

Sermon Outlines

The Christian's Stronghold

“At that day ye shall know I am in my Father; and ye in me, and I in you.”
(John 14:20)

A piece of ordinary glass has only one surface; it is seen in its entirety at one glance. Crystal, on the other hand, has several surfaces or facets, each complete in itself and yet connected with one another and combining to make a beautiful, harmonious whole. God's truth is like crystal rather than glass. It is a whole and yet many-sided, each facet complete in itself and yet proportioned and necessary to the whole. It is a temptation to emphasize one element in Christian truth to the exclusion of others, but this is something to be avoided. The fact is that truth is of most value when viewed as a whole with all elements combined. Human, Divine - philosophical, practical - each must be given its proper place. Each age emphasizes a different facet of truth: Nicaea, Reformation, our own day. At the Council of Nicaea, for instance, the Godhead of Christ, His Life and Death were all given precedence; in the Reformation, the doctrine of the free, direct access of the believer to God was emphasized; and of late, we may say, the doctrine of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is one which has been given special emphasis.

I. *Our Safe Protection* - “I in my Father”

1. *The Meaning* - Christ's Authority

- a. To Teach
 - i) Claimed to come from Father.
 - ii) Claimed to reveal Father.
 - iii) Yet was opposed and rejected - His veracity at stake.
- b. To Save
 - i) Cf. Luke 19:10; John 2:19; 12:32.
 - ii) Miracles to substantiate - Gr. “signs.”
 - iii) Yet ascribed to Beelzebub - awful alternative.

2. *The Knowledge* - Christ's Authority Acknowledged

“At that day ye shall know . . .” How?

- a. The Resurrection
 - i) The Father's acknowledgment (Rom. 1:4)
 - ii) Christ's own power and position.
 - iii) “Many infallible proofs” (Acts 1:3).
- b. The Holy Spirit
 - i) Christ had promised - promise fulfilled at Pentecost.
 - ii) By fruits - Cf. world since with world before.

Therefore, our Safe Protection - the Godhead of Jesus Christ.

II. *Our Strong Position* - “ye in me”

1. *The Meaning* - Acceptance

- a. Christ's Pardon
 - i) Sin under punishment - consciousness of wrong. How to be rid of guilt?
 - ii) “Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?” - the world's plea.
 - iii) Christ's remedy - in “Me” - identification with Him.
- b. Christ's Righteousness
 - i) Sin separates - makes character unholy. How shall men have access to God?
 - ii) Christ's offer - robe on man - Spirit in him.

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iii) "Jehovah Tsidkenu" - In the Lord, righteousness" - we draw near in Christ.

2. *The Knowledge* - Assurance

- a. Christ's Death
 - i) Penalty paid - Cf. Isa. 53:4-6; Rom. 4:25.
 - ii) Made atonement - Resurrection proved acceptance.
 - iii) Purchased pardon - Cf. Eph. 1:6
- b. Christ's Life
 - i) The Sinless One made sin (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - ii) Righteousness reckoned and bestowed.
 - iii) Resurrection and ascension in proof.

Therefore, our Strong Position - to be in Christ.

III. *Our Sure Provision* - "I in you"

1. *The Meaning* - Ability

- a. Life
 - i) Our need not only pardon but power - moment by moment, in the Spirit.
 - ii) Character and conduct involved.
 - iii) Christ's claim - "I am come" (John 5:43; 10:10) - "I am the Life" (John 14:6).
- b. Hope
 - i) Anticipation of future - longings and yearnings.
 - ii) Future life - dear ones gone on before.
 - iii) Christ's claim - "In you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

2. *The Knowledge* - Assurance

- a. Inward Witness
 - i) Christ in believer - Cf. Gal. 2:20.
 - ii) Peace brings assurance.
- b. Outward Proof
 - i) Conduct - Cf. John 14:15; 1 John 3:14.
 - ii) Fruit - Cf. Gal. 5:22-26 - power over sin.
 - iii) Resurrection and ascension in proof.

Therefore, our Sure Provision is to have Christ in us.

IV. *Our Satisfying Privilege* - "ye shall know"

1. How?

- a. By experience
- b. By verifying faculty of mind.
- c. By witness of heart, conscience, and will.
- d. By faith and not by sight.

2. When? - "in that day"

- a. Christ has been, is, much - but will be all in all.
- b. More known of
 - i) Father's loving sympathy and melting tenderness;

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- ii) Saviour's full pardon and free righteousness.
- iii) Spirit's enabling and inspiring.
- c. Earth's day done? Hardly dawned!

Conclusion

Thus "be ye also ready" for "eye hath not seen" and "God shall wipe away all tears."

His knowledge, His love and His care
For our safety and guidance are given,
That here we may taste of His peace
And thus share the joy of His Heaven.

. . . . W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.