

This speaks of the importance for the
of the Christian that we should give a very important place
in our lives to this great truth that Jesus is alive.

This joy comes from a sense of companionship. He is putting
forth his power in the world today. He not only works for
us, but he works in and through us. He said, "The works
that I do, you do also". It is a great comfort to know
that in the midst of our struggles, we know that there is
one beside us and in us and knows the hidden paths that
no eyes see and no foot but his can tread. Really this is
one of the glorious truths of the New Testament. ("I live,
yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"). Therefore, if we
keep close to him we will do mighty works that poor,
weak men could never do otherwise.

The (emblem) of the vine and the branches points out
to us in some mysterious way we have a solemn union with
Jesus Christ. This is no accident, because he says,
"I am in the Father and the Father in me". "The works
that I do shall he do also". And so he bids us to do
the same works because we too are united in the Father.
We cooperate with the Father.

How far was it from Dan to Beersheba? - cm m
"al thought they were husband & wife like Sodom &
Samarrah?"

THE WORKS OF THE LIVING CHRIST

John 14:12-15

The disciples as they were full of grief to think of
parting with Jesus, and also were burdened with care as to
what would become of them after he had ascended back to
the Father, it seemed as though they were like sheep with-
out a shepherd and that they would be easy prey of the
enemies. To silence these fears Jesus assures them that
they will be clothed with power sufficient for the hour.

The key word of this context is (believe). In three
successive verses we find each time that it is widening
in its application. We find first that the question in
reply to the single disciple, Philip, "believest thou
me?", and in these verses we come to see that it has
general expression referring to all who in every generation
and corner of the world put their trust in Christ. "Who-
soever believeth in him". Our Lord has already pointed
out that (believing) in verse 1, is the great (antidote) to
a troubled heart. He has pointed out that (believing) is a
sure way of knowing the Father and that it is the best
substitute for sight. He is now about to tell them what

wonderful things will happen as a result of (belief) linked with faith. He just seems to lift us up, as he begins in ¹²verse 12, ("Verily, verily") He bids us to listen with sharp attention as he is about to disclose something wonderful. He tells them that he is about to depart from this earth and that he will respond to their prayer and to their works of faith.

I. The Continued Work of the Ascended Lord

The disciples were trembling, oppressed with the thought that at the departure of Jesus all of the good (work would end.) That henceforth his (voice) and his work would be silent. They felt that they would have to face every (storm without his counsel) and companionship. Truly it was a dreary outlook and we can understand how these men felt, but he reminds them that he will continue to work, that he will work in them and through them. There is a remarkable truth here, "he that believeth, the works that I do shall he do". The ground of the disciples (success) is "because I go to my Father" and whatsoever the believer shall ask I will do. There are to distinct paths in which Christ will represent us and in which he will be

active. One is he will be working in response to our prayers, the other is he will be working through our acts.

Christ's (removal from the world) is not to end his activity in the world. Even though absent he still is present in power. He will die and be removed, yet he will still work through things around the disciples. This will be not only for them but for every generation. He is working today. (One form) of Jesus' work was finished. He said it was, on Calvary's cross. But there is another aspect of his work that will continue through the ages. Jesus works by putting himself in the midst of the (providences of life.)

All other men's work is (cut off by death). We read that this man served his generation by the will of God and then died. This is the story of great thinkers, statemen, poets. The activities and the work as such of father, mother, husband, child or friend all cease when they die. They are silent and can help no more.

But Christ is living today and working all about us.

be a great confirmation that he will be in a position to furnish such power. Acts 1:8.

IV. Power In Heaven

He has just given them the assurance that they will have great power in the earth to work his works. Now he comes to say to these disciples, you will also have power in heaven. Our power there depends upon (prayer.) Jesus here tells them that God is willing to communicate and to do in accordance to their prayer. This is not just a mechanical or eternal thing, but the Christian's heart lifted up in prayer will find power to move the world.

v. 13 This is the way they were to keep in (communion) with him. He was leaving to go to the Father but they were to continue their fellowship through prayer. For instance, if we have a distance between friends today we carry on a (correspondence) thus when Christ goes back to the Father he tells the disciples how they (might write) him. Let me hear from you by prayer. The prayer of faith.

Humility is prescribed, shall ask.

Though they had forsaken all to follow Christ, they could

Therefore, we come to realize that the works of a (Christian man) if done in faith, is done in His power. He reproduces and perpetuates the work of Christ. So it seems that we as Christians should not depend upon self but more and more depend upon Jesus.

II. Greater Works ¹²⁸

This is a marvelous statement that the (servant) will be able to do greater works than his Lord, that he will be able to do greater things than the one who has sent him.

Of course, we know that by revelation and redemption there are (some of the works) of Jesus that have been completed and there is no copy or repetition until the end of time.

But when we think in comparison of the (limited area) and really the small results of Christ's work upon earth, and then we think of the majestic world wide sweep of the Gospel, we are amazed at the greatness of our work.

I need only to remind you also that even the poorest

Wonder - Salt (2 portions), meat w, water w,
Salvation & Words

(sinner) somehow is drawn to Christ by the testimony of a believing Christian. He merely has to tell him of Jesus dying for his sins and of the redemption. Really Jesus had (no instrument) in his hand to draw men in this way. Therefore, Jesus is speaking a truth here because the cross was not yet a reality.

When we think of the (narrow sphere) in which Jesus worked in comparison to the world-wide scope given to his servants, we realize he was speaking the truth. He laid his hands on a few sick followers and helped them, and at the end of his life there were 120 disciples in Jerusalem and 500 in Galilee. In fact we could have put all of these inside our church with room to spare. And then we contrast this with the great work his followers were able to do in the way of working miracles and extending the Kingdom.

There were (two things) we should keep in mind. First, they should be enabled to do such works as he had done, and they were to have more power to do this because he was going back to the Father. Matthew 10:8. And the second thing is that they should do (greater works). They

were to work miracles. Jesus healed when a woman merely touched the edge of his garment. In (Acts 5:15) Peter healed with his shadow. (Paul) by a handkerchief in Acts 19:12. Christ wrought miracles for (two or three years) in one country, but his followers have wrought miracles in his name for many ages. So they achieved greater victories than Jesus was able to do upon earth.

Graham - Roberts - Chas - Thomas - 70
52
24

III. The Condition on Which the Lord Works For and Through His Servants.

(Faith) is the simple act of loving trust in Jesus Christ. It opens the door for his entrance and it is the condition, the only condition of possessing this power. We shall not trust in vain, but to us it will mean power. Faith enables us to do the work of Christ. So Christians that are powerless may know the reason or the difficulty as to why. They have cut off faith. As the (disciples) asked Jesus why they could not help a certain person, he said it was because you did not believe.

V.14 A second condition is that of (Jesus' return) to the Father. This guarantees that faith will be rewarded. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name," so this seems to

higher plane than duty. It is because of love. (We love him because he first loved us,) and such love will be turned

The Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Hebrews 3:7,8.

A young man heard Dr. A. T. Pierson preach and trembled under the faithful preaching of the Word of God. He did not yield to the claims of Christ however, and twenty-five years passed. The same man, young no longer, was riding with Dr. Pierson at a funeral, and told the preacher bluntly that he thought he was losing his power, because he said, "Your preaching today did not 'fizz' on me." Dr. Pierson was silent a moment and then he began to weep. The man was quite apologetic but the preacher said, "I am not weeping for what you said about me, but I fear your heart is so hardened that the preaching of Christ and your need of His salvation, no longer affects you." —H.P.

Oh, turn while the Saviour in mercy is calling,
And steer for the harbor light;
For how do you know but your soul may be drifting,
Over the dead line tonight!

if you love not put by this angel in

demand nothing of him as a duty.

v. 14
(Liberty) here seems to be implied. Anything that is good and proper for you you may ask for it.

"I will"

They were to present their petitions in his name.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered

Daniel 6:27.

The Lord being merciful unto him . . . brought him forth, and set him without the city. Genesis 19:16.

A farmer who saw a bird building its nest in a heap of rubbish pruned from trees destroyed the work of the industrious bird. The next day the bird tried hard again and for the second time the farmer broke it up. On the third day the bird built her nest on a limb near the kitchen door and the farmer smiled and let it remain. Long before the eggs were hatched the pile of branches from which the bird had twice been driven was burned. Like the humbled bird, we often wonder why God so often breaks up our nest. Were we able to see as God does, we would know that our Heavenly Father has kept us from destruction that will burn the nests of all who abide not in Christ.

He always wins who sides with God, to Him no chance is lost;
God's will is sweetest to him when it triumphs at his cost.
Ill that God blesses is our good, and unblest good is ill;
And all is right that seems most wrong, if it be His sweet will.

It all boils down to the fact that I can do all things through the Christ that dwells in me and makes me strong.

Not necessarily greater miracles and not greater spiritual works in quality but great in quantity. When we consider Peter at Pentecost and Paul on his mission tours.

V. The Key to the Lock Verse 15

Jesus here gives to his disciples the key that will unlock all of these treasures, when he says, "if ye love me".

Dr. Pierson
If you will love me with a deep and self-sacrificial heart (I think second hand Bosh store) - thought saw a Bosh text: "How to

O. N. Sept 11-83 AM

Dr. Noel - Jan 25, 1959 P.M.

Paid for the book & shipped it out - into his den & opened
his treasure & settled down to enjoy - unwrapped & found he had
missed - it was the 4th 10 vol. & an Ensign from Howard to
Hugonote - This is not cheap love Jesus speaks of here -
love, the commandments which are mine you will keep.

Therefore, he deals with them not as one who would demand
by fear, but by love. This little handful of men in the
upper room received a message that he was speaking to
people around the world. They are to keep his commandments.
Do this, he says. Everything that was hard and difficult
was to be undertaken in this spirit. We know that the
train must have rails upon which to travel, so Jesus here
seems to be furnishing rails for Christians to travel
upon. Loving him is the way that his commandments may
be kept. We all know that love which is real is not a
task but is a joy. He has rested the whole force of the
Christian life upon love. This is the thing that
distinguishes the Gosepl from all other systems. Every
man knows a great deal about his duty. It is not for want
of knowledge that men work for the devil, but it is for
want of power to live according to their knowledge. A
king makes a proclamation and uses an army to back up his
commands. He says, here is the road plain and straight.
You will be forced to walk this road. But Christ comes
and he says, here is the way. It will be followed
because of your love. There is no one who will be able
to keep the commandments of Jesus without love. This is

a real test of our Christian obedience.

For we know that obedience may come for one or two
reasons. It may come because of fears or dread, but Jesus
is to be obeyed because of love.

The non-Christian would ask the question, "How am
I to keep his commandments?" The answer is, in love. Then
he would ask, "How am I to love?" And the answer would
come, believe. For you must first trust Christ, then you
will love him.

I read a clipping in which a person said, "I am tired
of the word duty, tired of hearing duty, duty, duty. Men
go to church because it is their duty. You can never reach
a man's heart if you talk to him because it is your duty.!!
He said, "Suppose I told my wife, I love you because it is
my duty. What would she say." He said, "Once every year
I go to Connecticut to visit my aged mother. Suppose when
I go next time I tell her, 'I know she is old and living on
borrowed time, that I know she has done a great deal for me,
and that I come to see her every year because it is my duty.'
She would say, "Well, then, my son, you need not take the
trouble to come again." You see, Jesus lifts this to a

Pastor's Pen

There cannot be exchange for the gift of human touch. Life comes "as is" — we make the most of it as has been given to us. Love's binding moves us ever closer in affection.

I believe a story about an incident in human touch will expand our understanding. For thirty-eight years W. H. Lax was a Methodist minister in the east end of London.

He learned that an old man was gravely ill and called on him. It was at once made plain that he was an unwelcome visitor, for as soon as the sick man caught sight of Lax's clerical collar he turned his head and refused to utter a word. While trying to sustain a conversation, Lax noted the dreariness of the room, the pitifully small fire, and suspected that provisions had run low. When he left he went to a butcher shop and had two lamb chops sent to the house.

He called again a few days later and though the old man was still far from talkative he was disposed to be friendly. On his way home, another order was left with the butcher. By the third visit, there was a pronounced change in the patient. He was congenial and even expansive, and before taking leave of him, Lax read from the Scripture and prayed.

A preaching engagement took him out of London for some days. When he got back, he was informed that the old man had died and had left a message for him. Just at the last when he could barely speak, he made a sign that he wanted to say something.

"Tell Mr. Lax," he gasped, "it's all right . . . I'm going to God . . . but be sure to . . . tell him . . . that it wasn't . . . his preaching that changed me . . . it was . . . those lamb chops."

Human touch can break down barriers of misunderstanding. It gets to the

heart of a situation as nothing else can. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 26, 1982

Budget Requirement (To Date)	\$190,350.69
Budget Receipts (To Date)	\$175,887.18
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$ 3,660.72
Receipts - 12/26/82	\$ 2,688.31
Parking Lot - To Date	\$ 24,554.52
Parking Lot - Paving	\$ 12,601.00
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 4,703.49

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A special thank you to all who have made a gift in 1982. Good progress has been made on money to surface the lots and also on the purchase of land.

Mr. Guy Parsons (Nova Scotia) sends Seasons Greetings to everyone at South Norfolk Baptist Church, and especially those in the Pastor's Class.

He enclosed a \$100 gift for the Parking Lot.

\$500 given by Stewart and Lillian Bremner of Bremner Amoco.

Memorial Gift in memory of parents by Horace L. McPherson - \$100.00.

Memorial Donation - Edna G. Wilcox:
By Ruth and Leon Jones - \$10.00

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Gift in memory of Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Winston, father and mother by Mrs. Hortense W. Ruddick - \$30.00.

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BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Christmas Eve, 1982

Dawn McDaniel
1205 Seaboard Avenue

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GOAL - \$5,682.00 - RECEIVED