

Sermon Outlines

“Amen; Alleluia”

“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”
Revelation 19:4

Two men met on board ship. One of them was from India and the other from China, and the language of each was unintelligible to the other. One man happened to say the word “Hallelujah!” and the other instantly responded, “Amen!” From that time on the voyage was an opportunity for fellowship, for they knew instantly that they had Christianity in common. What they may not have realized is that Christianity is summed up in these two words from the Hebrew which have been reproduced in almost every language on the globe.

“Amen” is a word indicating agreement or affirmation, and is found in innumerable passages of Scripture. “Hallelujah,” or “Praise ye the Lord,” is a word always associated with victory (see Psalm 104:35, where it first occurs in the Old Testament). The two words in conjunction are suggested in such passages as 1 Chronicles 16:36 and Nehemiah 5:12.

I. God's Will Accepted - “Amen”

1. Literally, It is so, or, It shall be so; not, May it be so. It is a question whether the word is ever a supplication.
2. It is an affirmation, then, and a testimony to God's faithfulness.
 - a) God's presence realized in everything - nothing apart from Him.
 - b) God's purpose believed in everything - nothing fortuitous.
 - c) God's power trusted in everything - that which He promised He is able to perform.

II. God's Way Adored - “Hallelujah”

1. Because of the acknowledgment of God's wisdom.
2. Because of trust in His power.
3. Because of joy in His love.

Conclusion

1. These two words are inseparable.
If first, then second (see Psalm 106:48).
2. The order of the two is unchangeable.
Not second before or without first - conformity to, then confidence in, the Divine will and way.
3. Their acceptance is inexhaustible.
It means receiving all from God and returning all to God. Since Christ is “God's Amen,” in accepting Him we shall say our best and deepest “Hallelujah!”

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