

Rev.

2:10

"Be thou faithful unto death, & I will give thee a crown of life".

The person speaking is Christ, the person spoken to is one of his "angels". But angels are of various orders and of different degrees of importance. I might quote more than one scripture text which ~~refers to the Son of God~~ <sup>refers to the Son of God</sup> ~~speaks of an Angel~~ Himself as an Angel, and you are familiar with the mention of those bright creatures, who, a portion of the inhabitants of heaven, are styled angels: you remember, too, that the devil and his angels are spoken of. Besides all these, there ~~are~~ <sup>have been and still are</sup> angels also on this earth: styled "angels of the Churches," ~~ie, their pastors~~. And it was to one of <sup>this sort</sup> ~~these~~ that the ~~text was~~ <sup>words before us</sup> addressed: to him who <sup>were originally</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>officially</sup> instructed and led the Church at <sup>ancient</sup> Smyrna. Inasmuch, however, as the <sup>Greek word</sup> ~~word~~ angel, when translated into English, <sup>is the same as our word</sup> ~~simply means a messenger;~~ <sup>it follows that every</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>person</sup>

Faithful unto Death.

Dec 1883 - Wic

who has been

divinely appointed to discharge a certain mission in behalf  
of the Supreme Lord, may be appropriately ~~regarded~~ <sup>named</sup> as a  
member of his angelic hosts. | There is,  $\therefore$ , a true sense in

which each individual who, ~~by the power of God's grace,~~  
has been called into <sup>God's</sup> spiritual kingdom, is to be  
regarded as one of his angels: because, ~~to each of these~~  
by the great King who has summoned him to his service, to  
is given a work ~~to do~~ which he alone can ~~execute~~  
<sub>do.</sub>

each of these is

Just ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> the very humblest and obscurest ~~believer~~ <sup>physician</sup> is,

accordingly, <sup>such</sup> an "angel": a messenger who has been dele-  
gated to make known, <sup>with what ability he possesses,</sup> ~~the his particular circle of in-~~  
-fluence, the good-news of salvation: a pastor to do  
what in him lies to feed the flock of believers; <sup>and</sup> a minister

to wait upon all with whom he come into contact,  
with the <sup>gospel</sup> invitations: of ~~pardoning love~~. | <sup>and, like the higher angels, to watch over the</sup> ~~And thus it is~~  
<sup>heirs of salvation,</sup>

that the promise of the text applies to all who have  
been brought to see, <sup>and to receive,</sup> ~~the~~ truth as it is in Jesus, and

who, by reason of this blessed sight, <sup>and this more blessed reception</sup> are constrained to live  
 as ~~the~~ "children of the day." | And I do not know of  
 any thought that is better calculated to impress the  
 heart of a Christian with either the nobility or the <sup>urgency</sup> ~~im-~~  
~~portance~~ of his high vocation, than this thought, that he,  
<sup>two,</sup> is a bearer of messages from <sup>the</sup> heaven ~~to which~~ <sup>whither</sup> he is  
 destined, to the world <sup>wherein</sup> ~~in which~~ now he has his dwelling  
 - that, at the very moment of his ~~conversion~~ <sup>being born from above</sup> he became  
 as truly an "angel" sent upon <sup>some special</sup> ~~an~~ errands of mercy, as if  
 he had Gabriel's <sup>pinions</sup> ~~wings~~ with which to fly, or Michel's  
<sup>powers</sup> ~~strength~~ with which to overcome: as truly such an  
 angel, <sup>I say,</sup> though not as <sup>spendidly</sup> ~~gloriously~~ <sup>illustrably</sup> such: - having the same  
 commission - the declaration of the divine glory - al-  
 though, <sup>he may utter it in lowlier</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>or convey it</sup> ~~coarser~~ speech, and by a feebler agency,  
 and <sup>lead it along</sup> ~~upon~~ a narrower path: - the same in kind  
 although not the same in degree.

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But, whatever may be thought of this comparison: of redeemed  
 men with resplendent angels; and whatever differences you  
 may able to point out between thee yet imperfect and  
 struggling ~~saint~~ <sup>Saint</sup> and those high-born sons of glory who  
 flash and flame about the eternal throne, — it is certain  
 that you, my Christian brother, ~~and they~~ <sup>must</sup> possess at least  
 one quality in common with them: the essential qual-  
 -ity of fidelity. | Like them you are a messenger for  
 God — and, like them, you are expected to be <sup>His</sup> faithful  
 messenger: for all alike, whether <sup>under</sup> the spirit that, with  
 untiring wing, speeds to and fro, <sup>and from world to world</sup> in obedience to orders  
 which <sup>we could not</sup> ~~you cannot~~ understand; or <sup>under</sup> the soul, that,  
 with sins and sorrows, <sup>still</sup> clogging its stumbling <sup>way</sup>,  
 moves through the duties of many a wearisome <sup>hour</sup> ~~day~~  
 — all alike, soaring seraph and <sup>striving</sup> ~~striving~~ battling believer,  
 are His servants who has given, to each, each one's  
<sup>separate</sup> task.

But, however you may illustrate the Christian character  
element it has, which is common to  
One thing is certain