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New Building First Presbyterian Church, Florence, S. C.

See Story Page 19

Nothing To Look Forward To

"You had nothing to look forward to and no God to whom you could turn" (J. B. Phillips' Translation) Eph. 2:12b

A Home for Incurables is a sad place. In a hospital you have something to look forward to, a time when you can leave, a cured man. There is no such hope in the Home for Incurables, as far as their bodily health is concerned. Many of these men and women, however, have a bright future before them in the world to come for they are Christians and have something to look forward to.

And we who are Christians have *everything* to look forward to; "the best is yet to be".

We will have New Bodies free from the infirmities of the flesh, free from aches and pains. The body we live in here may be frail and weak and diseased, but our body in the resurrection will be like His glorious Body when He came from the grave.

We will have New Homes. However, beautiful and happy our home here on earth, our New Home will be better, for He has gone, the Builder of the universe, to prepare a place for us. We and our loved ones will be safe and secure in our New Home.

We will have a New Prospect; not a few years of life on earth, but an eternity to spend in the *full enjoying* of God. Just what that means we can only imagine, except as it has been revealed to us by the Spirit. It is far beyond anything we can think of. All things are ours, now, and forever.

Yes, we have so much to look forward to. Should not our hearts go out in pity to those who are without hope and without God; nothing to look forward to? Every unsaved man ought to be a burden upon our hearts. Through Christ he, too, may have something to look forward to. If you are unsaved, come and join us as we look forward to a blessed eternity with Him.

—J. K. P.

"Lo, I Will Be With You Always"

The promise of Our Lord that He will be with us always is a cheerful message that has strengthened millions in their hour of anxiety. It has stood the test of time and remains a faithful passage of Scripture, an ever-present verse to lead us through the darkest moments of life.

Regardless of what is happening around us or to us, Jesus is here. His presence is felt when we fail, when we suffer, when we worry, when we laugh or when we cry. He is willing to help

us and we often ignore His outstretched hands. He will bind up the wounds, He will walk with us, He will share our burdens.

He will grieve if we fail Him, He will forgive if we only ask Him. He will lead us out of our wilderness. He will approve our feeble efforts to speak for Him, He will forget our weaknesses and will share our happiness.

You cannot escape Him. "Lo, I will be with you always," and He never leaves our side. We would be lost and miserable if He should. He is a friend and helper who knows every thought, who guides every footstep and selects every word we speak if we remember to let Him. Try sharing your life with Him.

—Ralph Brewer

Retribution

As Viewed by

Southern Presbyterian Leaders

Before me is a term paper on this theme. The student has detailed citations from R. L. Dabney's *Theology*, from Sermons by John L. Girardeau and by B. M. Palmer, from *the Rock of our Salvation* and *The Grace of Christ* by Wm. S. Plumer and from the Collected Writings of James H. Thornwell. I am quite sure that these positions are symptomatic of the views of many other of our past leaders. For example, Peck was a disciple of Thornwell and Hodge, an associate of Plumer in the First Church of Richmond until the Second Church was established there.

In the writings specifically cited all are quite clear as to no uncertain notes here. Beyond this awesome occasion stretched out for some an everlasting punishment. These leaders of our Church emphasized and preached these doctrines.

Somewhat more recently, my predecessor Dr. Richard Clark Reed chose as his moderatorial sermon the subject HELL. It was not that Dr. Reed was hard. Indeed he was the most gracious man one could meet. Those who think that there is any incompatibility between graciousness and preaching the solemnity of the judgment and eternal separation may remind themselves that our Lord Jesus Christ is that Bible teacher Who has most to say about the Judgment and everlasting punishment.

The Southern Presbyterian Worthies were clear as to the tremendous issues at stake in the preaching of the Gospel and the sending forth of missionaries. Accordingly, they wrought mightily for God. May our generation have grace to stand upon the shoulders of these giants of grace and give no uncertain sound with the trumpets of dawn.

—W. C. R.