

1:1 - Saints Made of
1-14 Spiritual Blessings
2:1-7 Spiritual Resurrection "THE CHIEF CORNER STONE"
2:8-9 - Why Must You See Thomas
2:10-15 Moving The Fence Eph. 2:16-22

Most wonderful (themes) is Jesus -- no theme compares to him.

Most glorious miracle in the Bible is Jesus.

Most important wonder of faith is the Lord himself.

Incomparable - unique - separate - in every area of human life:

Literature - names Homer, Shakespeare.

Music - Mozart, Beethoven.

Art - Raphael, Michaelangelo.

World of creation and revelation -- we are silent. There is none to compare
to His Name, whose name every knee shall bow in earth and under the earth.

There is none like him, no mind, no genius, no human power that could ever
present another personality like Jesus.

Men look at the four Gospels and charge that you cannot believe the miracles
and parables.

Why don't some of these fellows write a fifth Gospel and show us what truth is.

I. PURPOSE OF CHRIST IS TO MAKE PEACE - V. 16

Reconcile: make both groups Jews and Gentiles into one body, by means of
the cross.

Ideal unity is restored in Jesus.

Dr. Jowett dreamed a dream in which he saw the horizon afar off -- a range of sunlit mountains, the lower hills in a thick white midst. He sought the Lord that he might dwell among them. But a voice responded, "Thou must first descend into the valley." Down into the gloomy valley he went, finding the ground alive with fierce, ugly things. He quickly became aware that these things were the incarnations of his sins. Imagine his horror! Presently, he heard approaching footsteps, and instinctively he realized that they were his Lord's. He covered his face in shame with his cloak, and bowing his head waited.

Soon the Lord and the sinner confronted one another. Minutes seem like hours. He moved his cloak to look and God had moved the ugly creatures from him and laid upon Christ all his sins.

The dreamer went through the valley before going into the mountain top.

We have been through the valley dead in trespasses and sin, children of disobedience, strangers, aliens. V. 4 - But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us..

Mercy there was great and grace was free,
Pardon there was multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty
At Calvary.

I Cor. 15:1 - Moreover, brethern I declare unto you the Gospel -- by which also ye are saved!

A man preaches the Gospel in a pulpit in America or a missionary preaches on

on foreign land. What do they preach?

Paul defines it for you - I Cor. 15:3-4 "How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scripture."

When a man preaches the Gospel he preaches Jesus - V. 16. ("By the cross"). A preacher does not have five or six tunes to grind out every Sunday. Phycology, current events, book reviews, political. (He must exalt Jesus.)

When I go to church I unconsciously ask "Is there something from the Lord?"
We want to know "more more about Jesus."

John 12:32 - If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me."

Content of our message is Jesus Christ himself. If a man is saved, it is due to the power of the Gospel. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

Made into one body - by his cross - and act of God. Word reconcile - change relations between God and men. Enmity, estrangement -- sin caused this.

Death of Christ removes offending sin and turns away Divine wrath. Purpose of Christ is to make peace.

II. POWER OF CHRIST IN MAKING PEACE - V. 17-19.

V. 17 - He coming preached the good news of peace -- to both groups, divided

humanity -- those far off -- those near. Gentiles and Jews.

Made both Gentile and Jew into one new man.

He reconciled both to God.

Through Jesus both have access to God.

Ninety in Christ produces Christians.

V. 18. Access -- approach. Privilege of admission to the presence of a glorious Monarch - unhindered.

Access is in "one spirit". The Spirit cannot be present and inactive.

Only high Priest could enter Holy of Holies.

V. 19. Result - we are no longer strangers - aliens - sojourners but fellow citizens.

Saints are kinsmen.

Members of the same household.

Stranger in a strange city writes home. It's better to be in your own homes whatever they may be like.

That is what Jesus has done for us - gave up his Throne, his crown, his adoration of the angels and the host of glory.

Came down into this cursed world and took upon himself the form of a man.

Became obedient to death even the cross.

This he did for me.

Satan desired Job - God said, "He is in your hand but only thus far can you go and no further. Touch not his body." Finally the Lord said, "He's in your hands, you may afflict his body, but spare his life."

But the Lord was delivered into the hands of sinners and into the hands of Satan. There were no boundaries to the grief suffered by our Lord.

John 1:11 - "He came unto his own and his own received him not."

There is no hurt like the rejection by those whom you love.

He asked John to care for his mother as He died on the cross. Who was it that delivered Him to be crucified? His own people - own nation - delivered him to the Gentiles for execution.

They spit upon Him, plucked out his beard - beat him with thongs. They nailed him to a tree and watched him die in agony.

The earth drank up the crimson blood of His life. This He did for me. God looked on this and said "It is sufficient for the remission of sins."

All the iniquity of the world was upon Him. We could conceive of an angel

coming down from Heaven to assume the burden of our transgressions, dying for our sins.

Atonement of Jesus is virtuous -- it is powerful -- His atoning Grace is equal to saving to the uttermost.

Isa. 45:22 - Invitation to you -- "Look unto me and be saved all the ends of the earth, For I am God and there is none else."

All of the leaves of this book point to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

III. THE PLAN OF JESUS IN BUILDING THE HOUSE - V. 20-22

V. 20 Picture of a building -- every Christian a stone in that building.

Foundation: not the foundation they are thinking or have been taught. But upon the foundations of Apostles and prophets.

1 Pet 1:18:22 - the stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.
→ Mat 21:42 Jesus said how you not read the stone rejected is become head of the corner. This doth doing & it is marvelous in our eyes.

Corner-Stone: At any rate fundamental basis is Christ - it is in Him.

Acts 4:11 - Peter's sermon on Crucifixion "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

V. 21 Arranged suitably with -- fitted into the total architectural scheme.

This building grows.

It becomes a holy temple -- a shrine for the meeting of God and man.

V. 22 - Idea the church becoming the true spiritual temple -- God dwelling in the midst of his people.

1st Cor. 3:11 "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation --"

Ones with Christ for the Glory of God. The only house which God has.

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee.

Figure of a building -- fitly framed together.

Cornerstone was great stone put in the angle of the substructure where the walls met.

It was the stone on which the stability of the whole building depended.

Christ as chief corner-stone is thus the one who supports and holds together both the foundation and the walls.

The church is growing like a living organism.

What a difference Jesus makes in a life?

A true story in a town in the West: Methodist Church needed a janitor.

Minister called the board together and suggested they employ a town loafer by the name

of Anderson.

There was silence -- someone spoke "Is that the best we can do? He has been a bum for several years. No one in the city respects him."

Let's wait another week and try to find someone else.

Finally in desperation they employed the town bum. Time passed, he took pride in his work and in himself. He kept the church clean and himself clean. He became polite, agreeable, and for a year sat on the back pew at every service and was a most attentive listener.

One day he went over to the minister's home and asked if he could join the church. Minister was glad he had made this decision.

Another year passed and he went again to the minister and asked permission to teach a class of boys. He was granted his wish and was still teaching the class when the minister was (transferred.)

Several years passed before this minister came back to town. A faithful member met him at the train. "I will drive you over to the house where you are to be a guest. Your host is tied up in a board of directors meeting at the bank and couldn't get away. You are going to stay with Mr. Anderson."

The minister stopped and with puzzled expression, and the gentleman explained.

Mr. Anderson is not one of the most popular and respected men in the city. He is president of the bank. A wealthy uncle discovered the transformation that had come

over his nephew and left him a fortune in his will. He still teaches a class of boys in Sunday School, and he is still janitor for the church.

Many times he has said that "God cleaned my life and my soul, and as long as I live I will personally see that His house is kept clean."

That true story -- a town bum who took a job as janitor -- when no one else could be found became one of the outstanding citizens in the city.

That is what the Galilean did for him, in whom all the building is fitly framed together growing into a holy temple.

This is not a new story, it is an old story of what He can do for anyone!