

The Lord's Day Morning

September 3, 1944

“Jesus’ Philosophy of Life and Death”

Scripture Lesson – John 16:16-33

Text – John 16:28

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Introduction

1. All the great conceptions of Christ were stated simply and clearly
 - a. Theological utterances
 1. I am the Savior of the world
 2. I am the Son of God
 - b. Relationship to God
 1. We are children
 2. Love Him with whole heart, mind, etc.
 - c. Human relationships
 1. Love your neighbor as yourself
2. He introduced a new word into religious thinking
 - a. He spoke of God as Father
 - b. He illumined this word and transformed it into grandest word in human language
 - c. He used it often
 1. In every sermon
 2. In every prayer
3. Here in text with this word as center we have His philosophy of life and death
 - a. I am going to my Father
4. Here is a philosophy
 - a. Explains life
 - b. Sustains life
 - c. Completes life

I. It explains life

1. Some questions we are always asking as man has always asked them
 - a. What is life?
 - b. What is meaning of life?
 - c. Why am I here?
 - d. What am I supposed to do with life?
 - e. Is life worth living?
2. Now as always there have been answers to these questions
 - a. Atheist answer
 1. Going to dust
 2. Death ends all
 - b. Poet and philosopher have answered

1. Life is a dream
2. Life is a shadow
3. Life is as grass
4. We are on our way to great unknown
- c. Christianity has a better answer
 1. Couched in various pictures – journey – pilgrimage
 2. Jesus answers – am on my way to my Father
- d. Here is greatest answer to meaning of life
3. Explains much of life
 - a. We are on our way to the Father
 - b. Hard bitter struggle of youth
 1. Growing pains
 2. Adolescent changes
 3. Education
 4. On way to manhood
 - c. Difficult circumstances
 1. Making journey – on way to Klondike – on way to new frontiers
 2. French and Anzio beachheads
 3. Hardships
 - d. We are going to Father
 1. Many things may happen – hardships – trials – sorrows
 - e. Life has meaning for Christian – am going to Father

II. It sustains life

1. We do not belong here
 - a. Diver at bottom seeking pearls. He is out of his element and knows it, but he knows, too, that he will soon be back in light and air of surface.
 - b. Pilgrims
 1. Mayflower
 2. Traveling in covered wagon
2. Christ had a hard life
 - a. Misunderstood
 - b. Maligned
 - c. Deserted
 - d. Crucified
 - e. I am on the way to my Father
3. So in our lives
 - a. Hardships
 - b. Denials
 - c. Sorrows
 - d. I am on way to Father
 1. Not sailing uncharted sea
 2. Not adrift in sea of life
 3. Not passing over mountains of difficulty and into valleys of sorrows for no reason
 4. We are going to Father

III. It completes life

1. Child who had done wrong and rather than face father had run away from home, but father found out where he was and sent word he had forgiven him and for him to come home.

a. Prodigal son

b. Completes life when come into arms of Father

2. Story of boy of noble parentage who was kidnapped and lost for several years. One day a begrimed, smutty, chimneysweep came into living room of home and mother recognized her son. She did not wait to clean him up and teach him culture and refinement, but put her arms around him and hugged him to her mother heart. This is what God will do for us.

3. Death is not an end of life, but the completion of a journey home to the Father.

4. Life will then be complete

a. See through glass dimply now, then face to face

b. Know in part now, then know as am known

c. Father will explain all of life to us

1. Trials

2. Hardships

3. All lead to Him

d. Now we have finished

1. Are at home

Conclusion

1. Here are Jesus' answers

a. On way to Father

2. We can better understand life, we can be sustained in life, if we could have His philosophy of life.

3. Let this be ever before us

“On! Sail On!”

“Behind him lay the gray Azores,
Behind the Gates of Hercules;
Before him not the ghost of shores;
Before him only shoreless seas.
The good mate said: ‘Now must we pray,
For lo! The very stars are gone.
Brave Adm’r’l, speak; what shall I say?’
‘Why, say: ‘Sail on! And on!’

‘My men grow mutinous day by day;
My men grow ghastly wan and weak.’
The stout mate thought of home; a spray
Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.
‘What shall I say, brave Adm’r’l, say,
If we sight naught but seas at dawn?’

‘Why, you shall say at break of day;
‘Sail on! Sail on! Sail on! Sail on!’”

They sailed and sailed as winds might blow,
Until at last the blanched mate said:
‘Why, now not even God would know
Should I and all my men fall dead.
These very winds forget their way,
For God from these dread seas is gone.
Now speak, brave Adm’r’l; speak and say –
He said: ‘Sail on! Sail on! And on!’

They sailed. They sailed. Then spake the mate:
‘This mad sea shows his teeth tonight.
He curls his lip, he lies in wait,
With lifted teeth, as if to bite!
Brave Adm’r’l, say but one good word;
What shall we do when hope is gone?’
The words leapt like a leaping sword:
‘Sail on! Sail on! Sail on! And on!’

Then, pale and worn, he kept his deck,
And peered through darkness. Ah, that night
Of all dark night. And then a speck!
A light! A light! A light! A light!
It grew, a starlit flag unfurled!
It grew to be Time’s burst of dawn.
He gained a world; he gave that world
Its grandest lesson: ‘On! Sail on!’”

-Joaquin Miller