

My ideal of an address on such an occasion as this, is, that it should be addressed to the churches rather than to individuals, and be one which in virtue of the information given, or suggestions offered, should help the churches to do better work for the Master, and in the line of our particular principles.

In trying to conform to my ideal, I found a good deal of difficulty in coming to a conclusion as to the channel into which I should direct your thoughts to-night, but finally decided to try and say a few words to you about one of the most blessed privileges the churches have, and to indicate some of the ways in which I think it can be best employed.

Many look upon turning to Christ and the doing of work in His name as duties, and so we hear of the religious duties and obligations of churches and church members.

Now while this statement of the position is a true one, and that aspect of our relation to Christ and His work is not to be overlooked or forgotten, there is a higher and better way of regarding the attitude of a man to his God and Saviour, and the manner of his showing his appreciation of His grace and love. It is that of privilege.

When we compare human knowledge with the Omniscience of God, when we compare the strength of man with the Omnipotence of God, when we compare all the powers of man, taken together, with the Infinite God; how impotent and ignorant do we appear, and we feel constrained to take up the cry of the King of Israel, when he said, "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; what is man that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that Thou visitest him?"

Then when we think that the God and Creator of all this wonderful universe has given us a life which shall out-live the heavens and the earth which we now see, that the God and Creator of this unlimited and inscrutable universe, so loved *us*, as to give His only Son to be incarnated in *our flesh* and die to redeem us, who had rebelled against him, and to make us kings and priests to Himself; how can we help being overwhelmed with a sense of His grace and love, of the honor and glory bestowed upon us, and how can we regard anything that our limited knowledge or puny strength may do to please Him, as simply a duty? Oh! my brethren, what a privilege to be recognized as a child of God, to be able to say with a consciousness that it is true, "Our Father, who art in Heaven," how can anyone help adding, "Hallowed be Thy Name."