

## "THE CHRIST OF YESTERDAY"

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" I Sam. 7:12

Comments on observance of Fifth Anniversary as  
Pastor of the church.

1. Gratitude to the Lord for His blessing
2. Appreciation to the people for their thoughtfulness, loyalty, and cooperation.
3. Appeal for greater understanding and devotion to the cause of growing a great gospel church.

Mention of the motto for the Homecoming Day,

"Jesus Christ the Same yesterday, and today, and for ever"

Our text for this message.

Background, chapters 3 to 7.

I. He Helped us with His Personal Presence.

1. Symbolized by the ark, I Sam. 7:1

A. At times they were without the symbol,  
ch. 7, "Ichabod"

B. At times they had only the symbol, ch. 4.

C. At times they had the reality with the symbol.

2. There were 20 dreary years of imperfection and incompleteness at Kiryath-Yearim. Even when the ark was returned there, it was not turned into the seat of national worship. No sacrifices or feasts. Nothing more than a resting place. The nation was careless, indifferent, listless.

3. How Christ's Presence helped His people in the Past.

A. David Livingstone

4. How His presence has helped us in HMBC.

## II. He Helped us with His Revival Spirit.

Repentance and Revival, vs. 3-6

### 1. A longing after God, 7:2,

"Return, O holy Dove, return,

Sweet messenger of rest!

I hate the sins that made Thee mourn

And drove Thee from my breast."

### 2. A call to Repentance, v. 3.

A. Whole hearted

B. Hard to reject Astaroth and Baalim,

an easy, attractive, liberal religion.

Jehovah-worship was simple, severe, self-denying.

C. Public assembly of contrition and confession.

Symbolized by fasting and pouring out water

### 3. Intercessory Prayer

### 4. Revival and success bring new attacks of the adversary

A. AS the new Philistine attack on Israel.

B. Satan opposes the successful church.

### 5. Revivals in the Bible

A. Pentecost

B. Ministry of Paul

### 6. Revivals in History

A. Reformation

B. Great Awakening, Jonathan Edwards

### 7. Tides of spiritual revival in our church

A. Conversion of husbands, wives, children.

B. Growth in grace & maturity of those.

C. Since the first of this year.

III. He Helped us with His Gracious Redemption  
(Suggested by shedding of blood of lamb, v.9)

1. When sinners approach God to ask his favor,  
it must be by the blood sprinkled way.

2. No peace comes to the guilty soul til he accepts  
Jesus Christ as His Savior.

3. God's greatest Stone of Help is the Rock of Ages  
or Mount Calvary.

A. This is the area where man most needs help;  
dealing with the sin question,  
and with his immortal soul.

B. God cannot by-pass the way of the cross to bring  
help and blessing to man.

C. No religion is divinely inspired which is a  
blood-less religion. "Without the shedding  
of blood there is no remission."

4. If God's blessing has been on this church in the  
past it is because we have tried as faithfully as  
we knew how to proclaim the glorious gospel of the  
free grace of God which centers in the atoning work  
of our Savior in the Cross.

A. God said His Word would not return void.

B. We have not shunned to declare unto you the  
whole counsel of God.

C. This gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

D. We have tried to be true to this gospel  
and jealously to guard against any other gospel  
being proclaimed from this pulpit  
or from these classrooms.

*Tanght*

#### IV. He Helped us with His Victorious Power.

1. Deliverance from the Philistines, v. 10.

*blasphemy in Brandenburg*

2. Peace with the Ammonites

3. Public life under Samuel as Prophet, Priest,  
and Judge, (the first circuit rider) v. 16

4. The Power of God in the Apostolic church.

5. The Victorious power of God in History.

6. We here today give grateful testimony to the Lord  
who has helped us hitherto.

A. The Spiritual growth of the church.

B. The Material growth

C. The numerical growth

D. To God be all the praise and glory.

E. He did it all; we did not.

We simply gave Him a chance in a limited way  
to do what He has always been willing to do.

Much more could have been done if our consecration  
had been more complete,

if our love had been more sincere,

if our labor had been more zealous,

if our unity had been more pronounced,

if our faith had been more real.

Jesus Christ is the same today as he was during his  
pilgrimage on earth, and during the apostolic age.

The time comes when the actor must leave the stage;  
when the workman's stout arm grows feeble;  
and the fire of wit is quenched.

But the time shall never come when it can be said of  
Jesus, His hand is shortened that it cannot save  
the soul that trusts in Him, or that the gates of  
hell can prevail against the church that is true to Him.  
There is nothing that he ever did in saving, blessing,  
delivering, ~~delivering~~ <sup>helping</sup>, and vindicating, that He  
cannot do again. He is the same yesterday, and

5/27/56 today, and for ever. Hitherto hath He helped us.