

Phineas F. Bresee Sermon Notes - Isaiah 60:17

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

Isa LXI.17 (Portions of sermon notes are faded and hard to decipher which makes the conveyed message a bit harder to follow)

For brass I will bring Gold &c. The [-] of SC-for ages toiled to find out the secret of converting the [lesser metals] into [gold]. All these [strangling's] of the human soul find their counterpart in the gospel of JC. When Juan Ponce De Leon journeyed for yrs. &c. So with these old [chemists] &c. There is a power that if it touches the baser metals that go to make up our life will transform them into the purer & higher. So the blessings of our H. Fathers providence. Though varied in value if not in necessity. Are all transformed. And made many times more precious by the Authors own presence and blessings. While one kind of blessing may be as necessary as another. Yet there is as much dif. in value as brass, iron, stone & wood. And so in our manhood itself. While as absolute in its necessity in our present condition as any yet perhaps the lowest in value are the comforts for this dying body. We are in no danger of undervaluing them. These the [grossest] of all. Both on acc. of the things themselves & that for which they are used. Our food and raiment. How quick they perish & have to be renewed. The body itself but for a day &c. Blessing of knowledge. The priv. that God gives to man to know. To go over the his. of the past & linger as in an old temple or in ruins of an old city. Among the broken columns of the gen. passed &c. To go down into the depths of the [E] & rend from the rocky leaves &c. The wonders of the unknown ages when this world was being prepared for a residence for man &c. Or to measure [necessity] of space &c. Until the universe rises as a vast amphitheater &c. And to know man himself and his capabilities & the results of his [generous]. [Man] like the word of God is fresh at every reading & to know the results of his efforts. The thought that has leaped from his brain & been incarnated &c. Go through the Pt. House &c. Or go through the picture galleries of our great cities &c. Blessings of memory. We may wish we could forget. We may have filled our casket with [reptiles]. [The] [hall] may be [hung] over with dark & dreary pictures &c. We would like the [menace] wipe the face from the wall but it is there &c. But notwithstanding memory a great blessing. Life would be nothing without it. Blot out the past. & the present nothing &c. We live the events of life not simply once but over & over. If pleasant &c or sad &c. We go back to our childhood & are a child again &c. Amid our old comrade &c. The journey of pleasure the scenes of grandeur &c. We see again the eyes dim &c hear the voice long still &c. Blessings of Hope. Ah hope those [bird] of [gilded plumage] & joyous song that lingers a messenger of blessedness overhears the hearts. What in this life that the young does not hope for. Can fancy yet a future to rich &c. And what disappoint. comes. How hope will struggle on &c. It cheers on the weary traveler &c. To crown all these the blessings of [-] life. Kindred Spts. that we love. And I have placed this as the crowning of all earthly blessings. As it awakens to sweetest harmony all the faculties of the soul & brings to us to blend with ours all the faculties of other souls &c. & here are home & friends. There are great blessings God has given us from the Stone to the burnished brass. But the Redeemer, the mighty Savior comes to our hearts with the [wand] at whose touch all these elements are transformed into the more precious metals. A living Ex. of the R. of J.C. makes every blessing of his providence & every noble element of our being many times more precious. The very robes we wear & food we eat give redoubled joy when rec. with thankfulness & praise. Knowledge whether it be going down into the depths or up into the heights is far sweeter when overall is written the Fr. name. With what reverential awe we tread the dark ages &c. With what sacred

joy we go up into the heights. When every star bears the signet of D-beauty. With what added pleasure do we study man and his achievements when he is crowned with immortality &c. Sc. & Th. Poetry & [-] as they have flourished so much more abundantly under the gosp. so they are so much more abundantly sweet when in & around them the God head sp. But the R. of JC brings a knowledge of its own not only of God that fills everything else with beauty but of myself. It [supplements] my own conviction. That I am a sinner &c. The R. of pardon. Of a new life. A new personality abiding in me. It brings me knowledge by the H.G. that my name is written in the L Book of L. &c. And how Religion brightens memory. It throws its radiance all through the halls of the past. That man is to be pitied who had no R. [mired] up with his childhood. That youth is almost joyless in memory that has nothing sacred about it. And that manhood is comparatively barren in [the] &c. But it is R. that incidentally gave us all that gives us joy in the past &c. Childhood house &c. And facts of history worth remembering &c. But when we begin a new life. Not of ourselves alone but of faith in God & communion with our L.J.C. Though its childhood & manhood is [reflected] with the holy [memoir] &c. When the H.G. writes the history of a man it may tell us where he was born &c [Saul]. So with our memory. Hope. In preaching this blessed gospel to you I would not take one ray from the [bow] &c. I would not remove the prism from their eye that transforms the sunbeams falling drops into jeweled beauty. But I would open [away] back of these the gates of E-life where the beryl, topaz, emerald shine in jeweled beauty indeed. Yonder is the rainbow around the throne. Friendships. The f. as far as they were pure, which [thou] hadst before are Sanct. New friendships are brought in &c.

[The following was added at end. May or may not be part of this sermon]

Believest thou in this Sc. of Salvation. I know thou believest. This is one of the experimental [SC]. Let the mighty [Omnipresent] come in.

End of notes