

Epistle 352

by George Fox

The sermon underscores the necessity of knowing Christ and relying on His power for true peace and eternal life amidst worldly challenges.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31, Isaiah 49:8, John 16:33, Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 4:20, Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 1:15, 1 Peter 1:5, 1 John 5:12, Revelation 1:5

Topics: "Christ's Resurrection", "Spiritual Peace"

Description

George Fox preaches about knowing Jesus Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the importance of being partakers of His life everlasting. He emphasizes the peace found in Christ amidst the troubles of the world and the hatred Christ and His followers face. Fox encourages believers to wait upon the Lord, who renews strength and establishes them upon the unshakable foundation of Christ. He urges the congregation to trust in the Lord's power, to be settled upon the seed of Christ, and to find peace, life, and salvation in Him.

Transcript

All my dear friends and brethren, who are gathered by the light, grace, and truth, and power, and spirit of Jesus Christ, to him, the head over all, by whom were all things created, the first-born of every creature, [Col 1:15] and the first-begotten from the dead [Rev 1:5], know him, and the power of his resurrection, that you all may be partakers of it, and of life everlasting, and may sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus [Eph 2:6], who is over all, the first and last [Rev 22:13]. And in him you have peace, who is not of this world; for in this world there is trouble [John 16:33/8:23]. And the world did and doth hate Christ [John 7:17/15:18], yea, and his light [John 3:20], grace, truth, power, and spirit; and therefore it is no marvel if the world do hate Christ's members [1 Jn 3:13], that do follow him in his light, grace, truth, power, and spirit; and so with it receive him into them, their life and salvation. And so he that hath the son of God hath life [1 Jn 5:12]; who is the fountain that filleth all that wait upon him, with his heavenly blessings and riches of life, from Christ the rock and foundation, that cannot be shaken [Luke 6:48], though the rocks and foundations of the world may be shaken, and cloven in pieces, and the pillars of the earth may reel and stagger [Job 9:6], and all hypocrites and sinners may fear [Isa 33:14]; but they that fear the Lord, and wait upon him, shall be as Mount Sion, that cannot be removed [Psa 125:1]; for the Lord's power is over all, by which he keeps his people to the day of salvation [Isa 49:8, 2 Cor 6:2].

And therefore, all you that have this keeper, the power of the Lord, through faith [1 Pet 1:5] unto the day of life and salvation, need none of the slumbering keepers or watchers; for the Lord was the keeper of Israel, who neither slumbered nor slept [Psa 121:4], till Israel forsook the Lord, and then they set up slumbering and sleepy watchers and keepers; like the apostate christians, who have forsaken the power of God to keep them, and then they are soon forsaken.

And therefore, friends, you that do know the power of God, in which the kingdom of God stands [1 Cor 4:20], you know your keeper, through the faith which Jesus Christ is the author of [Heb 12:2], which stands in his power, and not in words [1 Cor 4:20]; and so your faith standing in his power, it will keep you out of the words of men's wisdom [1 Cor 2:4,13], and above them.

And the golden lamp [Exo 35:21] in your tabernacle, all are to have to burn with the heavenly oil, which you have from Christ your high priest [Heb 6:20, etc], being returned to him, the great shepherd and bishop of your souls [1 Pet 2:25], who will bring you, his sheep, into his safe fold [John 10:16]; who gives unto his sheep eternal life, and his sheep shall not perish, neither shall any pluck them out of his hand [John 10:28]. Though men may pluck hypocrites and apostates one from another; but Christ saith, 'no man is able to pluck his sheep out of his Father's hand [John 10:29].' And therefore, all feel the hand that hath brought you out of spiritual Egypt [Rev 11:8], where Christ hath been crucified, to Christ, in his new covenant of light and life, as the Jews were brought out of Egypt in the old covenant, which Christ hath abolished, and makes all things new [Rev 21:5]; so that all may be grounded on him, who was the foundation of all the holy prophets and apostles [Eph 2:20], and of all the holy men of God to this day.

And therefore, consider who it is that abides in the tabernacle of God, and dwells in his holy hill; it is the faithful and the upright [Psa 15:1f], which holy hill is a safe place for all the upright. As the Lord said, 'in the last days the mountain of the Lord's house should be established on the top of the mountains, and should be exalted above the hills, and all nations should flow unto this established house [Isa 2:2].' And here the Lord does teach his people that come up to the mountain of the house of the God of Jacob. So all mountains, houses, hills, and teaching will be shaken, but the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the last days, as the prophet said, which are the days of Christ.

Is not this the stone that became a great mountain, and fills the whole earth, which smote and broke to pieces the iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold image, or monarchs, which were as mountains [Dan 2:35]? And this stone which becomes a great mountain, sets up a kingdom which shall never have an end [Luke 1:33]. Is not this the kingdom of Christ, which Christ saith, 'Except a man be born again he can neither see the kingdom of God, nor enter into it [John 3:3,5].'

And therefore, friends, all you that do know his kingdom that stands in power, in peace, and joy in the holy ghost [1 Cor 4:20/Rom 14:17], over the power of the evil, and all the unclean ghosts, which keeps them in their first birth, and leads them into all evil, as the holy ghost leads them into all truth [John 16:13].

And so, dear friends and brethren, know this rock, this stone, this foundation, the house of God, that is established upon the Lord's mountain, above all other houses, hills, mountains, and teachings in the world, where God doth teach his people, and establish them upon Christ Jesus, the living rock and foundation, and living way. And so though there may be troubles without, and troubles within; yet if you wait upon the Lord, he will renew your strength [Isa 40:31].

And the children of God they are set for signs and wonders; for as it is said, 'Lo, the children that thou hast given me, they are for signs and wonders [Isa 8:18].'

And therefore, friends, keep your habitation in Christ Jesus, in whom you have peace; for all the rude talkers, and vain disputers, and janglers, which canker and rust, go out of the peaceable truth; and that which is torn, and dies of itself, must not be fed upon [Lev 22:8], but the life must be fed upon, which gives you life eternal.

And the Lord did not build his Zion, and outward Jerusalem, with blood, in the old covenant; for they that did build their Zion and Jerusalem with blood, made their Zion a field, and their Jerusalem a heap [Mic 3:12]; so if this practice was forbidden in the old covenant, much more in the new, who think to build Zion and Jerusalem with blood and iniquity [Mic 3:10]; for such have not been Zion's children, nor Jerusalem's, that is from above, who shed men's blood concerning religion, church, and worship; for Christ rebuked such that would have had men's lives destroyed, and told them, 'they knew not what spirit they were of [Luke 9:55];' so they that do not know what spirit they are of, they are not like to build up God's Zion and Jerusalem.

For Christ said, 'He came to save men's lives, and not to destroy them [Luke 9:56]; for the world's god was the destroyer of men's lives, but Christ came to destroy him and his works [Heb 2:14/1 Jn 3:8], and to save men's lives and souls also.

And so, dear friends, let the love of God, which is shed abroad in your hearts [Rom 5:5], cast out all fear [1 Jn 4:18]. And keep in the name of Jesus, in which you are gathered [Mat 18:20], which is above every name under the whole heaven [Phil 2:9/Acts 4:12], in whom you have life and salvation, and his presence among you; whose name is a strong tower [Prov 18:10]; and Christ is a rock to hide yourselves in, and his spirit to cover you, which is a covering sufficient enough for you; 'and wo will be to that spirit which is covered, but not with his spirit [Isa 30:1];' they may fly to the rocks and mountains to cover and hide them, which will not be sufficient; for the rocks will rend, and the mountains will be removed; such may run down into spiritual Egypt [Rev 11:8] for strength, where Christ was crucified, like the Jews in the old covenant, that ran into outward Egypt from his spirit, but all was in vain.

And therefore, trust in the Lord, who has preserved you by his glorious light and power to this day, that you may be settled upon the seed Christ Jesus, which is over all that, within and without, that is contrary to it, and bruise the head of the serpent [Gen 3:15], that hath been between you and God. So that in Christ the seed you have peace with the Lord God, life, and dominion, and election, and salvation, who redeems out of the curse, and fear of men, or that makes the arm of flesh his strength [Jer 17:5], and not the arm of God; and therefore the arm of the Lord being your strength, Christ your rock and salvation, then you need not fear what man can do unto you; for all God's children are dear and tender to him, whom he hath begotten again [1 Pet 1:3] by the word of God to be heirs of his kingdom [Jas 2:5]; he feeds them with life eternal, and the milk of his word [1 Pet 2:2], which word lives, and abides, and endures for ever [1 Pet 1:23], and is always full and plenteous of milk, and nourishes all God's children unto eternal life, and to inherit his kingdom, and the world which is everlasting, which Christ is the ruler of, (the heavenly and spiritual man,) and therefore they that are in him, must be new creatures [2 Cor 5:17]; for all the old creatures are in old Adam.

And therefore my desires are, that you may all be settled in Christ Jesus, who was dead and is alive again, and lives for evermore [Rev 1:18], a prophet, counsellor, priest, bishop, and shepherd, a circumciser and baptizer, a living rock and foundation for evermore, the beginning and ending, the first and last [Rev 22:13], the Amen [Rev 3:14]; sit down in him, and he in you, in whom you have peace with God. Amen.

G. F.

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