

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

Rev.19:6-9

Beloved of the Lord:

The blessed hope of the Church does not conclude with the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ. Another blessed event follows - THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB!

1 - THE PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE - Eph. 5:25-27. Here we learn that the Church is - (a)-The Object of Christ's affection. (b)-The Object of His Redemption. (c)-The Object of His Ministration. (d)-The Object of His Glorification. He will present it to Himself a glorious Church - "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish". The presentation follows the examination of all believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ when ALL blemishes will be removed. This is an essential preparation for the marriage and when completed (amazing truth) He will have a PERFECT BRIDE! It will surpass the first marriage in Eden - Gen.2:18-23 - and will give joy to the Father's heart in seeing the Bride presented to His Beloved Son!

2 - THE CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE - Rev.19:6-9. On this occasion the mystery of Eph. 5:32 will be revealed, exhibiting in HEAVEN the relationship established between Christ and His Church. ALL HEAVEN will overflow with joy when beholding the blessed ceremony of the marriage! Saints of the past, together with all heavenly intelligences, will behold the event, "a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying - ALLELUJA! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" etc. They will give honor to the Lamb and to the Bride also, sharing it with the beloved Bridegroom! WHY?

(a) - As the Body of Christ the Church is NEAREST to Him than saints of all other dispensations - "for we are members of His Body, of His flesh, and of His bones" - Eph. 5:30. Meditate upon this and WORSHIP! (b) - As the Bride we are DEAREST to Him - the "ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE" - Matt.13:45,46. Meditate on this and ADORE HIM! His divine grace has fitted us to be this - "made us meet" - Col.1:12; for divine righteousness is ours by the gift of His grace - Rom.3:21,22;5:17. Not alone divine righteousness by grace, but personal "righteousnesses" will be ours - Rev.19:8 - the deeds we have done for HIM! Let us realize that even NOW we are preparing part of the Bridal trousseau for Him to enjoy in that blessed day! How this will delight HIS heart! Yet we sing -

"The Bride eyes not her garment, but her dear Bridegroom's face-
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace!
Not at the crown He giveth, but on His pierced hands!
THE LAMB IS ALL THE GLORY OF IMMANUEL'S LAND!"

3 - THE MANIFESTATION WITH HIM IN THE DAY OF HIS GLORY - Col.3:4;Rom.8:19-23;2Thess.1:10. Then the public manifestation of the Church to the world comes, revealing the established relationship of Christ and His Church is for ever! The VISIBLE unity of this is not seen now, nor known, for the Church is not complete. In the day of Christ's glory the visible association with our blessed Bridegroom will be manifested before all! "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, THEN shall ye also appear with Him IN GLORY!" Col. 3:4.

There is still more belonging to the Hope of the Church, but with all this we have considered, can we not join in singing the words of Frances Bevan -

"He, Who in His hour of sorrow, bore the curse alone;
I, who through the lonely desert, trod where He had gone.
He and I, in that bright glory, one deep joy shall share -
MINE TO BE FOR EVER WITH HIM, HIS THAT I AM THERE!"

In meditating on our "blessed hope", let us not forget the exhortation of the Apostle John in 1 John 3:3 - "And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure". May this practical effect be yours and mine.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

