

**SERMONS PREACHED IN
THE CATHOLIC
APOSTOLIC CHURCH,
GORDON SQUARE**

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Sermons Preached in the Catholic Apostolic Church, Gordon Square by Nicholas Armstrong

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NICHOLAS ARMSTRONG

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BY THE

REV. NICHOLAS ARMSTRONG.

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PREFACE.

IN the present time, one mark of the last days given in ancient prophecy, namely, that "knowledge should be increased," has been abundantly manifested.

No man will deny this, as far as the question is concerning natural science. But the prophet must have spoken mainly, if not wholly, concerning spiritual knowledge; and of it also the present day has witnessed a great increase. No new revelation, indeed, has been given, but the spirit of interpretation has been bestowed upon the Church, and "things new and old" have been drawn forth from the revelation once for all delivered.

No new Gospel has been discovered, but elements in the Gospel hidden, in great measure, from the eyes of our fathers for a long time, and well-nigh forgotten by all, have been made to shine forth from the Scriptures of truth, and have laid hold of the minds of many. "He who taketh of the things of Christ, and showeth

them unto men," is leading the Church into the consideration of all that is revealed concerning the Lord our Saviour. To what He *hath* done and suffered, (which has been, in some measure, taught,) is added what He is now doing, and what He will yet do at His second and glorious appearing. The doctrine concerning Christ, as the Head of the Church, is pressed upon us, as well as the truth concerning His sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the whole world. His work in the Church, to prepare a people to reign with Him in His kingdom about to be manifested, is taught, as well as His personal work upon the earth in the days of His flesh, when He fulfilled all righteousness.

Christ is still preached; but not only Christ Crucified, but also Christ Risen, and Christ Returning in glory, to finish His work of redemption. The larger the exposition of God's word granted to any generation, the greater will be the honour and glory of the men of that generation if they profit by it; the more fearful their condemnation if they neglect it. When God gives light it cannot be embraced without blessing, or rejected without judgment. God has given great increase of light unto His people in our day. Let the result, through their obedience, be seen unto His glory. Let them be bound as a sacrifice with cords to the horns of His altar. To help his brethren of every name in

the great Christian family (where one Name alone should be found), to justify God by believing His Gospel, not partially, but in its fulness, and to understand and rejoice in the day of their own visitation, the following Sermons were preached and are now published. The first would suggest the consideration of the whole work of the Holy Spirit in the Church of God. The second would recall to men's minds the idea of the Church as the Body of Christ. The third shows the object of hope, for the attainment of which that Body exercises faith in God. The fourth endeavours to define and set forth the subjects of Christ's first teaching. And the fifth and last to show the conditions upon which God's infallible guidance shall be vouchsafed unto His Church for ever.

However these subjects may have been handled by the preacher, at least they are suggestive of considerations too important to be disregarded by any. They point to the sources, they touch the springs of all the strength and sufficiency which the Church of God can desire; and surely, without exaggeration, it may be said, that *now*, if ever, urgent need exists for all the power and ability which the Church can receive from its Almighty Head. As the world grows older, its power to resist God increases; its skill in the impious warfare becomes more disciplined and more expert.

Christ hath overcome the world, and the Church, laying hold of the resources which are in Him, shall overcome also. They who will receive His help shall mightily prevail; but shame, and overthrow without recovery, shall be the portion of those who enter into the conflict with the powers of darkness now arrayed over all the earth against truth and righteousness, without the supplies which Christ can furnish.

That his brethren may be wise in time to provide for themselves all things needed for the crisis unto which they are come—all things needed for their own salvation; for the deliverance, if possible, of their generation; and for the praise and glory of God, "who hath freely given unto us all things in Jesus Christ;" is the earnest desire and prayer of him who now bespeaks their attention to those subjects of deepest moment, upon which he has sought to discourse in the midst of them, and which he now commends in this form to their most solemn consideration.

CONTENTS.

SERMON I.

	PAGE
SALVATION: WHAT IS IT, AND HOW ATTAINED?	1
Eph. ii. 8-10.	

SERMON II.

THE MARKS OF A SPIRITUAL MINISTRY	25
Gal. iv. 19.	

SERMON III.

THE SPECIAL OBJECT OF FAITH IN THE PRESENT DISPENSATION	52
Heb. xi. 1.	