

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; “Rise up my Love, and Come Away”, Sermon # 27 in the series – “I am my Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on September 12th, 2010, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

The Book of Song of Solomon is a most wonderful book because it portrays the heart experience of the believer in Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ is Christ’s spiritual Bride; He is the Heavenly Bridegroom. If we have believed in Jesus Christ, ours is a spiritual relationship with Him in this life; but real nonetheless. Because of the doctrine of Justification by faith, when a person places their faith in the Lord Jesus, they are forgiven of all of their sins, and they are accepted in the Beloved.

They are espoused to their Lord and they are given a wedding garment to wear which is a part of their spiritual garments of salvation. They are given a glorious spotless white robe of Christ’s righteousness which they put on at their conversion; a spiritual robe which they wear all the way through this life until they see their Lord face to face. Because of this garment they will always be in favor with the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s finished work on their behalf, in living a perfectly righteous life, and then laying that life down at the cross; those who believe in Him will never lose their relationship with Him. They will stand together on the last day rejoicing in what His grace has done for her.

She will sit down with Him in the Eternal Kingdom at the end of time, and on that Day the spiritual marriage will be consummated. Every believer who makes up the body of Christ shall be raised from the dead, and we shall be with Him physically and spiritually forevermore. While we are in this life, however, there are times when in our experience we think that he has left us. We know that we have His promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We know that we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit and He shall abide with us forever.

But in our experience we also come to know that there are times when we will not know or feel His blessed presence with us. There will be times in the experience of our heart when we will not know or feel His closeness. But we can be assured from these verses that He will return to our waiting soul. Our waiting for Him, and looking for that return to our soul will be rewarded with the definite sense of His presence at some points in our experience. And we should also understand that He will come to His Church in revival at various points in the History of the Church; these will be realities for many believers in the Lord Jesus.

You have probably heard the saying, “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” It is particularly true in the experience of the believer in Jesus Christ. They know, or they should know, that the Lord Jesus is faithful. He will not let His sister, His spouse feel alone as she goes through this world, and on toward eternity. He will come and express His love to the soul of His lady-in-waiting, His fair one; and through the expression of that love in words, He shall call her away to a deeper and very special interaction with Himself. This call to deeper fellowship and interaction begins at verse 10 and runs all the way down to verse 17.

We will not have time in this sermon to go that far in our study, but let me give to you in my first point, Christ’s commanding call to a deeper heart fellowship with you the believer. Then 2nd – Let me explain what Christ’s immediate presence brings and does for you the believer. And then 3rd, let me tell you about the great assurance which is brought to the heart of every believer when Christ is nigh. Then the next time I will speak to you about how Christ’s powerful presence brings about times of spiritual fruit bearing to the glory of God. But let us –

1st of all – Look at Christ’s commanding call to a deeper heart fellowship with you the believer. (verse 10)

“My beloved spoke, and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.’” The expression “rise up” seems to imply that the Shulamite Bride had either been sleeping or taking her ease in the time of her waiting for His coming to her. Verse 8 seems to indicate that even in this

condition that she was still listening for His voice. She says, “The voice of my Beloved!” “Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.” She says this before the command to rise up comes from Christ. She realizes that He has come to her and is making Himself known by His standing behind her wall, and looking through the lattice, or the blinds.

He is making Himself known to her very suddenly; not even giving her hardly a moment’s notice before she knows that He is there. She welcomes his approach in verse nine. She is not in fear. She is in great expectation. The mountains which are obstacles in His reaching her are nothing to Him. He is like a gazelle or a young stag and can leap and skip over them. This is indeed a good attitude in the Shulamite; that she is, by faith, in a state of expectation in regard to having fellowship with her Lord. “Behold he comes...”

The phrase reminds one of Matthew 25: 6 – “At midnight a cry was heard: Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!” It also reminds me of the words of Jesus in Matthew 24: 42 – “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” And verse 44 – “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” But in those verses, Jesus is speaking of His coming to judgment. In these verses that we are studying, the word picture is of Jesus coming to His Bride in love. Our Lord does not want His Bride to be watching for Him out of a motive of fear in relation to these love-visits.

He comes to make Himself known to her out of his good-will and kindness which He wants to show to her. He would have her to be His close companion. These verses that we are studying are more related to what Jesus said concerning Abraham in John Chapter 8, verse 56. Speaking to the Pharisees about the difference between them and Abraham in the way that they received Him, Jesus says, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” All the believers in the Old Testament times were looking for the appearing of their Messiah. To them He was, “the Consolation of Israel.”

When Christ comes to your soul, dear believer, He comes to minister comfort and consolation to you, providing that you are not tolerating some known sin in your life. He comes to bring encouragement. He comes to look at you and gaze upon you with the intention of doing you good. He is not “looking through the lattices” of your heart to find fault with you. He has died to take away your sins, to make intercession for you, and to be your Advocate with the Father. He comes to stand behind the wall of your heart and look through the lattices in order to behold the beauty of what His grace is doing for you there in your heart.

He is there to bring you joy and gladness. He is there to bring you pardon and forgiveness. He is there to bring you hope and happiness. He is there to ravish your heart with the beauty of His holiness and the greatness of His strength and grace. The hymn-writer says, “He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found.” He would have you know the greatness of His love for you and exceeding greatness of His power to change you, to make you holy and happy by His being with you. He would have you, O believer, rise up to hold fellowship and communion with Him in your heart with those thoughts running through your mind.

He comes in such a ways that you know and can say; Christ is the lover of my soul. Christ is the joy of my heart. Christ is my righteousness and strength. Christ makes me truly happy. Your Lord would have you come away with Him and see things from His perspective. He would have you look at things from the perspective of what He will give to you. He is showing you, and He is giving to you, the opportunity to walk with Him and run with Him; to take a trip with Him, away from the thoughts and the concerns of every day life so that when you come back you will not be enamored with your world so much as you will be enamored with His world and His Word.

In fact you will learn to face your world and overcome your problems and difficulties by spending more time in His world; the world of fellowship and communion with Him. He sits at the right hand of God the Father on high. But He reads your every thought; He knows your every desire. He knows God’s plans for you and what He would do to bring those plans about. Come away with Christ in your thoughts as you awaken from your sleep in the morning. Step into your

prayer closet and step into His world; His realm. In His realm there is true freedom from sin. In His realm there opens up before the eyes of your heart, the beauty and the glory of what He has purchased for you by His death.

Listen to Ephesians 3: 14-21. “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.” “Amen.” This is what Christ is calling you to when He says, “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

Many times in our Christian experience we do not realize the greatness of what Christ is calling us to. His ways are above our ways, and His thoughts are above our thoughts. But He would bring us farther up and farther along. Rise up, dear believer, and come away from your world to His.

2nd – Let me try to explain to you what Christ’s immediate presence coming to you, will bring and do for you the believer. (verses 11 and 12a)

“For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.” “The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.” These verses can be applied on the level of the Church of Jesus Christ in her history, or in the history of each individual believer. Let us think about the individual believer first. When it says, “the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone, it is speaking about seasons in the believer’s spiritual life. Once you were dead in your trespasses and sins, but God made you alive in Christ. Once it was all winter and barrenness with you, but Christ changed all that.

All the wrath of God is removed from you, O believer; all of God’s justice is satisfied. All of the harsh and heavy rains of God’s being against you are now forever removed, and the Sun of righteousness has risen upon you with healing in His wings. (Malachi 4: 2) In 1 Samuel 12, when the people asked for themselves a king, the Lord knew that it was because they did not want Him to rule over them. Samuel said to them in verse 14, “If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God.”

“However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.” “Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes.” “Is today not the wheat harvest?” “I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking a king for yourselves.” “So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly fear the Lord and Samuel.

You see, these people had sinned in asking for a king to rule over them, but when you asked for Jesus Christ to come into your heart and to rule over you, you asked for a good thing. No thunder and rain of God’s judgments are coming against you now. Jesus Christ has become your husband-King. In fact, even flowers have begun to appear in the ground of your heart. And the time of singing has come. Wherever the grace of Christ comes, these things appear. The flowers are the praises which you give to Him for what He has done for you by His grace. They spring out of the ground of your heart! The presence of Christ brings praise to the heart of the believer.

Turn with me to Psalm 147, verse 12 and you will see that this is so. “Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!” “Praise your God, O Zion!” “For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children with you, He makes peace in your border, and fills you with the finest of wheat.” “He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.” “He gives snow like

wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold!" "He sends out His word and melts them; He cause His wind to blow and the waters to flow." "He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel." "He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His judgments they have not known them." "Praise the Lord!"

Now these words help us to understand something more about the word pictures which we find in Solomon's Song. God strengthens the bars of the gates of Zion; of His people, the Church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament times, just as much as His people who trusted in Him in Old testament times. The Lord does all things by the word of His power. He sends out his commands of judgment in the snow and the frost and the hail; and who can stand before those. But with His people, those who know come to know Him by faith in Jesus; who He has set His love upon; they praise Him for all that He does! The time of singing has come!

Praises are continually filling the heart of the believer to whom Christ comes, and especially when they know His presence with them! Notice that it is God who has made peace in your border and has blessed your children within you, and fills you with the finest of wheat, O Israel. In New Testament times we find that the Lord Jesus is the One who has made this peace between God and men. It is because of His grace that each of God's children is blessed and is filled with the finest of wheat in having the Word of God be their spiritual food.

When God pleases, He sends out His word and melts the frozen hard heart, causes the wind of His Spirit to blow in their hearts and the waters that spring up to eternal life to flow. This is why we praise God continually for the great and good things that He does for us in our hearts and in our relationship with Him. Christ has come and He is calling us away.

3rd – Let me tell you about the great assurance which is brought to the heart of every believer when Christ is nigh. (verse 12b)

"And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." If you will take the time to read the history of the Church you will find that there have been seasons there as well. There was the long winter of Antichristian darkness which lasted for hundreds of years before the Reformation. But then when God caused the true gospel to come to light once again in the days of Luther and Calvin and the Reformers, the voice of the turtledove was heard in the land. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove and alighted upon the preaching of the Word. The voice of God was heard speaking through that preaching and sinners knew that they had a Savior in the Lord Jesus once again, and that He was One who they could find by faith. The Lord Jesus came leaping upon the mountains and skipping upon the hills.

A spiritual spring had come, and the winter of not having the warmth and light and life of the gospel was gone. The warmth and the light which produced effectual results had returned. As I think about what season that we are currently in, in the history of the church in our days, it seems to me that we are in the fall of those days which began at Reformation. Perhaps we are once again in winter. But there shall be a spring and summer which shall follow someday in the Millennium. Even so, in the life of every believer there are times when he or she does not feel the presence of their Lord with them, and at those times it can seem like winter in their soul.

But the Lord Jesus knows when and how to come to the heart who is sorrowing over His absence, and speak peace and love to their sad heart, and give every assurance of His presence with them. And when He does this, He proves His love to you experientially. You knew this all along since you came to faith in Christ. He is faithful even when you are faithless, for He cannot deny Himself. Neither will He ever deny any one of those who have confessed that they love His Person and His name.

Have you come to know the reality of this, dear believer? Jesus will prove His great love for you over and over again in your experience. He proved it at the cross. And will He not prove it experientially for each and every one whom He has died to save?