

Christ's Death and Resurrection

Robbie Flockhart used constantly to preach in the streets of Edinburgh, and he told this story. He said, "I had a friend in the army, and he committed some offence in war-time for which he was condemned to be shot. So he said, 'Robbie, I have to die tomorrow, and as I have a little money, I have made my will, and left it to you.' 'Thank you,' I said. The next morning, instead of being taken out to be shot, the soldier received a free pardon; "so", said Robbie, "he got his life, and I lost my legacy, for a testament is not of force while the testator liveth, he must die to give effect to his will. And", said Robbie, "our great testator is dead, we know that he died, they nailed him to the cross; therefore his will stands good, let us go and take the legacy bequeathed to us. But," added Robbie, "the story is not enough to set forth Christ's death for us. Some time after, another friend left me a legacy, and he did die. There were some lawyers who got hold of the money, and Robbie never received a penny of the legacy." He said, "If my friend had been alive, I should have got it; that is to say, if he could have died, and then afterwards

have been alive again, he would have seen that I received the legacy.

"So, the first time I lost my legacy because the friend who left it to me did not die, and the second time I lost it because the friend who left it to me did die, and did not rise again. But", said he, "see the glorious safety of the believer's legacy from his Lord. He who died and so made the will of effect, has risen again, and he will see that no lawyer, honest or dishonest, shall ever interfere with the legacies that he left to his people. Not even the devil himself shall prevent the heirs of everlasting life from obtaining the heritage which Christ has left them in the new covenant which he has sealed with his blood."

An extract from a sermon preached by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, on 5th April, 1888. Mr. Spurgeon refers here to Robert Flockhart (1778-1857) who was converted while serving as a soldier in India. He returned to Scotland and became a fearless street preacher in the mid-1800s.