

How Good! How Pleasant!

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments” Psalm 133

Here is an awesome wonder indeed! What a discovery! Will you look at this? This is a meditation on the church, but immeasurably higher than that first discovery described in the third song of ascents whereupon the pilgrim is glad when “they said, let us go up unto the house of the Lord”.

This is both good and pleasant. Many things are pleasant that are not good. Much is good that is not necessarily pleasant. Chastisement is good, but grievous for a season. Much flesh indulgence is pleasant but ruinous. But here is a wonder of life in the vale of tears: Good and pleasant finally joined! Just how good? How Pleasant? We can only behold and wonder!

Wonder also at what this is: brethren dwelling together in unity! “Brethren” certainly must be understood to include sisters, mothers and fathers... the whole family. Unity? Dwelling? Together? Unity is usually limited. It requires some “space” between the parties...not too much “togetherness”. And it usually holds only for a season. But here is family, brothers and sisters, dwelling, continuing, together...in close proximity, in unity! The unity holds, and it is pleasant!

Just what is this? It is surely the purpose of God in Christ in all things being gathered together in one in Christ (Ephesians 1:10). This is the way it should be, but so elusive. Men try to accomplish this all the wrong ways. They create union with organization, laws, and regulations. They try to unify by uniformity, making everyone alike; but all these are utterly contrary to the New Covenant in Christ. This elusive wonder is accomplished only by God’s mighty redemptive power in Christ. It is nothing less than the power of divine love, the fulfillment of all the law and implementation of the Royal Law (I Pet. 4:8) in the hearts of the redeemed.

All of this is beautifully illustrated in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from Pentecost forward. A metaphor is taken from the anointing of the High Priest, Aaron. This wonderfully compounded fragrant oil is reserved for the high priest alone. Christ is our High Priest. He is the Anointed One. He alone has been sealed and certified by the Father. This oil of the Spirit is poured out at the **top**, on the Head. Christ alone receives the Spirit **without measure...all of It**. Once it is poured out, like Mary’s alabaster box when broken, there is no restraining or controlling it. All of it gets away. It runs, flows of its own will. It cannot be stopped or restrained. It will get all over everything in its path.

It *descends!* This baptism form above comes down from the Head to the body, Aaron’s glorious garments. All the way to the borders, the fringes. It reaches to the least and lowest part of those garments. If you are in Christ, God will surely bring you all the way in. None in Christ will escape this fragrant oil.

“For the promise is to you, to your children, to all that afar off, to as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts. 2:30).

- C. M.