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## — Sermons —

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### ETERNAL LIFE.

BY REV. F. D. POWER (CHRISTIAN CHURCH), VERMONT AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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*And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.*—  
MATT. xxv., 46.

It might be an interesting question to discuss what is the soul's experience the instant after death. Who has not stood beside some dying one and wondered: "How is it with him in the valley?" and when the last breath is drawn and the heart is silent, "How is it now with the soul? What faces does he see? Among what scenes does he move? With what sensations is he thrilled? Where is he and what does he this moment?" It is a thought which fills the stoutest heart with awe, and baffles the keenest brain with its mystery. No man has returned from that other world to tell us. Lazarus did not explain how it was with him those four days. Human spirits do not reveal themselves to vulgar, gaping crowds whose irreverent inquisitiveness moves them to pay a moderate fee in order to communicate with the unseen world. The problem must be solved by every one alone. When you and I cross the border land we shall know, and not before. Of one thing, however, we are assured, and the righteous man need ask no more: Christian spirits are at rest. For the comfort of all believers in every age John was commanded to write: "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord immediately. Yea,

tinue its principles and prosper. Let America multiply her houses of worship, inculcate righteousness and loyalty among her people. No congregation could be engaged in more noble work than furnishing houses in which to worship God.

#### The Pattern in the Mount.

BY CHARLES H. PARKHURST, D.D.  
(PRESBYTERIAN), N. Y.

And look that thou make them after their pattern which was shewed thee in the Mount.—Exod. xxv., 40.

Moses did his work from a plan and did not get his plan from his work. Reality is prior to the shows of itself. There are no planless seeds. A far-reaching plan is the best one. Calculation is better than caprice. We are wiser in the long reach of thought than in the short reach. We are lost in the woods because we have no room for a long look. You say life is short. Better live on the short arc of a long circle than describe a little circle with the same line. Immediate results are meagre results. Plan solidifies. Power is measurable by purpose. Shiftlessness is a name for aimlessness. To-morrow depends on to-day, but to-day depends on to-morrow also. Past and present sustain each other. Plan gives moral safeguard. Adam fell because he had nothing to do, and the first act in the redemptive scheme was to set him to work. Satan recruits his ranks from the vagrants. The Apostles were working men. The drifting boat drifts down stream. Young aimlessness is the beginning of old iniquity. Employment is a subsidiary means of conversion. Character, purpose and apprenticeship are not far apart. Moses brought down his pattern from the Mount. There is a celestial way of doing earthly things. Earthly success is a quotation from overhead. Our ideals are from patterns in the Mount. There is something in them we never put into them. Whence are our ideals? We have never seen a perfect thing. What do we mean by using the word? We must go with Moses to the Mount for the answer. In nothing do men have so much faith as in their ideals, and there is nothing which it is so hard to explain. We do not make laws, but find them. We cannot

enact truth any more than gravity. There may be a myth about Sinai, but it is one we were bound to invent if it never was reality. The problem of life is to make the ideal real. Once it was done in Galilee. The two meet in Jesus.

#### The White-Robed Throng.

BY REV. T. W. MEDHURST (BAPTIST),  
PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND.

What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?—Rev. vii., 13.

They who are now glorified before the Eternal Throne were once sinners on earth, even as we now are. They are in Heaven by the grace of God which was manifested towards them, even as it is manifested towards us if we are believers in the Lord Jesus.

I. What they were once. They were children of wrath even as others. Condemned by God's holy law, they were fallen, guilty, depraved creatures.

II. What they are now. Redeemed, justified, renewed, quickened together with Christ, raised up, and made to sit with Him in the heavenly places.

III. Why they are there. Not on account of their own strength, worthiness, or righteousness. God by His power has formed them for Himself, and therefore they show forth His praise. God has displayed in their salvation the freeness, the power, and the fulness of His own grace, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards them by Christ Jesus. By the grace of God the glorified are what they are in the presence of Jesus. By that same grace we who are sinners may become like unto them. Have we a good hope of being one day partakers of the Christian's blessedness? Let us ascertain our real condition with respect to that eternity, on the verge of which we are even now standing. Have we a title and a meetness for the Heavenly world?

#### The Attraction.

It is not weariness of life  
That makes us wish to die;  
But we are drawn by cords which come  
From out eternity.

—T. W. Faber, D.D. (*Episcopal*).