

(1). "Sealed Books, and the End times."

Introd:- (1). This appointment to speak to Christian workers caused me to cast about in my mind for some time as to what we should talk about. No need exhort to get to work for God. Doing this. Hesitate to exhort to still greater efforts..for that may be presumptive..making it appear that I think you not doing enough! Might even stir up until have heart attack! Jesus had to say to His workers on occasion.."Come ye apart and rest awhile." Vance Havner.."If you don't come apart and rest..come apart!" And God knew what doing when decreed Sabbaths of rest.

(2). Now in Heb.4:11..most peculiar statement.."Let us ~~therefore~~ LABOUR therefore to enter into that rest." Peculiar bec. of strong term "labour", which seems to connote great, groaning, grievous effort..is placed bef. the goal of it all, called "rest". How do we "labour" to enter into rest? The preceding verses tell us. This "labour" is a very personal thing..involving deeply ingrained, personal attitudes..and espec. the attitude of simple faith. As Israel did not enter into her rest in her prom. land bec. of unbelief..we too find it such a "labour" to simply LEAN ON GOD..and find perfect rest in His known and sure will. So we often struggle too hard, and lose the rest of soul and spirit we should enter into. I think this is what is talking about here..and I feel this is what He would have us talk about today.

I. Do you people ever get discouraged? Really cast down?

(a). Let's not start a confession meeting just now! No need..bec. I have as human a heart as any of you. Even though God has met us..stretched out mighty arm..done for us the humanly impossible..prep'd a table in the wilderness when not a teaspoon in sight..our frail human hearts grow discouraged..(word used 7 times in Bible..NEVER as an exhortation to be followed..once as exhort. to be avoided) At once we think of that great King David..writing this: 3 times..Ps.42:5, 11, 43:5 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?" And then the heart-cahnging answer.."HOPE THOU IN GOD: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and MY GOD." May God remind us again and again of this.

(b). THIS IS THE DAY IN WHICH WE NEED CERTAINTIES. Profs in Univ. will tell you.."There ain't no such thing" (If they failed in grammar!) No certainties..all relative. But there ARE certainties..and never before have we so needed to know them..find REST on them..rest of faith.

No need talk to you about CERTAINTY OF SALVATION. This you have..deep-set in heart..on author. of Word of God.."I KNOW in whom I have bel'd....that day." I heard other day of Billy Graham, that he has been often threatened by cranks, extremists, enemies of Gospel..and wife and family also. And this..that he has told Pres. Richard Nixon..that if he, B. Graham is ever kidnapped..held for ransom.."Don't negotiate." How can he say that? BEC. OF CERTAINTY OF HEAVEN

II. But I think we need to have some certainties about service

(a). Isn't this where Satan bothers us? "Not worth while... Work will fall apart one day...Nobody cares...Support going down...So little results, time to quit." That goes on today exactly as it day when Nehemiah tried build walls of Jerusalem Neh. 2:19 "They laughed us to scorn"..4:3 "Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall"..Then plots, scemes, blackmail, subtle temptations... But Nehemiah said: "The God of heaven, he will prosper us." And that's all he needed. He laboured..and entered into rest.

(b). Now today..I suggest we shall be helped in this matter by looking at a very interesting Bible word..the word "SEAL" Not a marine mammal, of course! In Heb.."To close up..by a SIGNATURE ring." Greek word.."To stamp with a signet or private mark, for security or preservation, protecting from misappropriation, to keep secret or private, to attest as genuine." So this is a very imp. word. As used concerning Book of 7 Seals in Rev.."TO SEAL CLOSELY"..Very special use. And as examine Bible use..the seal can be generally said to indicate two things: GUARDED & GUARANTEED. *Both words encourage + refresh us*

(c). Let me illus. these two by examples.

First:- GUARDED. By this I mean preserved, kept secure until an appointed time..like bundle of sealed papers in some bank vault..or the sealed orders under which many a captain sailed his ship during war days. Kept from prying eyes..hands of robbers. Look at these in Ephes. 1:13 and 4:30. "In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." HIS MARK IS ON THAT SEAL, thank God! "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye ARE SEALED unto the day of redemption." "There is the personal seal of God on His own.."Spirit of God". Again this:- Rev. 10:4. "SEAL up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." Those secret utterances died with John..as did unspeakable words Paul heard in heaven. Some truths are reserved for days to come..and until then we can never know them..and so we walk by FAITH in many areas..confident that God has future all in His hand.

(d). Now look at examples of seals that GUARANTEE. Many indeed...e.g. Esther 8:8... "Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, and seal it with the KING'S RING; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, MAY NO MAN REVERSE." And when read that..think a bit about your Bible..King's WORD! Guaranteed! Do you also seal it like this: John 3:33..

"He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that "God is true". We can add our sure witness to Word of God! Another one:- Rev. 7:3-8..Proph of rising up of 144,000 witnesses in Israel..and a restraint of judgment on earth "until we have SEALED the servants of ~~God~~ our God in their foreheads." That will be a GUARANTEE of the truth of their testimony. (See also..Feast of Dedication

- our today - as we preach Word of God

III. Now there is something else set in Bible..great imp.

(a). There are FOUR SEALED BOOKS MENTIONED IN SCRIP.. See them briefly. TWO deal with matters GUARDED.

1. This one in Isa, 29:11 "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed."

How true! The Word of God is not to be known by the wisdom of man..but ONLY by rev. of God..It is Sealed and guarded from the natural man (I Cor.2:14 "The natural man)

2. Another such "sealing up" of a book is that in Dan. 12:4, 9. "Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end."..."Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." This is why no man on earth fully und. Bk. of Dan! BUT THE GREAT FACT FOR US TO SEE IS THIS: GOD HAS ALL THE FUTURE IN HIS OWN HANDS! And we can REST on that!

(b). Now look at other two sealed books. Very closely related to each other. TWO BOOKS OF GUARANTEE.

1. First, Jer. 32:10 "And I subscribed the evidence, and SEALED IT, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances." (Story). vs. 15 "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land."..vs. 27

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" GOD HAS GUARANTEED THAT ISRAEL WILL AGAIN POSSESS ALL HER LAND..INCLUDING JEREMIAH'S FIELD. God is keenly int. in His people..Will MOVE.....

2. Second..Rev.5:1-5 (read). What mean? Story of Jer, gives us key to this book also. TITLE DEEDS! For our Lord bought a field..(Matt. 13:44) and field is WORLD. Some day..as ONLY WORTHY ONE..rise and break open His copy (pub. copy is Bible..sent through all earth).

"Jesus shall reign where're the sun, doth his successive journeys run. His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, Till moon shall wax and wane no more."

Conclus:- 1. Fellow bel'rs...BE OF GOOD CHEER. Your labour is NOT in vain in the Lord.

WE are guarded by seal of H.Spirit.

His Word is guarded..will never pass away.

The FUTURE is guarded..sealed up in hands of God alone.

Our WITNESS for Him is guaranteed as genuine truth.

The FUTURE OF ISRAEL is guaranteed, and the land secure.

- and God will use ev. one int. in His people.

The GOVERNMENT OF EARTH is guaranteed to Jesus Christ. That

Gov't will surely be upon His shoulder..and we shall reign with Him.

2. Be of good cheer. "Go labour on, spend and be spent,

Thy joy to do the Master's will." And as we labour for Him,

we REST utterly, securely IN Him.

Labour to enter into His rest..now..ev. day.

Berean student body..in 1956, gave me Bible...On flyleaf this text..Deut. 31:8.."And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

The words of Moses to Joshua. The words of God to me..you.

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