

**THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE:
DISCOURSES ON
ST. PAUL'S GREAT
RESURRECTION CHAPTER**

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Through Death to Life: Discourses on St. Paul's Great Resurrection Chapter by Reuen Thomas

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REUEN THOMAS

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Discourses on

ST. PAUL'S GREAT RESURRECTION CHAPTER

BY

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TO THE MEMORY
OF MY DEAR FRIENDS,
THE REV. WILLIAM ROBERT PERCIVAL,
MRS. RICHARD JOLLY, MRS. WILLIAM KEYTE,
MR. JOHN FRASER AND MR. THOMAS MUSCUTT,
WHO, DURING THEIR TOO BRIEF RESIDENCE HERE ON EARTH,
MADE SO MANY HOURS OF MY LIFE DELIGHTFUL,
I DEDICATE THESE DISCOURSES.

“He (Emerson) believed in quotation, and borrowed from everybody and every book. Not in any stealthy or shamefaced way, but proudly, royally, as a king borrows from one of his attendants the coin that bears his own image and superscription.” — O. W. HOLMES.

“The greatest is he who has been oftenest aided.” — RUSKIN.

PREFACE.

THESE expository discourses have been publicly uttered from the pulpit in the regular course of my ministry. They are printed because so many persons who have been bereaved have expressed to me their deliberate judgment that they are likely to be helpful to a wider audience than that which listened to them. I have thought it undesirable to make detailed references to the literature of the subject, or to the learned men whom I have consulted in the preparation of these sermons. Quotation marks all over a page are a disfigurement. Paragraphs will be found which probably owe even their structure to others. But it is enough that the sermons are at least as much my own as Shakspeare's dramas are his. It may be as well to state that I have derived help in the direction of verifying exegesis from Bengel, Alford, Wordsworth, Bishop Ellicott, Dr. A. M. Fairbairn, Professor Godet, Dr. Gloag, Rev. H. Burton, Dr. Oswald Dykes, Rev. J. A. Best, Dr. S. Cox, Rev. W. J. Deane, Canon Westcott, Dr. George Matheson, the great old book, West on the Resurrection, Canon Farrar, Dr. E. H. Plumptre, F. D. Maurice, F. W. Robertson, Dr. D. R. Goodwin (in Smith's Dictionary of the Bible), Leo. H. Grindon, Dr. Hanna, Rev. E. H. Sears, and others. My

great aim was to present and enforce what to me was manifestly Paul's teaching in the great Resurrection chapter. If, tried by modern standards, Paul is heretical, that is no business of mine. Of course, if I had been writing prelections for a class-room, the form would have been entirely different. All I have aimed at is to "give the sense" of St. Paul in a way suited to the necessities and competencies of a listening Christian assembly. R. T.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE testimonies I have received as to the practical usefulness of these expositions of St. Paul's teachings on the Resurrection have been so many and from persons of such varied experiences and opinions, that I am disposed to congratulate myself upon yielding to the judgments of friends who persuaded me to put them into print. A clergyman of ninety years of age writes me: "In my long life I have read variously on this great theme. Nothing has so illumined the evening of my life as this book of yours." An "agnostic" confesses to being agnostic no longer. Bereaved fathers and mothers have conveyed their thanks for new courage and hope. Into the hands of several "appointed to die" friends have put the book; and the testimony from dying lips as to its helpfulness has been sacredly delightful. While, if I were treating the theme *de novo*, I should be disposed to do it somewhat differently, yet it is so satisfactory to know that the book has had a mission to hearts that specially needed its truth, that I commend it once again in its original form to the benediction of Him who is "the Resurrection and the Life." R. T.

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