

EVANGELIST'S COUNSEL



Now when they were got almost quite out of this wilderness, *Faithful* chanced to cast his eye back, and espied one coming after them, and he knew him. Oh! said *Faithful* to his brother, who comes yonder? Then *Christian* looked, and said, It is my good friend *Evangelist*. Ay, and my good friend too, said *Faithful*, for 'twas he that set me the way to the gate. Now was *Evangelist* come up unto them, and thus saluted them.

Evangelist overtakes them again.

2. *Evangelist*. Peace be with you, dearly beloved, and, peace be to your helpers.

They are glad at the sight of him.

3. *Chr.* Welcome, welcome, my good *Evangelist*, the sight of thy countenance brings to my remembrance thy ancient kindness and unwearied laboring for my eternal good.

4. *Faith*. And a thousand times welcome, said good *Faithful*, thy company, O sweet *Evangelist*; how desirable is it to us poor pilgrims!

5. *Evan*. Then, said *Evangelist*, How hath it fared with you, my friends, since the time of our last parting? What have you met with, and how have you behaved yourselves?

6. Then *Christian* and *Faithful* told him of all things that had hap-

pened to them in the way; and how, and with what difficulty, they had arrived to that place.

7. *Evan*. Right glad am I, said *Evangelist*, not that you met with trials, but that you have been victors, and for that you have (notwithstanding many weaknesses) continued in the way to this very day.

His exhortation to them.

8. I say, right glad am I of this thing, and that for mine own sake and yours; I have sowed, and you have reaped; and the day is coming, when both he that soweth, and they that reaped, shall rejoice together; that is, if you hold out; for in due time ye shall reap, if you faint not. The crown is before you, and it is an uncorruptible one; so run, that you may obtain it. Some there be that set out for this crown, and after they have gone far for it, another comes in and takes it from them. Hold fast therefore that you have, let no man take your crown. You are not yet out of the gunshot of the devil; you have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. Let the kingdom be always before you, and believe steadfastly concerning things that are invisible. Let nothing that is on this side the other world get within you. And above all, look well to your own hearts and to the lusts thereof, for they are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Set

John 4. 36.
Gal. 6. 9.
Cor. 9. 24, 25,
26, 27.

Rev. 3. 11.

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your faces like a flint; you have all power in heaven and earth on your side.

They do thank him for his exhortation.

9. **Chr.** Then Christian thanked him for his exhortation; but told him withal, that they would have him speak further to them for their help the rest of the way; and the rather, for that they well knew that he was a prophet, and could tell them of things that might happen unto them, and also how they might resist and overcome them. To which request *Faithful* also consented. So *Evangelist* began as followeth:

He prediceth what troubles they shall meet with in Vanity Fair, and encourageth them to steadfastness.

10. **Evan.** My sons, you have heard in the words of the truth of the gospel, that *you must through many tribulations enter into the kingdom of heaven*. And again, That in every city, bonds and afflictions abide in you; and therefore you cannot expect that you should go long on your pilgrimage without them, in some sort or other. You have found some thing of the truth of these testimonies upon you already, and more will immediately follow; for now, as you see, you are almost out of this wilderness, and therefore you will soon come into a town that you will by and by see before you; and in that town you will be hardly beset with enemies, who will strain hard but they will kill you; and be you sure that one or both of you must seal the testimony which you hold, with blood; but be you faithful unto death, and the King will give you a crown of life. He that shall die there, although his death will be unnatural,

and his pains perhaps great, he will yet have the better of his fellow; not only because he will be arrived at the Celestial City soonest, but because he will escape many miseries that the other will meet with in the rest of his journey. But when you are come to the town, and shall find fulfilled what I have here related, then remember your friend, and quit yourselves like men, and commit the keeping of your souls to your God (in well-doing), as unto a faithful Creator. †

He whose lot it will be there to suffer, will have the better of his brother.

NOTES:
