

EXCERPTS FROM

THE LINK

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To us in our part of the world it is spring, perhaps the most wonderful of all the seasons, the time when new life appears on every hand. The long cold days of winter with their storms and gales, the frost, the snow and rain is now giving place to the rays of spring sunshine with its warmth and cheer, which affects all aspects of God's wonderful creation. The hard furrows of the brown fields are being broken down and rapidly become carpeted in green. The bare hedgerows are coming to life as the primrose peeps out through the grass. The tress of the countryside and woodlands with their stark gaunt branches are bursting into garments of green of the most delicate hues, as the vital life-giving sap pushes its way through every twig and fibre. Soon the orchards and gardens will be fragrant with the aroma of the blossom. The still dewy air of a spring morning vibrates with the chorus of the birds as they rejoice over another nesting season, and if you are fortunate enough, as some of us are, you will see many a hen bird patiently sitting in her secluded and cunningly designed nest, eagerly awaiting the expiry date when the eggs will burst and the tiny new life appear.

That great man of such outstanding wisdom, Solomon, fully

appreciated these things when he wrote - "For lo, the winter is past and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land, the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell." S of S. ch. 2 v 11 - 13.

For the Christian, [conversion] means the commencement of a new life, which is spiritual and never-ending life. A life which will pass one day from spring into the glorious summer of God's immediate presence, and will never know autumn and winter or change again.

[Scripture] takes us all to an empty grave, and says afresh: "Come, see the place where the Lord lay". It bids us reflect upon the PERSON. It does not say where Jesus lay, or the Messiah or the Prophet or the King lay but the place where the Lord lay. The Lord of the heavens, of the earth and the seas, the Eternal Son of God incarnate: it was HE who lay in THAT PLACE - the place of death. He had gone to the PLACE called Calvary, the PLACE of a skull, the PLACE of suffering, the PLACE of dense darkness, the PLACE forsaken by God, when He (the Father) made to meet upon Him (the Son) the iniquity of us all.

This was no springtime to THE SAVIOUR, but WINTER in all its violence. The storm and tempest of a Holy God broke upon Him in order that we might know a spiritual Spring.

From that awful place of death and judgement He arose in victory and triumph, and stands in majesty by that abyss and says "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die." John ch. 11 v 25 - 26.

Following this, the severest storm in the eternal history, is the most glorious springtime. We who have in faith believed, have actually received the NEW LIFE - abundant life, everlasting life, the very life of the resurrected victorious Christ.

As we draw our thoughts [...] to a close, let us make the practical application to our own personalities. Is the power of His resurrection life manifest in us? Or do we restrict His function? Are the hard furrows of self being broken down? In the little lanes of the tiny corner of the earth where we walk, are there the small flowers of comfort and cheer, whose roots spring from the love of Christ? Is the sap of resurrection power surging

through every fibre of our being? Are our lives one continual song to His praise and glory?

In humiliation we bow our heads. Let us quietly, yet sincerely, breathe the prayer of the great apostle in Phil. Ch. 3 v 10 "That I might know Him, and the power of His resurrection".

To those in our fellowship for whom we regularly pray, whose presence we so much miss, life for you in a physical sense is far from a blossoming spring, nevertheless in your hearts, may you know the continuous sunshine of His love, and may we all live our lives, whether in sickness or in health, with ears tuned to hear the latter part of that same verse of S of S ch. 2 v 13 "Arise my love, my fair one, and COME AWAY"...

W.H.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Arrangements are well in hand for the outdoor church services. A mobile stage is in the course of construction, and a suitable organ being obtained to effectively lead the singing in the open-air. Quite a number of people, of little if any church connection, have spoken of their appreciation of the services last year. We thank God for the privilege of being able to stand and witness, but how conscious we are of the adversary who is always present to snatch away the seed. We need the prayer support of all the church in these things, we need the presence of every available member, and we go forward in faith believing THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND, even in these days.