

Three Sermons from a Fallen Soldier

Wed, 15 Mar 2000

Just a few days ago, a good preacher-friend of mine went to be with the Lord. Elder Charles Walker was only sixty-five years of age when the Lord called him home. Brother Charles was a faithful minister, who took his divine calling to preach very seriously. He was very studious in God's word. I vividly remember several sermons that I was blessed to hear him preach. I would like to share a summary of three of them with you.

A Chair in Heaven

One of the most moving sermons that I have ever heard anyone preach is one that Brother Charles preached from Hebrews 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high..." Brother Charles beautifully pointed out that there was no chair among the furniture in the Old Testament tabernacle or temple. In the Holy Place there was the table of shew bread, the altar of incense, and the seven-branched candlestick. In the Holy of Holies there was the Ark of the Covenant, which was overlaid by the mercy seat. Among all these sacred pieces of furniture there was found no chair. Brother Charles explained that this was so, because the work of the Old Testament priests was only typical. The great Sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ, had not yet done His work of redemption. The work of Atonement was not yet complete. However, when Jesus died on the cross, this work was perfectly finished.

The debt of the sins of all the elect family of God had been paid in full. Perfect satisfaction had been rendered to the justice of God. There was no more work of redemption to be done. Therefore, the One who had perfectly completed the work could sit down, signifying that the full payment of the sin debt had been accomplished. This chair was in heaven, or the true Holiest place. Hebrews 9:27 says that the things in the Old Testament tabernacle were "patterns of things in the heavens..." Brother Charles rejoiced that day along with his hearers that our Successful Savior could sit down at the right hand of the majesty on high, because He had successfully purchased all His children from the clutches of divine wrath. Today Brother Charles has had the infinite privilege of seeing Christ actually sitting at the right hand of the Father!

The Word of God

On another occasion, it was my privilege to hear Brother Charles preach another powerful doctrinal sermon. As I write about these sermons I wish I could convey to you the spirit and power in which they were delivered. We were all lifted high above the things of this world, and were receiving a small foretaste of the heavenly kingdom. Brother Charles preached this time on Jesus Christ being the Word of God. He pointed out that the function of words is to reveal or manifest. For example, we all have thoughts. However, others cannot read those thoughts and cannot know what we are thinking, until we verbalize our thoughts in words. We communicate and reveal our inmost thoughts by means of words.

Brother Charles beautifully showed that God is a Spirit. He is invisible. We would never have known Him if He had not revealed Himself to us. John 1:18 says "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." When He did reveal Himself to us how did He do it? He sent His only begotten Son to reveal Himself to His children. This is one of the reasons that Christ, the Second Person in the Trinity, is called the Word of God. As Jesus told Philip in John 14:9 "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

All Things

Many people have trouble understanding Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Brother Charles preached one of the most enlightening sermons on this text that I ever heard. He believed strongly in the sovereignty of God. He did not believe in the pagan concepts of fortune, accident, or chance. He believed that God is the controller of this universe to a minute detail. However, he did not believe that God is the Author of sin. He did believe that nothing could befall a child of God without the permission of the Father. How then to explain the seeming tragedies that often befall God’s people?

Brother Charles explained it this way. He said that there are certain substances, such as strychnine, which are fatal if taken by themselves. However, when some of these deadly substances are mixed with other ingredients, they become powerful medicines. Brother Charles said that there may be many things that happen to God’s children which seem to be bad in themselves, but that, in combination with all of life’s experiences, they ultimately work for the good of God’s children. He acknowledged that in our present imperfect state we may not be able to see how all this works out, but that when we get to glory we will understand it then. This was a very able and comforting sermon.

I thank God for the blessing of having known Brother Charles Walker and of hearing him preach some very able God-honoring discourses.

Brother Zack Guess