18 -- DIVISION -- TESTIMONY TO HOLINESS -- (NOV. 8-22)

8. Ye shall receive power after that the holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me. -- Acts 1:8.

The gift of witnessing to Christ under the Holy Ghost reaches its highest power in testifying that Christ is able to save to the uttermost.

9. When the day of Pentecost was fully come. Acts 2:1.

Then came the fiery tongues, the fullness of the Holy Ghost, the beginning to speak . . . the wonderful works of God . . . as the Spirit gave them utterance (vs. 3, 4 and 11). Here is the secret of sanctified eloquence. Here is the source of successful preaching. Here is where witnessing is added to ministering as a superadded accomplishment.

10. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. -- II Corinthians 12:1.

Then follows Paul's sublime testimony to his third-heaven experience; to his buffeting, lest he should be exalted by it above measure to the divine strength made perfect -- not in his strength, but -- in his weakness; and to his power to glory and take pleasure in weaknesses, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, distresses, that the power of Christ might rest upon him. How easy it is to witness to our high and holy and heavenly experiences!

11. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among you. -- I Thessalonians 2:10.

God testified to his inward holiness, justice and blamelessness -- for he alone could. His fellow-believers were witnesses of his outward holy behavior. Happy we if God and man unite in testifying to our personal purity and perfection.

12. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man. -- I Peter 3:15.

A heart in which the Lord God is sanctified finds always a ready answer for all who call for a reason of its hope. It does it in meekness and (modest) fear, but with a good conscience.

13. For the testimony of Jesus Christ. -- Revelation 1:9.

St. John the divine was a brother a companion in tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus, yet banished to a lonely isle for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. When our testimony costs us as much as his did him, with all his pre-eminence among the apostles, we might then think we had a right to complain, but would find the disposition to murmur completely gone.

14. Them that were slain . . . for the testimony which they held. -- Revelation 6:9.

Ah, here is a pitch of trial for testimony even above that of St. John! Martyred for their testimony! Testifying to the very death! Look on these brave souls, O ye who are too cowardly to witness for Christ under the slightest contradiction or opposition or test.

15. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. -- Hebrews 10:23.

They have seven good reasons for doing so: (1) liberty and boldness to enter the Christian Holy of Holies; (2) a new, living, consecrated way to enter therein (3) Christ as a High Priest; (4) true hearts (5) full assurance of faith; (6) inward and outward purity of body and conscience; (7) the faithfulness of him that has promised (vs. 19-23).

16. That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. -- Philemon 6.

Not only our creed, but our personal trust in that creed, is communicated by our acknowledgment of what God has done for us and in us and by us, and by securing the same acknowledgment from others Nothing conveys trust -- communicates faith -- like testimony. It is the most experimental, practical, powerful preaching.

17. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. -- Revelation 12:11.

Three things contribute to downing the devil -- the atoning blood -- our testimony -- the bravery of martyrdom.

18. Which becometh women professing godliness with good works. -- I Timothy 2:10.

Men are to pray with uplifted holy hands. Women are not to adorn themselves with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but with modest apparel, shamefacedness, sobriety and good works. Such adorning will substantiate the very highest professions of godliness (vs. 8-10).

19. I profess this day unto the Lord thy God that I am come into the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us. -- Deuteronomy 26:3.

This was the old Jewish profession of having entered into Canaan. It was made in the presence of the priests. It was accompanied with dedicating to God the first-fruits of the land. Read the whole chapter.

20. I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart and have done that which is good in thy sight. -- II Kings 20:3.

Poor afflicted Hezekiah! But how graciously and promptly God acknowledged the truth of his profession of purity of heart and life by answering his prayer and prolonging his life (vs. 1-)!

21. Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another. -- Malachi 3:16.

What else would they talk about but their personal religious experience, their fear of the Lord, their thinking upon his flame? The Lord heard what they said. He kept a book of remembrance. He counted them as his jewels. He spared them as a man spareth his own son. He discerned between them and those that were wicked and served him not. We talk together about lots of things. How much talk about piety and perfection, and God is in it all?

22. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I but Christ liveth in me. -- Galatians 2:20.

Is not this the very loudest kind of a profession of spiritual crucifixion and resurrection -- obtained by faith -- maintained by faith -- through Christ's love and atonement?

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