

"A WELCOME TO CHRIST"**Introduction**

1. A famous saying of Christ
2. It is full of kindness and help
3. It is really an offer of eternal life

1. CHRIST OFFERS A WELCOME TO ALL TO COME TO HIM

- 1) Christ here famously offers Eternal Life to men – under the idea of REST!
 - (i) From condemnation felt in the conscience
 - (ii) From exposure to the fears we all have
 - (iii) From the torment of facing a lost eternity

OBSERVE: "Rest" here is a comprehensive term
- 2) This offer by Christ:
 - (i) Is both invitation and command
 - (ii) Is an expression of kindness, concern, love
 - (iii) Is a genuine and sincere offer
 - (iv) Is a well-meant offer
 - (v) Is a free offer

There is a deep truth here: v. 25-27
APPLICATION: Never doubt Christ's sincere offer

2. WE SHALL NEVER VALUE CHRIST'S WELCOME TILL WE COME TO AN END OF OURSELVES

- 1) This is to be learnt from Christ's words: "All ye that labour..."
 (Explain)
OBSERVE: The offer not limited – the desire of those who hear it is.
- 2) Why is this?
 - (i) **Illustration:** thirst + hunger
 - (ii) **Illustration:** ignorance of the danger ahead

(iii) **Illustration:** too careless to know there is a treasure inside the Bible

- 3) The offer is genuine to all – but who will want it if they are content as they are?
- 4) If you feel you need Christ – then come to him at once.
- 5) But if you do not feel your need – what are you to do? Are you unwelcome? No!
APPLICATION: Pray that God would open your eyes to know how sick and lost you are.
ILLUSTRATION: "I had this Bible twice". (Explain)
OBSERVE: The problem with sinners is that they do not welcome Him.

3. WHEN WE COME TO CHRIST WE RECEIVE FROM HIM WHAT NO ONE ELSE CAN GIVE US

- 1) This REST is an entirely different life:
 - (i) Assurance of a good standing with God.
 - (ii) Assurance of having a useful life with Christ
 - (iii) Assurance of being taught in His school
 - (iv) Assurance of becoming increasingly like Christ
 - (v) Assurance of having a blessed life on earth
- 2) Who else can give you this?
 - (i) Compare the "broken cisterns" and the "fountain" of which Jeremiah speaks.
 - (ii) **Illustration:** Augustine's experience.

CONCLUSION

If you come to Christ you will receive this "REST".
 If not, you will have only yourself to blame.

PSALM**91: 1 – 6****92: 12 – 15****119: 164 – 168**