

EXPOSITORY SERMON

"The Two Paths"

Lev. 26:3-45

I Path of Obedience and Blessings

1. Blessings
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  - B. Peace and Rest
  - C. Deliverance
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II Path of Disobedience and Misery

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Star Birkeland #11  
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" THE TWO PATHS "

Lev. 26:3-45 →

In this chapter God has set before us two paths. One of obedience and blessings and the other of disobedience and misery. Let us consider first the path of obedience and blessings.

Beginning with V.4 we read, "Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Notice, the word "then" is the first word of the verse, indicating that in order that there be rain and fruit a condition must be met first. The condition in this case being obedience. In the previous verse it says, "If ye walk in my statutes and keep my commandments and do them, "then" I will give you rain in due season and fruit." So we see that the path of obedience is the path of fruitfulness.

This fruitfulness depends upon our relationship with God. Out of the vine comes the fruit producing sap into the branch. ✓ "Christ God is the vine and we are the branches." It is as we spend time in ✓ communion and fellowship with God, and become in complete subjection ✓ to Him, that He is able to let this fruit-giving sap course through the branches.

At times we probably feel that what we do has been in ✓ vain and that we are of no use to the Lord. In other words, we feel ✓ as though we are just an old dead branch just hanging onto the vine because we see no results from our efforts. But, remember God has ✓ said, "In due season ye shall reap". (Now,) I have yet to see a pear ✓ tree producing fruit in January AND or likewise a peach or apricot. The reason why they do not bear fruit in January is because God has set aside another season for these certain trees to produce. God knows

His seasons and He knows when the season is due for you to bear  
✓ fruit, and if your branch appears dead and lifeless with out fruit  
✓ and foliage don't be discouraged, but just cling closer to the vine  
so that the sap from the vine may continue into the branch and in  
✓ due season the foliage and fruit will appear, and "ye shall eat  
your bread to the full." Praise God!

"And I will give you peace....and ye shall lie down  
✓ and none shall make you afraid." The secret of this fruitfulness  
and rest is to be in constant subjection to God. To be in submission  
to His Holy will. A song writer wrote these words:

The path that I have trod, Has bro't me nearer God,  
Tho' oft it led thro' sorrow's gates.

Tho' not the way I'd choose, In my way I might lose  
The joy that yet for me awaits.

The cross that I must bear, If I a crown would wear,  
Is not the cross that I should take;

But, since on me 'tis laid, I'll take it, unafraid,  
And bear it for the Master's sake.

Submission to the will Of Him who guides me still  
Is surety of His love revealed;

My soul shall rise above This world in which I move;  
I conquer only where I yield.

Not what I wish to be, Nor where I wish to go,  
For who am I that I should choose my way?

The Lord shall choose for me, 'Tis better far, I know,  
So let Him bid me go, or stay.

Truly it is not what we wish to be or where we wish to  
go in this christian life but what God wants, for His way in the best  
way. We have often heard it said that the most unhappy man in the

*Single space a poem*

L.C.

✓ world is the one who is outside of God's will. Let us then, as students, strive to stay in the will of the Father. Not His permissive will, but His holy perfect will, and in that way we can rest assured at all times of peace and rest. As we take "His yoke which is easy," and without any secret yearning after popularity, we find rest to our souls.

God promises to the obedient: "And I will rid evil beasts out of the land." Christians come in contact with so many beast-like evils such as love of money, lovers of pleasure, pride, impatience, and self-assertion, but, praise God, we have a great deliverer, one whose blood was shed to cleanse from sin, whose resurrection changes the old to new, and it's wonderful to know that sin cannot have dominion over Him. He is all-powerful and He rids us of all these things, but remember it is God alone who has such power and ability to do this.

In Gal. 5: 19-21 we read of "the works of the flesh which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolitry, witchcraft, hatred, variences, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, and heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like." God, the almighty, takes our lives and chages all of these into "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faithfulness, meekness and temperance." Tell me whose power other than God's could make such a transformation. There is none other, and to think that this God the all-powerful God is mine. He's my Father and what a privilege, what an honor, to be a child of a Father such as this, Hallelujah!

Being a child of His He gives us power to overcome.

His word says, "and five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword". Don't get the idea that this is done, or could be done, in your own strength because by logical reasoning we

✓ can see that it would be humanly impossible<sup>1</sup> for five persons to  
✓ conquer one hundred, but it is by the almighty power of God, for we  
✓ are more than conquer<sup>OR</sup> through Christ. I love the promise in Gods<sup>A</sup>  
u.e. ✓ word that says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthenth<sup>E</sup>  
me."

✓ God says, "I will have respect unto you." I've noticed  
in families where there are several children that the one who gain<sup>a</sup>  
favor with the parents is the obedient child and so it is with God.  
His obedient child has the eye of His special grace continually upon  
him for in Rom. 8:28 we read, "For we know that all things work to-  
✓ gether for good to them that love God <sup>TO THEM WHO</sup> and are the called according to  
✓ His purpose." In Heb. 13:5, 6 we read, "Let your conversation be with-  
out covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for  
✓ he h<sup>A</sup>th said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' So that we  
may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man  
shall do unto me."

Our God is a great God, that we can say we fear no man  
because we have God as our helper.

God will give us a life of abundance for He has made an  
abundant provision for us. Christ came to give us life and more abun-  
dantly. The Bible says, "Ye shall bring forth the old because of  
the new." Old blessings will be freely given because of the number  
✓ and gr<sup>E</sup>atness of the new blessings.

✓ This is "the path of the just that shineth more and more,"  
p. 418 ✓ day by day. The world thinks that they have pleasure, and they have,  
✓ but it is just for a season, but "in His presence there is fullness of  
✓ joy and at His right hand there are pleasures for ever, more."

God assures us of fellowship for He says, "I will walk  
✓ among you." His presence with us is the assurance of prosperity, pro-  
✓ gress, protection, purity and power. That soul or life

✓ possessed <sup>S</sup> by God's Holy Spirit will never fail to find delight in an obedient walk. The testimony of this life will never be silenced by terror or smitten by consumption, but glory to God, "greater is He that is <sup>N</sup> in us than he that is in the world."

✓ We have seen (now) the blessing which follow a life of obedience to God, or the blessing <sup>F</sup> of the one who walks "the narrow path which leadeth to life," but there is another path, "the broad path which leadeth to destruction." This is the path of the disobedient. Let us look at the evils and judgments that follow those who refuse to obey the commandments of God.

In verse 16 we read, "I will appoint over you terror." Fear will grip the hearts of those who forsake God.

*Worldly & sensitive*

✓ I have known of churches that were once on fire for God, and God blessed them spiritually as well as materially, but when they began to <sup>O</sup> compromise with the world their spirituality began to lessen, and their offerings became so low that they did not know how they could keep up the expenses of the church, and fear gripped their hearts, and they became so worried about material things that the saving of souls was forgotten, and thus the church was lost merely because of disobedience to God.

✓ I know, also, of personal friends, and even relatives, who are in constant terror and fear when we mention church or God to them because they are out of fellowship with God.

✓ "I will appoint over you consumption." (Yes,) churches have been stricken with consumption. Consumption means a gradual wasting away and that is exactly what is happening to some churches. Many times churches that have contracted this disease have purchased organs and have hired choir, put on dances and other worldly entertainments to check this wasting away, but it takes more than this to correct such a disease. The remedies may seem to give the appearance of a

✓ healthy church for a time, but it is just like taking all kinds of  
makeup and applying it to the face of a person suffering with the  
✓ disease. It makes them look well, but all the time the inside is  
✓ wasting away, and one day with out notice death is going to grasp  
hold of the body and it will then be gone. The paint will remain  
✓ on the face, but the inside will be dead, and the church also will be  
dead and of no value. The stained glass windows and the choir will  
remain but the church will be dead and without God.

The works of the disobedient will be fruitless. "Ye  
shall sow your seed in vain". "Your strength shall be spent in vain."

✓ You may be earnest in your work, but if your heart isn't right with  
✓ God, and washed in the precious blood of Jesus it shall accomplish  
✓ nothing. Many preachers now adays are sowing seeds, but it will be in  
✓ vain if their lives are not consecrated to the Lord. (I believe) fruit-  
bearing depends on what you are more than on what you do.

So many people have refused to serve God because they  
✓ <sup>THAT</sup> feel He is such a hard God, but in V. 17 it says, "They that hate you  
✓ shall rule over you, and ye shall flee when none pursueth you." So  
✓ you see in avoiding God people come under the tyrany<sup>N</sup> of the world,  
✓ flesh and the devil, and they are always fleeing from some thing, their  
✓ <sup>C</sup>consciense, because of their evil hearts of unbelief."

✓ Have you ever had some unbeliever tell you that they're  
✓ just as good as any christian and that they will get to heaven as well  
✓ as anyone else because after all they pray (etc.)? (Well,) God says "I  
L.C. ✓ will make the Heaven as Iron" and (believe me) an iron heaven is an  
✓ unyielding heaven. It has been said that an unanswered prayer is an  
✓ unheard prayer. This is debatable<sup>N</sup> but never<sup>N</sup> the less if the heavens  
✓ are as brass to us it is a sure evidence that we, ourselves, are not  
right with God.

"I will send wild beasts among you, which will rob you of

✓ your children". "

✓ Many mothers and fathers who, at the beginning of their  
✓ married lives were real christians, but who later rebelled against  
✓ God, and have as a result had their children taken from them, not  
only in death but in sin which will eventually lead to death for we  
✓ know that "the wages of sin is death."

"And they shall fall one upon another as it were before  
a sword" and there shall be desolation....what tragedy! People  
✓ avoid poison because they know <sup>THAT</sup> it will destroy their bodies, and  
✓ they eat healthful foods to preserve life, but still they rebel against  
✓ God, and delight in sin and allow these woes to come to them. Don't  
✓ tell me it is because of ignorance because I have just told you why  
✓ God sends these judgments, and I'm not the first one that has told you  
*writes it* for God told people this 1,491 years before Christ, and this has been  
in the Bible for as long as the Bible has been in print. I get so  
(?) infuriated at folk who say, "(Well), if God is a God of love and a  
✓ just God, why does He allow this to happen and that to happen?"

Listen, if you were to put your hand in a fire you know what would  
✓ be the consequences. Not because you've done it before probably but  
✓ because you've been told what would happen or you've seen it happen  
to some one else. God told you what would happen if you disobeyed  
✓ Him and we've read of it in the Bible what happened to those who  
✓ defied God. Remember Lot's<sup>1</sup> wife. She was turned into a pillar of  
salt because she disobeyed God. She could have lived had she obeyed  
(?) but she chose to die.

(?) God is just, and He has made away of escape, but it is up  
to you and me to make our own choice. How?

✓ First of all, confession. V. 40, "If they shall confess their  
✓ iniquity....."

✓ Secondly, is humility. "If then their uncircumcised hearts



be humbled....."

Thirdly, faith which is an unwavering trust in His sure word of promise.

When sin is confessed and you have taken the place of humility at the foot of the cross and maintain the attitude of faith, "Then, I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit".

A-MEN

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