

**THE PASTOR'S JUBILEE: A
DISCOURSE
DELIVERED IN IPSWICH,
OCTOBER 8, 1856**

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The Pastor's Jubilee: A Discourse Delivered in Ipswich, October 8, 1856 by David Tenney Kimball

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DAVID TENNEY KIMBALL

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THE PASTOR'S JUBILEE.

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN

IPSWICH,

OCTOBER 8, 1856,

BY DAVID TENNEY KIMBALL,

SENIOR PASTOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN THAT TOWN,

OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF HIS

ORDINATION.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

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1857.

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DISCOURSE.

FIFTY years ago this day, in the ancient house which stood upon the site now occupied by this, with fear and trembling I took upon myself my ordination vows. What changes have since occurred in our world! What advances have been made in civil liberty! What progress in the great causes of education and religion! How have the thrones of tyranny, superstition and bigotry in the old world been overthrown! What improvements in our own beloved land! How has the wilderness been made to bud and blossom as the rose! Towns and cities, adorned with stately edifices, and possessing all the elements of a high Christian civilization, now occupy ground, where wild beasts and savage men then roamed; and to-day the sun looks down upon ten thousand villages, where are heard the hum of industry and the voice of prayer, which fifty years ago had no existence. From this commanding height we look back upon a half century the most fruitful in important events of any the world has seen since time began its march.

What changes have occurred in this ancient town, early settled by some of the best blood of the pilgrim

stock! Where are they, who fifty years ago dwelt in the houses on both sides this stream? Where are they, who fifty years ago this morning sat in the pews of our ancient house, and witnessed the solemn services of my ordination? Gone—gone, with here and there a solitary survivor—gone to the silent mansions of the dead.

Very pleasant would it be to me to entertain you on this occasion with happy changes in this my native county and in our land since my settlement in this place. But the custom of the day forbids it. The example of my much respected and beloved father in the ministry, the only man living who laid his hand upon my head on the day of my ordination, who took for his text on the occasion of his jubilee, "What sayest thou of thyself?" forbids it. My friends, at whose request I speak, call my attention to another and a very humble theme, my life and labors here. To their authority I am bound to yield.

Here let me say to the assembly at large, what Paul said with reference to the same point, "Bear with me a little in my folly, and indeed bear with me." But I shall say less of my folly than Paul did of his, because mine will be sufficiently apparent without repeatedly speaking of it. If I shall be somewhat tedious, you will have for your consolation that I shall never address you again on an occasion like the present.

But, previously to commencing this course, let me call your attention to a beautiful expression of Isaiah in the 52d chapter of his prophecy and the 7th verse:

"HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF HIM THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS, THAT PUBLISHETH PEACE, THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS OF GOOD, THAT PUBLISHETH SALVATION, THAT SAITH UNTO ZION, THY GOD REIGNETH!"

Paul applies these words to the preaching of the gospel. *That preaching then is a delightful employment.*

It is so, because the preacher has habitually before his mind the most interesting and important subjects, that ever occupied the thoughts of an intelligent being, human, angelic, or divine. He is commanded from on high to preach the word. His main business is to study the Holy Bible, become thoroughly acquainted with its truths, and communicate them to others. And these truths, as they relate to the perfections and works of God, the character and redemption of Christ, the attributes and offices of the Holy Spirit, and the nature, condition and destiny of man, are in the highest degree interesting and sublime. Every true minister of Christ has an ardent love for the word of God. With what pleasure then does he explore the sacred scriptures, and exhibit their truths to others for their love, admiration and obedience, his heart at the same time glowing with love to God and Christ and the souls of men! How interesting, how delightful his work!

Preaching the gospel is a delightful employment, because it keeps the glories of heaven before the mind. The preacher points his hearers every Sabbath to the celestial city, the heavenly Jerusalem, and strives with all his power to persuade them to prepare for it. His

thoughts, therefore, while writing and delivering his discourses, are habitually on heavenly things. On his bed, amid the stillness of the night, in his study and pulpit,

"The New Jerusalem comes down,
Adorned with shining grace."

Often, directly before his eye of faith is the celestial city, in its holiness, blessedness and glory. In his view the splendor of that city infinitely transcends that of our evening firmament, when its shining hosts appear in their brightest glory. Its inhabitants are before him in their spotless purity, perfect felicity and sublime employment. While describing the celestial city, "that holy, happy place," he as evidently perceives heavenly things by faith divine, as by natural vision objects immediately before him. And the view is delightful, yes, transforming. Happy is that employment, which keeps habitually before the mind

"That land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign."

How strong the desire, how animating the hope of uniting with them in their pure and immortal songs! How can a preacher, who loves God and Christ, and holy angels, and glorified saints, without experiencing a measure of heavenly joy, repeat for his choir,

"When shall the day, dear Lord, appear,
That I shall mount, to dwell above,
And stand and bow among them there,
And view thy face, and sing thy love?"

The preaching of the gospel is a delightful employment, because the preacher is a messenger of glad tidings. The

original word, *εὐαγγελίζω*, used in the New Testament for preaching, literally signifies to evangelize, or to publish a joyful message. The term *εὐαγγέλιον*, gospel, means good news. To be a messenger of glad tidings of any kind is a pleasant office. To be a messenger of such glad tidings, as the gospel proclaims, is unspeakably delightful. How welcome is such a messenger to those, who understand the nature and appreciate the value of his message! In their view, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings, who publisheth peace, who saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! A preacher proclaims to his fellow-men in a state of sin and ruin the way of salvation. He exercises an instrumentality, by which they are rescued from everlasting destruction, and raised to immortal glory. To be an instrument of the conversion and salvation of one soul is a higher privilege than to secure the greatest happiness that can flow from all the wealth, honor and pleasure of this world. God has appointed the preaching of the gospel, as the principal means of the conversion of men, and blessed it as such in every age of the Christian Church. Preaching then is a delightful employment. Gabriel and all the heavenly hosts would thus regard it, if commissioned for it. Angels, with joy, announced the birth of Christ. They celebrated the event with the song, Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will to men. And would they not esteem it a privilege to be employed in proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to men in all subsequent periods of time? And ought not those men,