

TEXTS AND THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

JUNE 24. ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

1. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. Isa. 40. 3. 11.

John prepared the way for the ministry of Jesus in the natural desert of Judaea, whither the people resorted to him; and in the midst of the Jewish nation, which was spiritually a desert. And it is the office of God's people to prepare mankind for his second coming to judge the world, by preaching his truth in the spiritual desert of the world. God grant me to take my part duly in this preparation of others; and that I may do so, let me preach his coming continually to my own heart.

2. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. Matt. xv. 18.

The name Peter signifies a stone, whether large or small. The apostles are the twelve foundation stones of the new Jerusalem, the church; and Peter was regarded as the first and chief, for in the first days of the gospel he was privileged to be first and foremost, and all were gathered to him; the Jews first on the day of Pentecost, and the Gentiles first in Cornelius and his family. And thus was done to teach us outward unity, in the fellowship of the chief of the apostles. Lord, help me to study this outward unity, that I may more fully the inward, in Him whom Peter confessed.

JUNE 30.

1. Speak; for thy servant heareth. 1 Sam. iii. 10.

These were the words which Eli taught to Samuel, when it pleased God first to reveal himself to him by his word in the visions of the night. And the same Lord speaks to us in the darkness of our own inmost thoughts and in the guidings of his providence. But that his voice may be effectual, it requires that our hearts should go forth towards him, and not only we, but our hearts, but desire and pray for it, and listen reverently to his voice. O Holy and blessed spirit, give me the hearing ear and the willing heart, and then speak thou for my direction.

2. It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good. 1 Sam. iii. 17.

These are the words of Eli, when Samuel announced to him God's judgments on the wickedness of his family. He knew the justice of God, and that he could do nothing but right. He knew well his goodness to himself and his long-suffering towards his family, and in thankfulness for these he resigned himself submissively to any severity of affliction. May I have the same sense of all his goodness and long-suffering to me. Even if I see not the reason of his chastisements, let me still say, it is the Lord.

J. B.

N. B. These Texts and Thoughts, with others to fill up the whole course of the Church year, are published in a cheap form suitable for every family, and are sent by mail to subscribers at the price of 10 cents per copy.

3. Let us be subject one to another. 1 Pet. v. 6.

This is a contradiction to the natural man; for how he says can be subject, when there are some to whom we must be subject? But faith and humility show us that, when we know our place, there are few indeed who are not subordinate to others; and even if we were not, we ought to learn of our Lord and master to be so to others by labour and patience for their good. O that I may have this true self-knowledge and humility.

4. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 1 Pet. v. 6.

God sends affliction to teach us our deficiencies and to train us to patience and endurance for his sake. But that we may profit by the trial, it is not enough that he should humble us by affliction; we must accept the rod and humble ourselves. And then when the affliction has done its work, we shall be released. O Lord, give me grace to wait all the days of my appointed time, until my heart is humbled, and I am fit for deliverance.

JUNE 27.

1. Be sober; be vigilant. 1 Pet. v. 8.

It becomes the heirs of heaven to be above the love of earth; and therefore whilst they use earthly things, they must keep their hearts disengaged from all excessive pleasures and cares of this life. And since the tempter is always on the alert, to draw us unawares into evil, we must keep the soul in a wary and watchful condition, ever on the watch against being led into the love of earthly things. O that I may be thus sober-minded and watchful.

2. After that ye have suffered a while, perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 1 Pet. v. 10.

Perseverance and growth in grace are to be chiefly sought for by every Christian; but they are seldom accomplished without a training in the school of affliction. This draws off the heart from earth and fixes on eternity and the Rock of Ages. As the soul becomes thus fixed, it advances towards perfection; it ceases to give way to lightness, inconsistency and discouragement; it gains further measures of strength to combat and advance; it ceases to be distracted by different aims and desires, but it has one great aim and one great desire. Lord, grant me thus to rest, and thus to be built up continually.

JUNE 28.

1. The God of all grace... hath called us into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus. 1 Pet. v. 10.

All grace is in God, the living spring of it, and flows forth from him in all his works of nature, of providence, and of redemption. This grace is especially shown in his loving kindness to us in Christ Jesus; by uniting him to our nature, and then uniting us to him in one body he has not only called us to eternal glory by invitation, but called us into it now, although it is eternal. O that I may hold fast by a living faith that which is freely given; let me hope for it first, and then try to fit for it.

2. Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. Luke xv. 6.

This is the voice of the good Shepherd, when any who have strayed from his fold return to it again by a sincere repentance. And this voice is a guarantee to us, that no sinner perishes because God has forgotten him, and that none can have the slightest desire to return, whom Christ is not more willing to receive. Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus, that thou dost not leave us to ourselves, when we wander from thee. Glory be to thy condescension, that can rejoice in the recovery of such as I.

JUNE 29.—ST. PETER.

1. Peter therefore was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing unto God for him. Acts xii. 6.

Not many weeks since, and Peter was denying Christ with oaths and curses; and now we find him confessing him courageously, and going into prison for his sake; and his life and liberty are so valued by the church, that they cease not their prayers to God till he is delivered. How great the power of the Spirit of God and faith in Jesus! Lord, grant me the help of the same Spirit to strengthen my weakness.

2. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. Matt. xv. 18.

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Toronto, 2d January, 1855. 3-11

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April 12th, '55. 37

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Elliott's Point,

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The proprietor has been induced to make this offer in compliance with the urgent advice and repeated solicitations of his friends. For years past, the virtues of the above spring have been known to many residents in the immediate vicinity; and some of the medical officers of Her Majesty's forces, at different times stationed at Fort Malden, have given their opinion, that it was entitled to rank with Chiltonian and other places of like character; in proof of which, several testimonials might be procured from respectable individuals who have tested its efficacy.

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