1 Peter - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, October 26

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“The prophets... prophesied of the grace that should come unto you”—1 Peter 1:10.

TO the prophets of old it was given to predict that Christ was first to suffer and then to reign, but the time to elapse between these events was not revealed to them. They searched their own Scriptures as they sought to understand this (1 Peter 1:10-12). It is now that God has shown what would take place in the long interval, namely, the proclamation of the gospel among all nations and the gathering out of the Church, the Body of Christ.

When the angels announced the birth of Jesus, they spoke of peace on earth (Luke 2:14). When the children welcomed Him as He rode into Jerusalem they sang of peace in heaven (Luke 19:38). The change indicates what took place in the interval between these two proclamations. There can be no peace for the earth while the Prince of Peace is rejected.

—Lewis H. Court.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, December 11

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”—1 Peter 1:6-8.

PONDER that expression, “if need be,” and it will throw a flood of light upon God’s ways with His people which often seem perplexing and even inexplicable. For every trial which His children are called upon to endure He has a reason which will some day be made plain. He is working out some purpose in our lives of such a nature that it can only be wrought in the crucible of suffering. When all earth’s experiences are passed and,

we shall see that there was a need’s be for every painful testing and every heart-break we have been called upon to endure. We shall praise Him then for every hard thing as well as for all the joyous experiences, which we have known as we trod the pilgrim way.

Daily Sacrifice, October 27

“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God”—1 Peter 2:15, 16.

WHILE ever prepared to suffer, if needs be, for his convictions, and expecting to be misunderstood by carnal and worldly-minded men, the Christian is called upon so to behave himself toward all, that his life will witness for him as one desirous of benefiting and blessing the community of which he is a part. Recognizing all men as created in the image of God, though that image has become sadly marred by sin, the obedient believer in Christ will be an example of good will toward all, and will seek to serve in love as occasion permits.

The world has never enjoyed perfect government because of the sinfulness of the human race, but the more closely men obey the revealed will of God, the more truly they will comprehend and enjoy national and international felicity, which rests upon recognition of man’s responsibility to God and respect for the blessing of all races and peoples.

—Anon.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, December 12

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” —1 Peter 2:11, 12.

THERE are questions which cannot be properly decided if only the rights and liberty of the individual men are emphasized. Each one is part of the group with which his lot is cast. He is responsible for the effect of his actions upon those who are thus linked with him. No one lives or dies, we are told, to himself (Rom. 14:7). It is therefore gross selfishness to insist on my own liberty if that liberty tends to the detriment and enslavement of my fellows. To claim the right to certain indulgences which affect others adversely is to act contrary to the law of love, which should govern all who profess to follow Christ, and also all who would lay any claim to altruistic living. My evil example may be the ruin of weaker ones who become emboldened to do as they see me do. My selfish indulgence may make me a liability rather than an asset to

society. I am most inconsistent if I claim to be a follower of Him who “pleased not Himself” (Rom. 15:3), while I am insisting on my personal liberty in matters that are stumbling-blocks to my fellow-men, whether Christians or not (1 Cor. 8:9). While I cannot be governed by the consciences of other people, nevertheless I am called upon to avoid all that would unnecessarily stumble others (1 Cor. 8:12, 13).

—Wm. M. Runyon.

Daily Sacrifice, October 28

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ”—1 Peter 3:14-16.

O greater privilege has ever been bestowed upon men than that of suffering for the sake of Christ, as witnesses for Him in this world. Naturally we shrink from everything of the kind, and would prefer a life of ease and comfort to one of stress and conflict. But those who suffer with Christ here will reign with Him when His kingdom is displayed in power and glory. No one will regret in that day anything he has endured for the gospel’s sake in this age of evil. But many will wish they might live their lives over again in order that they might endure for Him what they avoided when here. Our great care should be that we never suffer because of ill-behavior, but only for righteousness’ sake, and as consistent Christians.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, December 13

“For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” —1 Peter 3:17,18.

MY sins put Christ on the cross, where He suffered in fullest measure, bearing all my desert that I might be freed forever from the suffering I had so richly earned. Now I am called to live and witness for Him in the world that rejected Him and to which I once belonged, but out of which He has saved me. Henceforth, holiness and righteousness are to characterize me. I am now to walk as He walked—in fellowship with Him, as enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit. Nothing else is worthy of one who has been so gloriously redeemed at so great a cost. Nor need I expect worldlings to understand. I know I must encounter their enmity and scorn. But I can conquer through Christ.

—J. G. Deck.

Daily Sacrifice, October 29

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy”—1 Peter 4:12, 13.

THE mystery of suffering has perplexed many all down through the ages. It is part of man’s sad inheritance because of sin having come into the world, and in this life the child of God is not exempt from pain, sorrow, and anguish. But the suffering of believers is all ordained of God to work out for blessing. Through this ministry of suffering we are enabled to understand better what our Lord went through for us, when in this scene. He was “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” God uses suffering to keep us from sin (1 Peter 4:1; 2 Cor. 12:7), and as a means of chastening and discipline (Heb. 12:5-11), whereby we are made more like our blessed Lord. As we suffer because of faithfulness to His name and devotion to His cause, we enjoy a very real sense of fellowship with Him, who is still hated by the world that rejects His testimony. The reward is sure and will make us forget all our light affliction in the enjoyment of the eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:17).

Daily Sacrifice, October 30

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed”— 1 Peter 5:1.

IT is a great mistake to say, as some have done, that Peter was appointed chief shepherd, or head, over all the flock. He speaks of himself as a co-presbyter with others who cared for the sheep of Christ. The expression, “who am also an elder,” implies this. He was not lord over other elders, or presbyters. He was one with them. If Peter was ever a Pope he never knew it! But to the end of his days he labored in fellowship with his brethren in the ministry, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and seeking to “stir up” the saints (2 Peter 3:1) to greater devotion to Christ, as he bore witness to the sufferings of Christ at His first coming and the glories to follow when He returns.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, December 14

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”—1, Peter 5:7.

DO we really believe this? If we do why are we so often fretted by the carking cares of daily life? God our Father has promised that all shall work for good for those who love Him, and we have the assurance that He feels for us in all our trials. He bids us bring everything to Him in prayer, and He has promised to undertake according to each day's need. Let us heed the exhortation to cast (or, literally, roll) our burdens on the Lord. He is all sufficient and "He careth" for us. His love and compassion go out to all His suffering saints. We wrong our own souls when we do not refer all our griefs to Him.

—F. Buckley.

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