though every life on the road were a devil." John Knox who defied Bloody Mary; John Wesley who gave up his pulpit rather than his convictions and preaching; John Bunyan who spent his life in jail but gave the world one of its greatest books excepting the Bible. Coming down to our own country and age, Robt. E. Lee had a moral courage that was sublime. When after the war which had swept away his large estate and left him for the first in his life a poor man, drawing a salary of one thousand dollars a year as president of a university, he was offered the presidency of a life insurance company at a salary of ten thousand, he told them he knew told him just as he had suggested that his ignorance made no difference; that what he wanted was his name and reputation. He told them that his name and reputation were all he had, and it was not for sale. General Francis Pickens, when governor of Louisiana, was told if he would not vote the bill renewing the charter of the Louisiana Lottery there were millions in it for him. He said, "I lost that lot at Franklin, I lost that sum in the wilderness, and I lost that eye at Sharpsburg; and you might take my other leg and other arm, and other eye and I'll go through life legless, armless and blind, before I would sign your infamous bill to make gamblers of my people. Get out of my office!" When Bob Taylor was governor of Tennessee, Pete Henderson was on his staff. As the governor and his staff were passing along the street one day they came to a bar room and the governor invited them to have a drink. All went in except Pete. On missing him, the governor went to the door and found him waiting outside. On being asked why he did not come in, Pete answered that when a boy he had promised his mother that he would never go any place he would be ashamed to have her catch him, and he could not break that promise. Governor Taylor cancelled his order for drinks, called the men out, saying: "My mother was just as worthy a Christian as Pete Henderson's mother." Brother, what sort of mother did you have, and how much respect have you for her memory?"

### Womas Heroes

All the heroes are not men. During my meeting at New Orleans a young woman was converted and began to do faithful work, when he employer, a Jew, told her she must give up the meeting or her job, and she gave up the job, though she was dependent on her salary. Next day the Jew came to the meeting, saying he wanted to see what sort of religion it was that induced the girl to make such a sacrifice.

If you men will have the moral courage and the spirit of sacrifice to come out and use your influence these next few weeks for Christ and testify for Him like these heroes and that girl you can make a new town of Goldboro. The world will still crown a man who has moral backbone enough to sacrifice his financial interest rather than his manhood. And just as certainly the world still despises these puny little husbandettes, only mollified with breeches on." Centre College boys are sithes making or marring manhood. Remember that integrity of character is the greatest asset you can ever possess. Ability is a great asset of course but reliability is a greater. Let me commend to you the lofty sentiment Alexander Stephens had carved upon his tomb:

"I am afraid of nothing on the earth, or under the earth, or above the earth, except to do wrong."

## Survival of the Thriftiest

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