

George Muller Sermons

Chapter 15 - An Address Following the Death of Mrs. Muller

On the following Sunday evening, Mr. Muller occupied, as usual, the pulpit of Bethesda chapel. Before discoursing upon the 14th, 15th, and 16th verses of Ephesians vi., in continuation of the meditation commenced a fortnight previously, he said,-Let us read again part of the last verse we have just been singing,-

Best of blessings He'll provide us,
Nought but good shall e'er betide us.

If we are acquainted with Jesus, and know Him, just in the measure in which this is the case, from our inmost soul we shall say,- Best of blessings He'll provide us,-ought but good shall e'er betide us. Oh the exercising of confidence in the loving heart of Jesus,- what repose it gives, what calmness, what quietness of soul! What an unspeakable blessing to find Jesus, to have Him for our friend, our almighty friend, our never-failing friend, whose heart never will change towards us, to whom has been given all power in heaven and in earth, and who in our behalf will exercise this His power just in the measure in which it shall be for His glory and our real blessing. Nought but good shall e'er betide us.

This was the song of my heart during the last week but one. Another portion was, The Lord is good, and doeth good; and so day by day I proved it, and my soul was peaceful and happy.

Let me affectionately urge all present, especially my young friends, not to be satisfied with religious feeling, and keep aloof from God's blessed Book. That was my state of heart when I was brought to the knowledge of the Lord in Germany. Even when I was on the point of preaching in the Establishment, and when afterwards I did so, I cared little about God's blessed Book. My religion was a mere religion of feeling, and so it came-I was a babe, and continued a babe in spiritual things for three years and a half of my Christian course. But when it pleased God, in the riches of His grace, in July, 1829, to bring me to this blessed Book, and to seek to acquaint myself with the Scriptures, it

became quite different. I then began to be established in the things of God, to take firmer steps heavenwards, and to fight more successfully in the battles against the powers of darkness. Never let your religion be the religion of feeling, but let it all spring from what you see in this blessed Book. It is because of what I have seen in the Scriptures that you see me here this evening,-and how calm and how peaceful my soul! None of you, except you had heard of it, would suppose that one of the greatest of afflictions that can befall a human being has befallen me. And yet how calm and how quiet I am! And why? Because I take God by His Word, because my religion is not a religion of feeling. With all the depth of affection of a husband, whence sprang the calmness, the quietness, the holy joy I felt all the past week? Because I have been able, by God's grace, to acquaint myself with God as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. And thus it comes, and only thus, I am able to stand here with this holy calmness. Last Lord's day, immediately after the death of my beloved wife, I should have been here if I had, had physical strength; but having had to watch night after night for several nights, I was unable to come; and, moreover, I felt it my duty to my household to stay at home with them, for many reasons; but so far as the state of my heart was concerned, I should have been able as calmly and quietly to occupy this place as I do now. Why do I refer to this? To seek to encourage you to acquaint yourselves with God,-to know God. And I, by His grace, know Him, and find in Him such satisfaction, and I know there is in Him such love to me that my soul is satisfied with Him. See, therefore, the deep importance of coming to the Scriptures; for it is written, They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee. I know Him, therefore I put my trust in Him. But if you only hear about Him, or read about Him, if you do not know Him as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures, then, when trials and difficulties come, it will be seen how little you are acquainted with Him. How important, then, that we hold the truth as it is in Jesus, that we know what God says about the vanities of this world, the blessedness of the world to come, and heavenly realities. Because my soul was enabled to lay hold on eternal life, to treat the truths of the Scriptures as realities, to grasp them by faith and not to hold them as notions, therefore in the midst of the storm I was calm and quiet, and there was not so much as a particle of difference between the bridal day and the funeral day. Oh, the holy calmness of my soul! But you must know God. I delight to speak about Him, because our holy faith is a reality. The God of the Bible is the same in the second part of the nineteenth century as He was at the beginning. There is no difference between the Living God four thousand years ago and now; no difference between what the blessed Jesus was when on earth and now. Only let us seek to acquaint ourselves with Him; only believe what the Scriptures say about Him; only in child-like simplicity come to the word and believe it, and lay hold on it. Oh how blessed-how blessed! Oh that some of my dear fellow sinners might be attracted to Jesus this evening!

I have a friend in Jesus-a bosom friend. What He is to me He is willing to be to every one present. Seek Christ first, then confide in His love, in His power, in His wisdom, and you will be happy-happy all the days of your life. Your peace will flow like a river,-not like the ocean, which is sometimes very calm, then all in motion, but your peace will flow like a river, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. Oh, it is an unspeakably blessed thing to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus! I had no intention to refer to these points, but it may please God to bless them to one or the other here present.

At the conclusion of the discourse Mr. Muller further said,-I suppose many dear Christian friends expected I should preach what is ordinarily called a funeral sermon, or give some account of my beloved departed wife. I mean to do so. It is quite in my heart so to do, but I desire, as there is so much to refer to, and as there are so many important incidents in our married life, to do this in the most public way possible. I have reason to believe that many hundreds of persons more than could get into this chapel would desire to be present; and therefore, as soon as God may please to give me strength for this, and as soon as my way is made plain so to do, I shall do so, and delight to do so, and count it a great honour from God to be permitted to do so, Timely notice will be given previously, but when, and where, or in what way, I cannot at this moment say. I am waiting on God, and He will direct me.* I thank all most heartily for the deep love and affection shown to me and my beloved departed wife, in the time of suffering and trial, and for all the inquiries made, and kindness shown to me and my dear daughter and other dear relatives. I commend myself and my dear daughter to your prayers, that God may help us to continue to rejoice in Him, howsoever we may be placed. I trust, by God's grace, we shall be enabled yet further to rejoice in God.

*The Funeral Sermon was afterwards preached and published, and is still in print.

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