

"HIMSELF."

Luke 24-27.

BY

Rev. W. T. TURPIN, M.A.,

Incumbent of Emmanuel Church, Eastbourne.



LONDON :

ALFRED HOLNESS, 13 & 14, Paternoster Row

GLASGOW :

R. L. ALLAN & SON, 143, Sauchiehall Street.

"HIMSELF,"

Luke xxiv., 27.

BY REV. W. T. TURPIN, M.A.

Incumbent of Emmanuel Church, Eastbourne.

I HAVE been afresh revived in contemplating the blessedness of being wholly engrossed and absorbed with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; and one of the no doubt many effects of the present cruel strifes and contentions, which beset one on every side, is to drive the poor, weary heart closer to Himself, as we often sing—

“Close to Thee, close to Thee,
Close to Thee, close to Thee;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Saviour, let me walk with Thee.”

May I, in these few pages, endeavour to recall scattered and bewildered minds from

all beside, and to set before them an object worthy—oh, how worthy! of their *entire, constant, continued adoration and contemplation*.

The diligent and prayerful student of the Word of God will observe the prominence which that one blessed word “Himself” has all through Scripture. When the Spirit of God would direct the mind to and fix the thoughts on the Cross, that great judgment of sin, that complete payment of all debt, it is by presenting *Himself* as in 1 Peter, ii. 24, “Who His *own self* bare our sins in His own body on the tree . . . by whose stripes ye are healed.” Observe how the centre of it all is the Lord Jesus—“*His own self*,” “*His own body*,” “*His stripes*”—ah, thank God, not another’s, but His own! How sweet to the heart it is! We find the same thing in Isaiah liii., where it is all “Him,” “He,” “His,” and so, in this way,

the Spirit of God concentrates the undivided and undistracted gaze of the soul on our Lord Himself as our *perfect Sacrifice*.

Further, having finished the mighty work, having endured the cross, and borne all the judgment, the Saviour rises from the dead: the grave could not detain Him, He arose the Victor from the tomb; in due season He presents Himself to His disciples, they, with blighted hopes and shattered prospects, are terrified and affrighted at His presence; all these hopes had been buried in the grave of their Lord, never, as they thought, to rise again. We can understand then, when He appears, the Firstborn from the dead, what fear and dismay fall upon them; but see how He assures their troubled hearts. He presents Himself, saying, "Behold my hands and my feet that it is I *myself*" (Luke xxiv. 39), also verse 40, "He shewed them His hands and His feet,"

this is still Himself, not a convincing proof of the great fact, not even a recalling to their minds that He had taught them these things, but that which was more touching, more convincing, more affecting, even *Himself*, "Behold My hands and My feet that it is I *Myself*." How blessed is all this !

But let us take a step further in our meditation. In John xxi. we have Peter restored and re-instated in his office ; then the word of verse 19, "*Follow Me.*" Peter beheld John following, and enquiring as to John, receives from the Lord the reply, "What is that to thee, follow *thou Me.*" Thus here we see again how our blessed Master desires that every heart should be engrossed with *Himself*.

Lastly, He has departed out of this world to the Father, and His poor weak children are still left where their Lord is rejected and disowned, but the Comforter has come

and dwelling in them, testifies of Himself, the absent one, thus occupying their affections, and feeding their hopes with *Himself*. "He shall testify of *Me*" (John xv. 26), and thus, in kindred words of comfort does the blessed Spirit console hearts, even as He did the Thessalonian Church in these words, "the Lord *Himself* shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. iv. 16, 17). What a joy to see our *past Himself*, our *present Himself*, our *future Himself*! Shall we not earnestly pray that every object which the enemy would intrude into the supreme place He *Himself* is alone worthy of in the affections of His people, may be kept out. Of late *the*

Church has usurped the place of Christ in this respect, and what a picture it presents as a result ! Verily the former days were better than these, when all the glory of the person of the Lord Jesus, the preciousness of His blood, and the love of His heart occupied *all* the thoughts of His own. Oh, that it were so *now* ! Oh the blessedness of gazing on the dying Lamb of Calvary, Himself, who is our Peace ! Oh, the rest of lying in the embrace of His love ! Oh the glory of seeing Him the risen One, our Life—the glorified One, our Advocate—the coming One, our Hope. Nothing is of any value that does not spring from personal love to, and communion with Himself. We may have Scripture at our finger ends ; we may be able to preach with remarkable fluency, which unpractised spirits may easily enough mistake for “ power ” ; but oh ! if the heart is not drinking deeply at the fountain head

—if not enlivened and invigorated by the realization of the love of Himself, it will all end in mere flash and smoke. Nothing can satisfy, short of abiding, real, deep, divinely inwrought communion with the blessed Lord and Master *Himself*. Crotchets one despises, opinions one dreads, controversy one increasingly shrinks from, but oh! for an enlarged vision of His precious Person, His work, His glory, and so to live and labour and testify for Himself.

" Oh to be but emptier, lowlier,
 Mean, unnoticed, and unknown,
 And to God a vessel holier,
 Filled with Christ, and Christ alone !
 Nought of earth to cloud the glory
 Nought of self the light to dim,
 Telling forth His wondrous story,
 Emptied—to be filled with Him."

*Price One Halfpenny, Post Free, One Penny. 24 Copies post free, 1/-,
 50 Copies, 2/-. 100 Copies, 3/6. 500 Copies, 15/-.*

ALFRED HOLNESS, 13 & 14, Paternoster Row.