

LESSONS TAUGHT BY THE LIFE OF ENOCH.

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Enoch's life teaches us that under the most unfavorable conditions, we can maintain companionship with God. How often are we ready to excuse our Christian deficiencies on the ground that we are obliged to bear company with these of irreverent character, and are thus constrained to undue conformity to this wicked world. Many solemn vows go unperformed, for the reason that the god of this world stands in our way. When asked why we do not maintain a closer walk with God, how apt we are to cast the blame on others, on the society in which we move. Men say :

"We must not be peculiar and make ourselves offensive to those with whom we have intimate, social, and business relations, by too firm an adhesion to our principles : we must not drive from us the worldly and the ungodly with whom we have daily intercourse. True, this conformity to the world does hinder our Christian life, our growth in grace, our walk with God. It does sometimes take us to the haunts of fashion and vanity, where God and the interests of the soul are forgotten, where death and the judgment are thoughts never entertained ; it takes us away from the place of prayer, where humble souls confess their sins, and pray that they may be kept from all evil. It sometimes unfits us for activity in the service of God, creating in us a disrelish for the duties of the closet and acts of devotion. But really we cannot well help all this, wrong as it is, for our companionships are all against us."

What if Enoch had thus thought and talked ? Never then would have been written of him "He had this testimony that he pleased God." Never then should we have heard of his glorious translation. But not thus did Enoch think or talk. Not popular practice, but God's holy will was the law of his life. He would walk with none who did not walk toward heaven. He would not sacrifice God's companionship, whatever social and business appeals might be made to him. He may not have been popular with all his neighbors and townsmen. His godly walk may not have been the admiration of ungodly men.

Let us not deceive ourselves. If Enoch could walk with God, who cannot ? He was a man subject to like passions as we are. He felt none of the better influences which surround us. No

holy examples challenged his imitation. No written Gospel, no fraternal greetings and sympathies, no sweet hour of social prayer, no singing by loving souls of Jesus and His love, bade him be of good cheer, and go on his way rejoicing. So to speak, he was a pioneer in the way to heaven. Through countless dangers and difficulties he made his journey to eternal life. If he walked with God, cannot we ? Enoch's God will be our guide if we accept his companionship.

The life of Enoch shows the sanctifying and ennobling influence of a close walk with God. That this man's character was pure and beautiful, no one can doubt. How did he acquire this blessed spiritual culture of mind and heart ? Of whom was he the pupil that he had so well been taught the most blessed of all knowledge ? From no school, no human teacher, had he learned how to be beautiful in life and holy in character. His long and intimate fellowship with God, moulded him into the perfection of character.

Our attainments in any department of labour, greatly depend upon the patterns which we copy, the masters and models that we study. Walking with God, Enoch had before him the perfection of excellence, the glory of holiness. "Beholding the glory of the Lord, we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory." Meeting God in the mountain, Moses came down to the people with countenance all aglow with divine illumination.

"A Persian fable says : one day A wanderer found a lump of clay So redolent of sweet perfume, Its odors scented all the room.

"What art thou ?" was his quick demand : "Art thou some gem from the Samarcand, Or spikenard in this rude disguise, Or other costly merchandise ?

"Nay ! I am but a lump of clay." "Then whence this wondrous sweetness — say ?"

"Friend, if the secret I disclose, I have been dwelling with the rose." Sweet parable ! And will not those Who love to dwell with Sharon's rose, Distil sweet odors all around, Though low and mean themselves are found ?

Dear Lord, abide with us, that we May draw our perfume fresh from Thee."

Yes, simple though we are, by walking with God we can become true, beautiful, and holy. The life and translation of Enoch teach us the blessed results of divine companionship. At last his long walk on earth reached its close. What then !