

Phineas F. Bresee Sermon Notes - Isaiah 54:17

Every attempt has been made to transcribe these notes accurately. Indecipherable text appears in brackets [-]. Abbreviations transcribed as they appear in the notes.

Is. LIV.17

This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord. All kinds of wealth are desirable. The gold that brings privilege &c. Still more so the mental. The thought dug from mines of fact & carried in our own mind &c. More precious still the holy fires of affection & devotion that burn in heavenly ecstasy in the soul. The heritage of the servant of the L – is therefore mostly in the realm of thought & affection. The figures used by the Prophet here do not refer to its outward appearance & becoming but to its inner graces & beauty. The Lord here describes verse (11 &c); this heritage. The words are common & in a sense may be understood by any. But they are Spirit & power as well & can be understood in any spiritual sense only by those who are spiritually minded. The Prophet indicates that this inheritance consists of Knowledge, Righteousness, Victory and Peace. Knowledge is much sought after at this season of the year. The hundreds of college halls resound with the words of those who for [yrs.] &c. Men are seeking it everywhere in the ruins of old cities. On the plains of old empires &c. In the misty old manuscripts &c. In the fields of nature. In the empirical laws of science, in the generalizing of Phil. Everywhere men seek knowledge. Knowledge is sweet to human lips. It was a misguided desire for it [-] [-] [-] [parents] &c. This desire may be read in the questioning of childhood & efforts of mature life. The acquisition of knowledge has ever been a slow work. Not because the facts are meager nor the books poorly written. Under the most favorable circumstances. Slow, on account of human imbecility. But the world has been kept back more by the want of a teacher &c. The L says thy child shall be taught of the Lord. His creator shall be the teacher. He who is inf. in wisdom shall lead thee into the fields of fact. But what is the knowledge. [Whither] the fields & what the facts. Not the facts of the natural world &c. He calls at once into the Sanct. of man's own being & in the hidden chambers where the [psychologist] has never come, he teaches of the soul. He pours the light of heaven upon its dark abyss &c. Teaches of its destiny &c. Then he leads the student out of his own into his nature. Shows him something of himself &c. And the plan of redemption. How it unfolds. Streams of promise, prophesy & power until the mighty fountain is opened & into which all streams flow & from which all flow. Here are [-]. Instrumentalists & [agencies] influences & effects. All in their turn becoming [courses] again. Not of beauty simply but of power for us &c. And into spiritual apprehension until every [tune] glows with life & glory &c. Righteousness. We may think that this is no great thing. I was never convicted of any crime &c. But a difference between crime & sin. There may be no crime against society &c. yet full of all uncleanness &c. Murder is in the heart. A lie is in the soul. What to the world is the most beautiful benefaction is a bribe to self-love. Prayer itself becomes blasphemy. How our morality dies away. How distinctions as sinners ceases. All are rotten. We may clean the outside &c. What did Christ say. He [deemed] them with inf. condemnation as [whited] [-] [-] &c. With this view. Righteousness means something. Nothing but the Holy Ghost could [laid] bare the deep corruptions of the soul & nothing but the divine hand can stanch the blood of death. Victory. The victory of the church has been wonderful. "No weapon formed against thee shall prosper" This had great fulfilment in the days of old. Egypt's power. Assyria sends her [might] army &c. Babylonian Emp. not large enough to hold the wandering captives &c. But especially as [truth] became spiritualized bursting the crystalized past on the wings of her power unparalleled & alone stands out the grand [arraignment] [of] conquer the world by Spt. weapons. A conception divine. Of mustard seed &c. The throwing of elements that must [ferment & fermenting] must conquer is wonderful &c. It conquered the

Roman Empire but weakened & throttled in its own temple &c. Bursting from its factionless &c. The Reformation. And in the struggle becomes more spiritual. When thought grapples with thought. When unholy thought grapples with truth for the individual soul &c. Still truth more naked, more simple is triumphant. Unholy thought is worse, worsened today than it has ever been &c. Gods truth stands firmer today & is winning victories today that shake the nations &c. [S-] & [Aveley] [once] today that a miracle cannot be proved & [Tindal] with his prayer [test] & God shakes the world with the miracles of salvation in answer to prayer. Spt. wickedness can never prevail against the child of God. [He stars] in their course &c. [Elisha's] servant was fearful &c. [Even] the last enemy is [feared] by his triumphant faith &c. Peace. We talk so much of conflict what can there be of peace. "My peace I leave with you &c. Galilee with its foam crested wave but an emblem &c of human life &c. Jesus spoke & still &c. No peace with condemnation with sin &c. Uncertainty. His peace. This he gives with himself.

End of notes