

April 17, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

Hearing Pastor Tipton's testimony yesterday reminds us that the Lord's goodness and mercy followed us again this week. We've had seven days of their evidences for which to give thanks. Don't forget to think about them (smile). I mentioned in one of these letters that I'm focusing on one each day; writing it in a journal and trying to recall it to mind repeatedly. Should the Lord see fit to withdraw this virus crisis, we'd be freshly humbled by thumbing a journal that recounted our experiencing of His daily benefits



Tomorrow holds the welcome of a new Lord's Day. Will we *feel* the joy of it?

In a recent message I related the trials of Arthur and Wilda Matthews during their long confinement under Chinese Communism in the early 1950's. Their story was related by Isobel Kuhn in her, *Green Leaf in Drought*. It includes what Wilda referred to as her *Black Easter*.

March 25, 1951, Wilda always remembers as Black Easter, for it was that day when she touched bottom, so to speak. It was during that final service with the Chinese when the leader asked them to sing, "He Lives," and suddenly Wilda found she could not sing. If He really "lives today," why had He allowed this? Opening her lips with the congregation, no song came. It was an appalling moment for a missionary.

Alone in the bare kitchen amid her drab tasks, Wilda suddenly remembered two tracts. One was by A. B. Simpson entitled, "The 'If' in Your Life." The other was by Hudson Taylor on "Second Causes."

[Simpson wrote], *"What about the 'if?'*

Lord, If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

And He could have been there; He was not far away. He knew all about it, and He let him die. I think it was very hard for that woman. . . I have come to think that there is an 'if' in every life. . . It is something that God could have made different, if He had chosen, because He has all power; and yet He has allowed that 'if' to be there. I do not discount the 'if' in your life. No matter what it is. . . Come to the Lord with your 'if,' and let Him say to you what he said to Martha. He met her 'if' with His 'if!'

*Said I not unto thee that **IF** thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

The glory of God is to come out of the 'if' in your life. . .

Do not be thinking about your 'if.' Make a power out of your 'if' for God. . .

Do you know that light is to fall on your 'if' some day? Then take in the possibilities and say, 'Nothing has ever come to me, nothing has ever gone from me, that I shall not be better for God by it. . .'

Face the 'if' in your life and say, 'For this I have Jesus.'"

It's possible that an, *If Thou hadst. . .*, disappointment might stifle your joy tomorrow. You could fail of the grace of God due to a dashed expectation. And the day unique in all of world history, **the day** which the LORD hath made (the day when the rejected stone was made the chief corner stone; Psalm 118:22-24) could be nothing but . . . **glum. Glum, glum, glum.**

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take! (William Cowper). *This is the day which the LORD hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!* (God's Word).

George Swinnock's "Good Wish" for the Lord's Day includes,

I wish, in particular, that I may prepare for it as for a wedding-day, wherein Christ and my soul are to be espoused together; and to that end, before it cometh, may I be careful so to order my earthly

affairs that they may not encroach upon this holy ground; and so open the door of my heart, and adorn it with spiritual excellencies, that the King of glory may enter in, and think himself a welcome guest in my soul.

Don't fail to give God glory tomorrow. Don't fail to prepare today. Turn off your TV. Tune out talk radio. Hit your computer's "off" button. Silence the ringer on your cell phone. Open your precious Bible and think God's thoughts after Him. *Turn your eyes upon Jesus! And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick