

The Lord's Day Evening

August 6, 1944

"The Gospel"

Scripture Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

Text – 1 Corinthians 15:1

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Introduction:

1. Meaning of Gospel
 - a. God's Spell – Good News
 1. Not sad tidings
 2. Not bad news
 - b. Good News

Mr. Joseph Green, who is buried close to Petersburg, Tennessee, is called the Kings Mountain messenger. Mr. Green was a very large man and brought the message of the victory of Kings Mountain to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The encouragement when it came, for this announcement of the Continental forces' victory at Kings Mountain was one of the factors that turned the tide of battle in favor of the Revolutionary forces. I have seen the grave where Mr. Joseph Green is buried.
 - c. God's good news
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:2-5 tells what it is
2. What this good news is about
 - a. Not about someone restored to health
 - b. Not about a fortune inherited
 1. Read in paper the other day where some private had subscribed \$500,000 to war bond issue at Keesler Field. This reminded me of news which came to chief petty officer in our barracks in Key West who received news that his uncle had left him a fortune.
 2. But there came shortly after that still better news.
 - c. Good news of victory won
 1. We will have this we hope soon
3. This is still better news than that

I. Sins are forgiven

1. Sin is likened to leprosy
 - a. Some thing of how leprosy works
 - b. Men cannot cure – can only arrest
2. Here comes the good news
 - a. God sent His Son to take our place in that body of loathsome diseases with its putrefying sores
 - b. He went to cross and bore our sins and now they are all forgiven

1. Suppose I could walk into the leper colonies over the world today and shout, "You can be healed." That surely would be good news. Surely the lepers would come for healing.
- c. I can stand here tonight and tell the world your sins can and will be forgiven through Christ.
 1. All the penalty has been paid
 2. God forgives

II. Death

1. Death is an awful thing
 - a. Robs wife of husband
 - b. Robs child of parent
 - c. Brings so many hardships to so many people
2. All paths lead there
 - a. Doctor, lawyer
 - b. Rich, poor
 - c. Even path of young leads to death
 - d. See people vanish into this iron door of gloom. None come back.
3. How people face it
 - a. Have seen broken hearted mother lean out of car door as it drove away leaving body of devoted son lying there in casket and heard her scream, "Good-bye, Robert."
 - b. Have seen great strong man shaking with sobs pass casket of son murdered and heard him say, "Good-bye, Son."
 - c. Have heard them say they could not stand to give up loved ones.
4. What good news the Gospel is
 - a. You need not die
 1. May lay aside a body
 - b. But go home to God
 1. Death does not hurt
 2. It is not a loss
 - c. The Gospel tells us Christ arose from the grave
5. Suppose one could step in midst of battle today and shout, "Ye shall not die!" What good news that would be!
 - a. I can tell you, "Ye shall not die, but with sins forgiven, you shall live on forever with God in heaven."

III. Judgment

1. We must face judgment
 - a. Remember all of our past sins
 1. Our profanity
 2. Our lies
 3. Our jealousies
 4. Our immoral acts
 5. Our unkind deeds
 6. That time we stole the thing which did not belong to us

- b. Surely none of us could find any comfort in that
- 2. But we shall not come into judgment
 - a. Christ hath redeemed us
 - b. Shall not come into condemnation

IV. Life

- 1. Life is not easy
 - a. Daily duties
 - b. Sorrows and trials
 - c. Responsibilities
 - d. At times it surely must be discouraging
- 2. Here comes the Gospel – the Good News
 - a. Christ is alive and will walk with us
 - b. His arms of comfort will be around us
 - c. His arms of strength will uphold us
 - d. His guidance will be given to us
- 3. Christ, the Son of God, will go with us

V. Some things about this Gospel

- 1. It is free
 - a. Come buy without price
 - b. Whosoever will let him come and take freely
- 2. It is for all
 - a. One of our medical missionaries was Dr. Francis J. Hall of Peking, China. He had been graduated with high honors at the Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, and had consecrated his life to medical missionary work in China, where his large abilities promptly won him wide influence. In 1913, he said to one of his associates: “I have just been called to a Chinese who has typhus fever. Many physicians have died of that disease, but I must go.” Two weeks later he was stricken. As he lay dying his mind wandered, and he was heard to exclaim, “I hear them calling, I must go; I hear them calling!” Do we hear them calling? Is the answer, “Yes”? Then let us joyfully register a vow that, God helping us, the army of the Lord shall not be maimed because of our indifference, but as good soldiers of Jesus Christ we will, if need be, endure hardness, and give of our possessions, even unto the shedding of our blood. (From – The Whole Armour of God – page 177)
 - b. Oh, the call comes to us to take that Gospel
 - 1. Man on the street
 - 2. That sin-sick soul
 - 3. That sorrowful child
 - c. It is for us
 - 1. Whosoever that means you
 - 2. Have you accepted the Good News?
 - 3. It is proclaimed to you who would have your sins forgiven; who would be assured of your victory over death; you who would escape the judgment.

4. Will you come and accept, et.

Conclusion:

(“Don’t Die on Third” – from Along the Way)

“It was twenty-five years ago when the Detroit Tigers were playing the team from Cleveland. The score was a tie. It was the last half of the ninth, and two men were out. The fate of the game rested on Moriarty, the white-bloused figure that shuttled back and forth at third base. As the decisive moment approached, Tigers and Naps stood up at their benches and 18,000 spectators bent forward in tense expectancy. Moriarty was on third!

He had come there in the ordinary way. At bat he had hit the ball and run to first. The next batter had bunted and sacrificed to move Moriarty on to second. Then a “long fly” had advanced him to third. There he stood, alert in every nerve, his powerful running legs, his quick eye and quicker brain holding the hazard of the game and victory.

Much as it meant to have advanced that far, third base runs are not marked up on the scoreboard. Third base is not a destination – it is the last way station on the road “home.” The world is full of third bases. Third base is opportunity, and opportunity is not arrival, it is only another point of departure.

And there stood Moriarty. If he failed, it was not alone, the team failed with him. Concentrated on him at that moment were the hopes and fears of thousands who seemed to hold their breath, and so still was the great park that even the breeze seemed forgetful to blow.

One way to get off third is to wait for someone to bat you off. Another is to get away on your own initiative – Moriarty chose that. He knew his game. He knew the catcher’s signals called for a ball thrown high to Mullin, who was now at bat. He knew that a runner might duck low to touch the home plate while the catcher’s mitt was in the air for a high ball. He knew that in throwing high, pitchers “wind up” in a certain way. He knew also that pitchers have a way of “winding up” when don’t intend to throw. He knew, moreover, that this pitcher, being left-handed, could not keep watch on third while delivering the ball – the runner might safely take a longer lead. Moriarty knew all the ins and outs of his job.

Had Moriarty waited for Mullin to bat, Mullin might have failed him, ending the inning. One opening remained; make “home” between the moment the pitch was begun past all recall, and the moment the ball struck the catcher’s mitt – make “home” in the fraction of time Mullin’s hit or miss hung in futurity. That would be a contest in speed between a five-ounce ball delivered with all the force of a superb pitching arm and the 170-pound body of Moriarty! An unequal contest, for the pitched ball travels only sixty feet while the runner from third must hurl his body over a distance of ninety feet.

There is a white streak across the field! A cloud of dust at the home plate! The umpire stands over it with his hands extended, palms down. That old baseball park echoes and re-echoes with a thunderous roar of acclaim, which bursts forth again and again in

thrilling electric power. Every eye strains toward the man who is slapping the dust from his white uniform. Moriarty is home!

It was only a run made in the course of a baseball game, but it has been saying to us these many years, "Don't die on third!"