

"The Christian And The Palm." Ps. 92:12

Sermon Number Five

Psalms 92:12;

The righteous shall flourish as the palm. He shall grow like the cedars of Lebanon.

1-The palm tree is beautiful, with its tall and verdant canopy, and the silvery flashes of its silvery plumes.

2-So the Christian virtues are not like the creeper or bramble, tending downwards.

1-The Christians palm branches shoot upwards, seeking the things above where Christ dwells.

3-In our last lesson we pointed out that the palm, in spite of many hinderences, will grow upward.

1-We also pointed out that the influences that so frequently try the righteous man and threaten to crush him are powerless to do so.

2-In seeking those things which are above the righteous find strength with which to overcome.

4-Regarding the obligations of the risen, upward life of the Christian, Paul said, Colossians 3:1-2;

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2)-Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth.

1-We are not only "dead with Christ," but "risen with him;" "not only planted in the likeness of his death, but planted together in the likeness of his resurrection;"-"that we may walk in newness of life" Romans 6:2-4.

2-This translation has altered our standpoint.

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3-We have now an entirely new sphere of intellectual conception and moral aspiration.  
2-Cor.5:17;

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

4-All things are become new:

1-The affections, the motives, the thoughts, the hopes, the whole life has been renovated and "old things are passed away" and "all things are become new."

5-Because the palm is tall and stately and produces its fruit near the top of the tree it has been said that "it is trying to get as far from the earth and near to heaven as possible."

1-So the christian must:  
"Set his mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth."

6-So we consider next, The object of Christian contemplation.

1-Is not things upon the earth, because:

1-Things of the earth are below us:

Philippians 3:19;

Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

2-Things of the earth are unsatisfying:

Hosea 13:3;

Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

Proverbs 23:5;

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

3-Things of the earth are full of anxieties:  
Matthew 13:22;

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word, and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word and he becometh unfruitful.

4-Things of this earth are transient and uncertain:

Luke 12:18-19;

And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater, and there will bestow all my fruits and my goods. (19)-

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

7-The object of Christian contemplation:

1-Are things that are above: "The things that are above are all things pertaining to our true home-the new Jerusalem, and, the heavenly citizenship" in contrast to things that are upon the earth.

2-We ought to set our minds upon them because:  
1-They are satisfying.

2-Our treasure is there: Matt. 6:19-21.

1-Timothy 6:10;

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrow

3-Our pleasures are there: Ps. 16:11; Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

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