EASTER 2

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THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.



- 1. God gave his only Son to be a sacrifice for _____. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 2. Of what is Christ an ensample (example)? A. of ______ life (I Peter 2:21-22)
- 3. What is the sacrifice of Christ here called? A. an inestimable ______. (Psalm 103:2)
- 4. What ought we to endeavour to follow? A. the ______ of his most holy life (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- 5. When ought we to do this? A. <u>d</u> (Hebrews 3:13)

THE STRUCTURE OF THIS COLLECT.

(a) What is this Collect built upon? God's gift—"Who hast given." Three Collects speak of God's giving His only Son. Which are they? Christmas—when it says God gave Him to take our nature, for sympathy. First after Easter (last Sunday) when it says God gave Him to die—and rise again for our pardon and justification. Second after Easter (today) when it says God gave Him to die—as our sacrifice, and to live as our example.

(b) What do we pray for? (i.) That we may accept this gift. What sort of a gift? "Inestimable," too costly and precious to be bought. What should we do with a gift? Receive or accept it. How? Most thankfully. (ii.) That we may follow. How? "Daily endeavour ourselves," i.e. try our utmost; so it must be with perseverance and with earnestness.



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INTRODUCTION.

There is no peace with headache or toothache. We need the doctor and the medicine. There is no peace to those in debt or bondage. We need one who shall pay the debt and free us from bondage. There is no peace if we have done wrong, and are in fear of prosecution or punishment. We need a Saviour. There is no peace if we have lost our way. We need some one to call us back and lead us right—Christ our Shepherd.

I. HOW MAY WE SECURE PEACE?

- 1. John 1:12 says to <u>r</u> Jesus and <u>b</u> in His name.
- 2. He will come as the good Physician, to take away our pain and sickness, and so give peace.



- 3. He will come as the Friend, who pays our debt and sets us free.
- 4. He will come as the Saviour to deliver us from the penalty and power of sin.
- 5. He will come as the Shepherd to guide us into the right way.

II. PATTERN SET BY CHRIST'S LIFE.

- 1. We must follow Christ in the steps of His preparation for work. a. He began in the House of God (St. Luke 2:42)
 - b. He began by learning, which He called being about His Father's business (St. Luke 2:49), and continued to increase in wisdom and stature.
 - c. He increased in favour with God, so it was a pure and holy life.
 - d. He increased in favour with man, so it was a helpful, loving, ready, unselfish life (St. Luke 2:52)
- 2. We follow Christ in the steps of His ministry.
 - a. He began it with His baptism.
 - b. He resisted the devil and conquered temptation at the outset.
 - c. Look at any day of His life, e.g. St. Mark 1:14 &c. He rose early for prayer. He spent the day in doing His Father's will, helping and blessing others. He went about doing good (Acts 10:38). He closed the day with prayer (Matthew 14:23).
 - d. In the steps of His Passion and death, He is patient and silent in suffering unjustly, forgiving those who injured Him, and committing His soul to God (St. Luke 23:34-46).

III. CONCLUSION.

If we follow Him in the way of the Cross, we shall follow Him in glory. If we follow the footsteps of His earthly life, we shall follow those of His heavenly life (see Revelation 7:14 to end).

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