

**A SERMON; BEING THE FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION  
AS PASTOR OF THE SOCIETY;  
SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF DR.  
CROSBY, OF CHARLESTOWN, N.H.**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649315383

A Sermon; Being the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as pastor of the society; Sketch of the life of Dr. Crosby, of Charlestown, N.H. by Jaazaniah Crosby & Livingston Stone

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAAZANIAH CROSBY & LIVINGSTON STONE**

**A SERMON; BEING THE FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION  
AS PASTOR OF THE SOCIETY;  
SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF DR.  
CROSBY, OF CHARLESTOWN, N.H.**



*Crosby Jaazaniah*  
*C*

A

# SERMON

PREACHED BY

JAAZANIAH CROSBY, D.D.,

MARCH 25, 1860,

THE DAY WHICH COMPLETED FIFTY YEARS OF HIS MINISTRY  
AT CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

PREPARED BY HIM FOR OCT. 17, 1860;

BEING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION  
AS PASTOR OF THE SOCIETY;

And which he affectionately Dedicates to his Parish.

---

BOSTON:

CROSBY, NICHOLS, LEE, AND COMPANY,

117, WASHINGTON STREET.

1860.

## S E R M O N.

---

Ps. xxxvii. 25: "I HAVE BEEN YOUNG, AND NOW AM OLD."

---

**H**AVING passed the limits of fourscore years, well may I apply to myself the closing part of the text; and, during fifty of these years, I have been able to say, with the contented Shunamite, "I dwell among mine own people;" and naturally does the occasion suggest various reflections.

In the first place, It is well for persons of such an age to recollect that they once were young. Such a recollection will assist in preventing or curing the querulous disposition sometimes manifested by the aged, when they behold the young engaged in amusements peculiar to their age, and which their age only is capable of enjoying. It is palpably unjust to condemn in others those pursuits

and pleasures which were *once* our own, and which would *now* be our own, did not years forbid the indulgence. Such a disposition is directly adapted to increase the evils of age, by alienating the affections of those on whom our comfort essentially depends. When Barzillai was invited by King David to accompany him to Jerusalem, and to be a guest at his table, he assigned his age as one reason for declining the invitation. "I am this day," said he, "fourscore years old; and can I hear any more the voice of singing men or singing women?" Yet he was willing that others should enjoy the pleasures which *he* had outlived; for he added, that his son Chimham might go with the king, and be his substitute. While many of the pleasures of life are passing away with passing years, let us remember that we cannot repair the loss by diminishing the enjoyments of others. Of a life protracted to fourscore years, this diminution of some of its pleasures is the inevitable result. Sometimes it is the result of experience, — of the experience of those, who, like Solomon, have proved mirth and enjoyed pleasure, till such enjoyments have lost their character, — till vanity, and

vexation of spirit, are their entire amount. Sometimes it is the result of that insensibility which is the natural attendant of advancing years, — years when the keepers of the house begin to tremble, as if intending, ere long, to relinquish their burden. That youth and age may harmoniously meet, let the young remember that they *may* be old, and let the old remember that they once were young.

One of the strange effects frequently observable of advancing age is the increasing disposition to accumulate those treasures which the possessors know not who shall gather. Much of their time, when not employed in accumulating, seems to be employed in efforts to clip the wings provided for the flight of their treasures. There is, apparently, an impression among them, that these treasures will accompany them on their last journey, and be for their support in their future abode. But remember that you brought nothing into this world, and it is equally certain that you can carry nothing out.

I remark, secondly, That those who have reached the age already mentioned must have experienced many sorrows. Indeed, inspiration has declared



labor and sorrow to be their natural inheritance. But, omitting the evils and infirmities to which allusion is here made, how many other trials must they have endured, of various characters! Of the usual trials of life, my own share has not been inconsiderable. During my residence among you, I have followed five of my immediate family to their final resting-place. But the end is not yet. How many other friends, in whom I have been peculiarly interested, must I have followed to the same silent abode! Of those who assisted in placing me in the position which I have so long retained, three only remain. The residue have fallen asleep. Your fathers — where are they? And where are more than half of their successors? Instead of the fathers are now their children; and, in many instances, their children's children. During my ministry, nearly six hundred,\* and almost all within the limits of the parish, have been called to that country from which there is no return, —

\* Of this number, twelve exceeded the age of ninety years, — one being of the age of ninety-seven; another, of ninety-five; three others, ninety-three; another, ninety-two. Of the residue, fifty were between the ages of eighty and ninety, many of them being nearly ninety; about seventy, between seventy and eighty; and about forty, between sixty and seventy. The largest number of the residue departed in early life.

many more than now belong to our number. One generation passeth away, and another cometh, to pass like its predecessors.

Thirdly, While the aged must have experienced many sorrows, they must have been blessed with many joys. As the Lord daily loadeth us with benefits, how great must be their sum after the lapse of many years! They are more than can be numbered. How often has he secured us from various surrounding dangers! How often has he appeared for our relief in distress, and turned our sorrow into joy! How constantly has he made the provision necessary to our happiness in time, and to our preparation for a glorious immortality! Surely goodness and mercy have followed us all our days.

It is too common to hear a portion of mankind complaining of the world, as having failed to answer their exorbitant expectations, — as having failed even to render life a blessing. But do any of *you* thus requite the Lord? Is this your gratitude to a Father who has nourished and brought you up as children? Would your situation probably be improved, were you to receive your own reward

according to your own characters? In a world of imperfection, to whose imperfection you may have largely contributed, can you reasonably expect to receive good without any mixture of evil? Is mortal man so just before God, as to be able to advance an equitable claim to a life of unmingled enjoyment? We suffer the evils of life to live in brass, while its blessings we write in water. Memory becomes a ready repository for the former, while it too frequently suffers the latter to pass without regard. If I may be allowed to refer again to myself, I will say, that, while I have been a liberal sharer of the sorrows of life, I have been more than an equal sharer of its joys. If weighed in an even balance, the latter would far outweigh the former; and, among these latter, the friendship which I have long enjoyed with you and your fathers, and the harmony which has so generally prevailed among you during my protracted ministry, hold a distinguished place. To other causes of joy, I add the frequency with which I have been bidden to the marriage, as a helper of the joys of others; and these invitations have exceeded four hundred, almost entirely con-