

THE LAST WORD

Soon the last word of 1956 will be said.

We ask ourselves, Will it be a word of hope,
or a word of distress?

A word of peace, or a word of war?

A word of love, or a word of hate?

As we look back over this year, most of us feel that in many ways it has been a good year, and we sincerely hope and pray that its last word will be a good word.

I. How we treasure the last word of our loved ones.

1. Story of mother who lay dying and called in her boys and said, "Son, mother is going to leave you soon, and I want you to promise me you will be a good boy."

2. There are some literary men, "whose rich words, every one, are like gold nails in temples to hang trophies on," but they are nothing in comparison with the last words of a godly mother or father.

3. How rich in meaning is the last word from dying lips. we think of George Washington's calm statement, "All is well."; or of Wesley's triumphant utterance: "The best of all is, God is with us!"

4. Paul's swan song, in II Timothy 4:6-8.

4. Paul's last word to elders of ch. of Ephesus, Acts 20:17-38

II. The Last Word of the Risen Savior, Luke 24:44-49

1. Exposition of the Scriptures, vs. 44-45

A. Prophetic and Messianic

(1) in spirit, (2) letter, (3), symbol.

B. Need of divine illumination to understand Bible

2. Necessity of the Cross, vs. 46

A. No other way of salvation from sin

B. In the plan of God from the beginning

3. Commissioning of the witnesses, vs. 47-48

A. Witnessing is an essential characteristic of a disciple of Christ.

B. We must go into all nations

C. The gospel message to preach is concerning remission of sins through repentance and faith.

4. The Promise of the Father, vs. 49.

A. This refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pent.

B. This is an essential pre-requisite for successful witnessing for Christ.

5. The words of Jesus are enduring and permanent.

A. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

B. Once, when a British minister was announcing a hymn, he suddenly stopped and said: "I was coming through town and saw a poor little lad rubbing at a brass plate, trying to rub out the name; but the poor little lad did not know that the harder he rubbed the brighter it shone."

Now, friends, let us sing: -----

"Engraved as in eternal brass

The mighty promise shines;

Nor can the powers of darkness erase

Those everlasting lines."

III. The Last Word of the Bible - Rev. 22:20-22 ^{vs. 17} (Coming.)

1. A word of Promise - the promise of Christ's second

A. The certainty of His personal coming

B. The purifying hope

2. A word of Response: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus"

4 attitudes toward the coming of Christ.

A. Some are indifferent - as in the days of Noah

B. Some scornfully deny it - as infidels in the days of Peter.

C. Some are horror-stricken at it --- as the demoniacs in the days of Christ.

D. Some welcome it, as John did, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

3. A word of Invitation, vs. 17, "come"

4. A Word of Grace

A. Contrast with last words of O.T.: "Lest I come and smite the land with a curse (destruction)."

B. Grace is love that stoops to forgive sins against itself -- divine favor unbought, unsought, undeserved

C. The alternative is grace or destruction.

God's grace is not as some sweet perfume, poured in dainty drops from a golden vial.

It is not like the musical water drops of some slender rill, murmuring down the dark sides of a sloping hill.

It is as wide as the whole scope of heaven.

It is as abundant as all the air, sufficient as the sunlight.

accord in 1970 and as a consequence

12/30/56

H.M.B.C. 12/30/56