

DIVINE PROMISES RESPECTING HEIRSHIP WITH GOD

(Short discourse by C. B. Shull, Columbus, Ohio, 1914 Convention Report, page 136.)

Dear friends I take this opportunity, on behalf of the ecclesia here at Columbus, to express to you our hearty appreciation of your attendance at this convention. We are very happy indeed to see so many of you here, and we surely are glad, dear friends, that God has been manifesting His pleasure, His favor and His blessing upon us all.

Our subject, Divine Promises Respecting Heirship With God, has been pretty well covered, we believe, by the dear brethren that have preceded us. We just want to remind you of a few Scriptures. One that has been running through our minds, dear friends, ever since this convention began, "Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed." And it is, dear friends, absolutely nearer, so near, dear friends, are we to the grand consummation of our hopes, that my heart trembles within me when I think of it.

One of the Divine promises respecting heirship with God you will find in the third chapter of Revelation and the fifth verse, the latter clause, "He that overcometh, I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before the holy angels." This confession of our name before the Father, dear friends, oh, how wonderful! What it implies! It means, dear friends, that if you and I are victors, if we are more than conquerors in this strife, that the Lord Jesus Christ himself will conduct us into the presence of the Father, will introduce us to Him. Our minds fail to grasp what this means. The thought of this Divine promise respecting this much of our heirship with God ought to have such an effect in our lives, dear friends, is having such an effect, thank God, in all the lives of all the Lord's dear people throughout the length and breadth of the whole world, that it is making us a different people from all the other people on the face of the earth, a peculiar people; not peculiar in the sense that we are making ourselves peculiar by our manner of dress, or wearing our hair a certain way, or by having a certain number of buttons on our coats or something of that kind, but peculiar in the sense, dear friends, that we are sounding forth the praises of our God in our daily lives, in the office, on the farm, or wherever we are, sounding forth the praises of our God because we are inspired by that wonderful promise of heirship of God, that eventually, by God's help, through Christ, having that wonderful, exalted, indescribable privilege of being presented to our Heavenly Father.

I was reminded this afternoon of just what it might be to some extent. You know it helps us sometimes to reason from the things that we do know, that we can see, to those that we do not know just what they will be like and that we cannot see with our natural eyes. We have a dear sister here in Columbus who has been laid on a bed of sickness for years. It has been her great desire some time to look into the face of our beloved pastor. It was my privilege to go with a few of the dear friends here this afternoon, to conduct our dear

pastor to her home, to take him into her presence and introduce the two. In noting that scene, dear friend, it helped me to realize just a little bit of what it is going to be like when you and I and every other one of the Lord's children that are faithful even unto death, what it is going to be like when we come into the presence of the great King. God help each of us, dear friends, that this afternoon may be a mile-stone in our experiences, marking such a heart appreciation of God's favor to us in giving us His Truth, in opening our eyes to this privilege of making these Divine promises our own, that your life, my life, from this day on, will sound forth the praises of our God, not only in our thoughts, but in our words and in our deeds. God bless you.

To those who take His will as best
He grants His perfect peace and rest,
And ever gives them day by day
His grace sufficient on the way

Then why should hearts grow weak or faint?
Why should we ever make complaint?
Let us press on with upturned face
And follow where we cannot trace!

How calmly may we commit ourselves to the hands of Him who bears up the world!
—Jean Paul Richter.