

REV. DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

The Brooklyn Divine's Sunday Sermon.

Subject: "Opportunities for Christians." (Preached at Madison, Wis.)

Text: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"—Ester iv, 14.

Ether the beautiful was the wife of Abasuerus the Abominable. The time had come for her to present a petition to her infamous husband...

But, on the other hand, do not adhere to anything merely because it is new. Try it by the realities of a judgment day.

And so also the work of Jesus Christ was assailed. People cried out, "Whoever heard of such theories of ethics and government?"

But, my friends, you need not be aggressive Christians. You need not be persons who spend their lives in hugging their Christian graces...

Oh, my friends! If you want to have a stalwart Christian character, plant it right out of doors in the great field of Christian usefulness...

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gathered in temples of sin—years of unutterable woe their baptism, the blood of crucified hearts the awful wine of their sacrament...

Again, if you want to be qualified to meet the duties which this age demands of you, you must on the one hand avoid reckless fanaticism, and on the other, hand not stick too much to things because they are old...

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and perpetuity of His eternal government. Our life is a brief and unimportant season in the life of the world...

Then shall all nations sing aloud, To Thee, our Father, Father, Friend, Thy servant's high arch resonance again, With "Peace on earth, good will to men."

I preach this sermon because I want to encourage all Christian workers in every possible department. Hosts of the living God, march on! March on!

Lincoln's Half Hour as a Watchman. James Etter, an old soldier, who for over twenty years has been one of the day watchmen in the Winder building at Washington...

The veteran in relating the story, says that for a moment he was speechless from astonishment, but quickly recovering himself, he pinned his badge on the coat of the President of the United States and hurried off after Dr. Barnes...

Baby Postage Stamps. Letters which have recently arrived from Spain have borne a new postage stamp, marked with the effigy of the King of Spain, Don Alfonso XIII.

To this generation, which considers the postage stamp almost as much a necessity of life as food or raiment, it seems hard to believe that 40 years have not yet gone by since postage stamps came into general use in Europe and the United States.

No doubt this new baby stamp of Spain will be sought for, at least for a time, by thousands of stamp collectors for its novelty. It is quite sure, however, to become common.

Animals Admitted to Heaven. According to the Moslem creed ten animals are admitted into Paradise besides man: "1. The dog Kratine of the seven Sleepers of Ephesus...

PREHISTORIC MAN.

James Terry has just published descriptions and photographs of some of the most remarkable works of prehistoric man yet discovered on the American continent...

The size of the heads varies from 8 to 10 inches in total height, and from 5 1/2 to 6 inches in height. The three are so different from each other that they appear to represent three distinct aims...

Taking into consideration the enormous antiquity of the stone mortars and human remains found in the auriferous gravels of California...

Or Which. He was wandering up and down the street with a sort of lost air about him when he finally turned aside and inquired of a man standing in a doorway...

"What is it?" "It's something you sharpen a knife on." "Oh, you want a whetstone." "Ah! that's it—that's it! I couldn't think of it to save my neck."

The Jewel in Her Ring. A recent guest at the Hotel Brunswick, New York, is the wife of a petroleum prince who has never deserted his native heath...

As the tountain overflowing, as a river rushing to the infinite main, as trees bursting into life and blossom in the Spring-tide, so God feels it his joy to give liberally, and to give above all we can ask, or think, or desire, for Christ's sake.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1891. Christ's Authority.

LESSON TEXT. John 5: 17-30. Memory verses: 24-27.

LESSON PLAN. TOPIC OF THE QUARTER: Jesus the Son of God.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER. These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

LESSON TOPIC: The Son and his Subjects.

LESSON OUTLINE: 1. Fitted to Rule, vs. 17-20. 2. Able to Bless, vs. 21-23. 3. Appointed to Judge, vs. 27-30.

GOLDEN TEXT: All power is given unto me in heaven and earth.—Matt. 28: 18.

DAILY HOME READINGS: M.—John 5: 17-30. Christ's authority.

T.—John 5: 1-16. Jesus at his work.

W.—John 5: 31-47. Witnesses for Jesus.

T.—1 Cor. 15: 12-28. The Son's authority.

F.—Rom. 6: 1-23. Men's masters.

S.—Phil. 2: 1-11. The Lord's appointed dominion.

S.—Rev. 5: 1-14. The Lord's dominion acknowledged.

LESSON ANALYSIS. I. FITTED TO RULE.

1. By Fellowship with the Father: My Father worketh even until now, and I work (17).

The Word was with God (John 1: 1). I seek... the will of him that sent me (John 5: 30).

2. Making himself equal with God: I and the Father are one (John 10: 30). Then, being a man, maketh himself God (John 10: 33).

3. Greater works than these will he shew him, that ye may marvel. (1) The Father's grace; (2) The Son's equipment; (3) The followers' wonder.

II. ABLE TO BLESS. As the Father... even so the Son also quickeneth (21).

III. POSSESSED OF LIFE. So gave he to the Son also to have life in himself (26).

IV. APPOINTED TO JUDGE. I on Divine Authority: In gave him authority to execute judgment (27).

All... shall hear his voice, and shall come forth (28, 29). Before him shall be gathered all the nations (Matt. 25: 32).

III. On Just Grounds:

My judgment is righteous (30). Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Gen. 18: 25).

1. "He gave him authority to execute judgment." (1) The Father's gift; (2) The Son's authority; (3) The penitent's hope; (4) The rebel's dread.

2. "All that are in the tombs shall hear his voice." (1) The Lord's call; (2) Humanity's response; (3) The universal response.

3. "I seek not mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (1) Self-seeking disavowed; (2) God-seeking accepted.

LESSON BIBLE READING. CHRIST THE JUDGE. His judgment affirmed (John 5: 22, 27; 2 Cor. 5: 10).

His law the standard (John 12: 48). Extent of privilege considered (Matt. 11: 20-24; Luke 11: 31, 32).

His coming the occasion (Matt. 25: 31; 2 Tim. 4: 1).

The saints his associates (1 Cor. 6: 2; Rev. 20: 4).

Acknowledged his people (Matt. 25: 34; Rev. 3: 5).

Rewards his saints (2 Tim. 4: 8; Rev. 11: 18).

INTERVENING EVENTS.—The theory that four passovers occurred during our Lord's ministry, is that which we use in this as in previous Gospel lessons.

His view regards John 5: 1 as referring to a passover feast, the second in our Lord's ministry. It is preferred because of the difficulty of finding any other feast that meets the historical conditions...

There is also a difference of opinion as to the relation of this passover to the Galilean ministry. Andrews places the whole of it after this visit to Jerusalem, the imprisonment of John the Baptist having occurred just before...

PLACE.—In Jerusalem, possibly in some court of the temple.

TIME.—In April, A. U. C. 781.—A. D. 98.

PERSONS.—Our Lord and the hostile Jews of Jerusalem. No mention is made of the presence of the healed man.

INCIDENTS.—Jesus answers the persecutors by asserting the work of his Father and of himself; this leads to greater hostility, since he thus called God his own father. The discourse which follows is a continued assertion of this claim...

A Myopic People. One could not watch the great procession of military without being struck by the extent to which near-sightedness is coming to prevail among our people. Where physical excellence is so essential as among men who may at any moment be called upon to active service in the field...