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Broughton Chapel. Reunion Day

1 Cor. iii: 9 v

We are labourers together with
God.

Rev. Person

We are God's fellow-workers

The thoughts expressed
in these words appear to me
especially appropriate to an oc-
casion such as has brought us
together today: when those who
have been successively students
in this College, and ordained

from it to the Christian Ministry
are met together in ^{Christian} reason;
some to renew old associations,
some to compare their experi-
ences in the past, & all we trust
to encourage & strengthen one
another in the great work to which
we are called. They appear to
me to be appropriate, whether
we regard the preparation which
is carried on within the colleges of
those who are Candidates for the
Ministry, or the work in which
those who are Christ's Ministers
are engaged, or the results
at which we are aiming. For the

ideal which they set before us
is high; they supply us with
the strongest grounds of encourage-
ment; the motives which
they suggest are most powerful;
and the security they give for
our final success is unfailing.

The Apostle is pointing out
to the Corinthians the true status of the
Ministers of Christ in his Church,
whatever might be the particular
work assigned to them. One may
plant & another water; one may
sow & another reap; one may lay
the foundation & another build upon
it. But it is God who ~~works~~ to
any saving effect. They are but
instruments in his hand. He is
the mighty Agent who makes
the seed come to grow, and builds

the spiritual Temple which they
are employed in erecting.

Upon this ground the Apostle
condemns the factious spirit wh.
had crept into the Corinthian Ch.
one saying, I am of Paul, another
I am of Apollus, another I am of
Peter, & another I am of Christ.
It showed carnality of mind, a
low & weak state of spiritual life.
It indicated forgetfulness of the
great Master & Lord of all, and
their position in relation to Him.
And it was to bring them back to
a right view & estimate of their
position of their Ministers that
he reminds them in the words bef.
us that they were God's workmen,
labourers together with Him.
It is only ^{right} to say the question has been
that

raised whether the ~~apostle~~ meant
to say that they were co-workers
with God or with one another. The
question does not appear to me to
be solved by the revisers, whose
translation is no doubt more literal,
but at any rate ambiguous. And it
appears to me that there is much
more to be said in favour of the
Co-operation with God than with each
other. In 2 Cor vi: 1 verse, it is clearly
with Him, although 'with Him' is
not expressed: but the context re-
quires it. 'Be then as workers to-
gether with Him, beseech you also
that ye receive not the grace of God
in vain'. The great point however
upon which the stress is laid by
the Apostle is that we are God's
workers; employed by Him and

And what God is aiming at -
the reconciliation of men to Him-
self & their fellowship with Him
in time & in eternity.

All our teaching, all our
preaching, all our influence upon
men, will be directed to this:
for we shall feel that thus only
shall we prove ourselves workmen
who need not to be ashamed.

The great announcement
in the Gospel is that God so loved the
world, that He gave His only begotten
Son that whosoever believeth in
Him should not perish but have
everlasting life. And ours is the
ministry of reconciliation. We
are ~~the~~ ambassadors for the

although God did beseech men
by us to accept the atonement
which His beloved Son offered for
them upon the cross, & live as those
who have been bought by His
precious Blood.

But our work is far
from being fulfilled when they
are thus reconciled & brought
into oneness with Him. There
must be not only oneness, but
union: the vibration of the soul
and all its powers in harmony
with the Divine will, in concord
with the soul of Christ. The
builders of a house build it up,
higher & higher until it is com-

plete; they build it in all its
parts so that there shall be nothing
wanting. And so we who are
God's builders have to build up
those who are brought into fellow-
ship with Him through Christ, in
holiness & righteousness of life,
in faith & hope & every other virtue
of grace, leading them onto the
fulfillment of the measure of the stature
of Christ. The work then is a great
one, demanding all our energies,
constant watchfulness, prayer,
self-denial, and entire devoted-
ness. It is a work which calls
for an undivided heart, a whole
heart; a realizing conviction

that we are workers together
with God.

ii. And let us think of the
encouragement which this fact
supplies. We are not working by
ourselves; not in our own strength;
not relying upon our own wisdom
or might, or powers for success.
He who leads us is with us. He
who puts us to work for Him has
promised to strengthen & guide &
uphold us. You have found an
instance in the history of the
Church often sending any to
work for him & then leaving them
without his presence & help.
Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samson,
Samuel, David, Solomon,

Exra.
Elijah, Elisha, Nehemiah, and
the Prophets. ^{In the B. T. to each of them was the} And in the New Test
the Apostles, Evangelists, & others
who were raised up to do his
will. With the Command the prom.
ise has joined - Go into all the
world & disciple the Nations, &
to, I am with you alway even
unto the end of the world. I, your
Lord & Master, from whom your
Commission is derived; am
with you, ever present to help &
guide & bless you; with you &
not merely looking on at a dis-
tance, ^{but close at hand.} in your very need & by
your side; with you individually
as well as collectively, with
each one according to his need.

I am with you always; in every
place in which you labour for me,
in ^{all} ~~every~~ your trials, & diffi-
culties: when you are travelling
in truth for souls, when you are
rejoicing in their conversion &
growth in grace, & when you are
filled with sorrow & down cast
because you seem to labour in
vain & spend your strength for nothing.
I am never absent, nor will I be
until the Consummation of the
age. Thus to be ^{God's} fellow workers
supplies the strongest encourage-
ment possible.

iii. And then how powerful
are the motives to work, which the
fact suggests!
The grandeur of the

work, that in which God himself
is engaged; that for which His Eter-
nal Son became incarnate, &
bowed himself to the bitter agonies
of Gethsemane & Calvary; and for
which He now lives & reigns in
glory; that for which the Eternal
Spirit was sent down from Heaven
and in exercising his gracious
power & influence in the Church
and upon the souls of men; striving
with them, convincing them of sin,
illuminating their understand-
ings, sanctifying them with
and renewing them after the image
of God by His Saviour. A work upon
which the august hierarchies
of Heaven look with wonder,
which, when it is completed,

will fill the universe with
praise. This is one motive.

The love which it calls into
exercise is another. Love to Him
who gives us the work to do,
saving us first from our own sin,
and then leading us to be instrumen-
tal in saving others. Striving
us first to make us feel His
own mighty love in dying for us,
and then by that love constrain-
ing us to love no longer unto
our selves but unto Him who
died for us & rose again. And
love to the souls for whom He died.
An emanation from his own heart,
a stream flowing from the ~~own~~
^{bottomless} depths of his own everlasting

love, causing us in some faint
degree to be like unto himself.

And Zeal for His glory is
another motive wh comes into play.
We cannot endure His dishonour
to see a world living in forget-
fulness of Him & in disobedience
to His laws - swayed by another
Ruler who has usurped His
Throne & would fain keep Him
from regaining it. No: it must
not be. It is His; & must be
recovered for Him. His and there-
fore every effort shall be made
to restore it. And it was this
for which Christ died; it is this
for which He seeks in glory;
& this for which He is coming
again. Now is the judgment of

this world; now shall the Prince
of this world be cast out. And I,
if I be lifted up from the earth
will draw all men unto myself.

IV. And again look at the
Certainty of final success wh
being God's fellow workers & ministers.

We may not accomplish
what we would desire. We may
not be able to save those for whom
salvation we labour. And we
may sometimes feel greatly
discouraged and disappointed
at the apparent results of our
work. But in this as in other
parts of our Christian life, we
must walk by faith & not by
sight. Let us remember our
own littleness; how small a

part of God's great purposes
~~are~~ revealed to us at present;
and how little we are capable
of judging as regards the whole.

Think how it was with our
Blessed Master when he labor-
traded among us in this weary
sin defiled world. Was it all
brightness with Him? Did he
encounter no unbelief, no hardness
of heart, no rejection of his
word? Then hung upon his lips
as they poured forth words of
God given truth & love. And
yet they believed them not.
They followed him with eager
footsteps, & then turned away
to their pleasures, then games,
and their business.

And after all they rejected
Him. Hunt Him to death, joyful
of all the miracles of love & mercy
which he had wrought.

But did he ever falter
or hesitate as to the final accom-
plishment of His Father's plan
or of his own part in carrying it
out? Never for a moment. He ever
spoke of it with confidence, as
if it were already done. I came
down from heaven, not to do mine
own will, but His. And this is the His
will wh. sent me that of all that
heathen join me, I should love
nothing; but th? secure it as a fact
at the last day.

He knew his death was
come, but he knew that that was
his place to his resurrection.

And that he followed by his
ascension, by the descent of the
Holy Spirit, by the gathering out of
the world the countless multitudes
who shall be saved. He
saw Satan as lightning fall
from heaven; the Kingdom of
this world made the Kingdom of
God, sin cast out, a new heaven
and a new Earth in which right-
eousness shall dwell for ever.
And therefore he could say upon
the Cross - He is finished; not
only as regarded the work he
had accomplished there, but
in anticipation of the glorious
results which would flow
therefrom.

Such are some of the thoughts
which have suggested themselves
to me in thinking over the appella-
tion given to the Ministers of Christ
as God's fellow workers. I speak
to you, my dear brethren with
^{because I know the deep fulness there}
much diffidence & humility; but
^{is in the word of God & on little we depend}
with the Earnest hope & prayer
that they may lead to our mutual
encouragement and profit.

May the Spirit of grace
and wisdom and love be with
us this day. Had we returned
from respective spheres of
work, may we each strive to
be found faithful therein.
and endeavoring to realize
tealoring day by day the blessed
hope, the dignity, the comfort,
of being ^{fellows} workers with God!