

THE LAST SERMON OF REV. J. C. LIEBK.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Be not deceived; neither fornicators &c. shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

There will be disappointment consternation, dismay, on that great day when we shall stand before the Judge to receive our final sentence. The squaring up of accounts on the day of Judgement will bring many a one a debtor to the whole law, who had been flattering himself that he had received his justifying acquittal. Many will find on that day that their quiet conscience and their self-righteous composure, they mistook for justification was a mere bogus acquittal, which will not be received when the Great Judge calls us to account. It is not enough to merely hope our sins are forgiven, we should have some well grounded assurance that God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ. Many are living on hope, but on a hope of which they will be ashamed when they come to need the reality.

They will find that it was a hope based on a shadow, not the substance. It is needless to hope for peace and contentment in the evening of our days, if in our youth we sow the seeds of selfishness, intemperance or greed. It is vain to look for a harvest if we sow not the seed in its season. It is vain we hope to be saved if we still live in sin. Be not deceived, the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Merely hoping to be saved, brethren, and at the same time taking no trouble to secure an escape from the wreck, merely hoping to be saved and yet make no provision to escape the conflagration that is raging around, merely hoping to be saved and still lingering in doomed Sodom is certainly not to be depended on. Hoping to be saved and yet continuing in sin and unbelief is not the way to settle our affairs for eternity. Nothing is right that is wrong. What is wrong remains so till it is set right. We may patch up and cover rents but this will not constitute a new garment.

At the very outset we learn here: 1—There must be a Reformation of our moral character. This reformation is not effected by white-washing. To the eye of

man paint may cover up many defects in the work. But God sees beneath the covering. This reformation must begin in the heart. The heart must be purified before the life can be holy. One may bring the flush of health to the cheek of a consumptive by friction, but this will not cure the lungs. The wasting disease goes on and death soon claims its victim. One may cover up the rotten frame of a building with new shingles, but its handsome exterior will not prevent total destruction, when the first storm blast strikes it. And so Brethren, we may cover up a wicked heart by a polished life. We may put on the appearance of refinement, or even morality, but this is but the glitter of gold on the coffin, or the polished whiteness on the sepulchre, full of dead men's bones and corruption.

The important question in considering this moral reformation is, not what we are to men, but what we are to God. We are warned here not to be deceived. There is a possibility of this. Men are easily deceived by appearances; and Oh brethren it will be a terrible thing to be deceived regarding our moral standing in relation to eternity. Be deceived about your prospects for to-morrow, be deceived in your friends, be deceived by those you are engaged with in business, be deceived in your health, be deceived in the wife of your bosom or in your offspring, you be deceived in the sudden ending of your mortal career, but Oh Brethren be not deceived about your soul. Make your calling and election sure.

Many are the stains to be removed from your soul before this can be done. The characters here enumerated includes every man. You may not be guilty of all these moral pollutions—but you are guilty of some of them. No soul stained by any sin can enter heaven. If men have been fornicators they must become chaste. If they have been idolaters in allowing anything earthly to usurp God's rightful throne of their affections such worship must be given up and God reinstated upon the throne of our warmest reverence and love.

If men have been in the habit of appropriating to themselves what lawfully belongs to another, either in the way of business by their superior knowledge of the value of things, or by concealing defects or by actually pilfering from another's premises, reparation must be made, sin truly repented of, and a new life begun, for no thief or defrauder can enter Heaven. The drunkard the reviler and the extortioner cannot. Only the pure in