

Monthly Messenger.

Edited by Rev. T. HALL, Congregational Minister, Queen's Road Chapel, St. John's.

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ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION IN QUEEN'S ROAD (CHAPEL)

BY THE REV. T. HALL.

Beloved brethren,—We meet this evening to review the work of the past year, and to pledge ourselves to increased activity in the coming one. In the retrospect of the past there is much to humble us. We have to mourn over time wasted, opportunities neglected, talents buried, besides many positive transgressions of the Divine law. These things ought not to be. There is little use in uttering, time after time, vain regrets without a sincere repentance and a full purpose of amendment. The path of duty once clearly discovered, the Christian should henceforth walk therein as faithfully as the sun—"but the one thing I do," said the apostle, "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Are we servants of the eternal King? Children of the blessed God? Heirs to an incorruptible inheritance? Oh what honour! what manner of love! how rich is our condition! But these involve grave and vast responsibilities. They demand of us—

1. *Holiness to the Lord.*

Only those who are holy in heart and life can stand in the presence of God, or be employed in His service. We should, therefore, yield everything that usurps His place in our affections—give Him our hearts, our entire being, and labour to glorify His adorable name. "Let us be perfect, as our Father in heaven is perfect." "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Then shall God dwell in us; His spirit fill our bodies. We will then be used in His service.

Again they demand—

2. *Great earnestness in the service of God.*

We must not live unto ourselves, but unto Him that died for us. This is the place of service, of toil, of self-denial, of cross-bearing. The time for faithful service is short, and the issues of greatest moment.

All around us are earnest. The men of the world, the enemies of the truth, and the arch deceiver. God Himself is earnest. Shall we be slothful, or shrink from any duty, or call our trials great, or speak of

sacrifices in His glorious cause. Remember the Man of Sorrows. Remember His ceaseless toil, His tears, His patience and self-denial. Remember His agony, His cross and passion. Go, learn of Him.

Again they demand—

3. *Faithfulness to each other.* We are heirs to the same grace. All children of the same dear God. It is a privilege, as well as our duty, to bear one another's burdens, to exhort one another daily, to pray constantly for each other, and strive together to uplift our souls into the light and liberty of God's ransomed sons and daughters, ever speaking the truth in love.

Again they demand—

4. *Greater faithfulness in dealing with the unconverted.*

We become accustomed to the faces of our friends and neighbours, who come and go with us to the house of the Lord, and we are in danger of forgetting that while they neglect the Saviour they are dead—condemned, lost; that they are wasting the golden moments graciously given to prepare for eternity; that if they do not soon repent they will perish for ever; as we have obtained mercy ourselves, we should be faithful to those who still reject it. We are our brother's keeper. Run, speak to that young man. Tell the guilty of their danger. Lovingly invite them to the waiting Saviour. It should be no cross, but a delight to every true Christian to point the perishing to the Lamb of God. Do so promptly; while you delay they are growing hardened in their crimes. Many are getting beyond your influence, and others are sinking into the cold waters of death, and into the darkness that is everlasting.

Again: They demand, 5. *That we give special attention to the young.* Most of us who enjoy the Divine favour and are called to work for God, were sought and found in the morning of life. The saying has become trite, yet it is still worthy of repetition, that "the young are the hope of the Church." Our work is not done when we have gathered them into our Sabbath-school, and taught them to sing hymns and read the Word of God. We must not rest till they are gathered into the heavenly fold. We must endeavour to win their hearts for Christ, and enlist them in the service of the Lord.

We have glanced at some of the responsibilities