

power of God. Men are only workmen, builders, erecting the temple of God, and at nightfall they cease from labor and go to their rest, and with the morning other hands take up the task and the work is carried forward to completion. But the Church of Jesus Christ cannot grow old. Like Christ, her living Head, she is endowed with eternal youth. Like Him who said, "I am the truth," she lives forever! Kingdoms and empires pass away, but the mission of the Church is everlasting. She will stand forever, for it is written, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against her."

The Church of Christ is the earthly expression of Christ's own life; and that life cannot die. The story of the cross can never grow old. Old age never comes to the Church of Christ. The years of her existence may multiply until we count her life by centuries, and yet she will be clothed in all the freshness and beauty of immortal youth. No winter to make her life barren. No frosts to kill her fruitfulness. No infirmities to cripple her powers. As long as Christ can say, "I am the life," and "because I live, ye shall live also," so long the Church shall be the life of the world.

But I must not linger—my letter is already too long. I give to your beloved pastor and his people the heartiest congratulations my heart can offer, "The lines have fallen to you in pleasant places and you have a goodly heritage." I congratulate this congregation that they have so worthy a pastor, and are permitted to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of this church under such delightful circumstances, and in so appropriate a way. The living Christ has performed here many miracles of grace. This sanctuary has been the gate of heaven to a large company of the sacramental host of God's elect. Precious links bind us to the realities of the life and service in the upper sanctuary. Time speeds on; our usefulness here and preparation for heaven is shortening. When we pass on, be it ours to leave to those who shall come after us, an inspiration and encouragement that will enter into their lives and flow down with the current of years to bless the world!