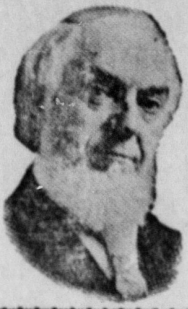


PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

The Heathen For an Inheritance.

Text, "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possessions" (Psalm ii, 8).

Oakland, Cal., July 18.—The Bible Students' Convention of Believers in the Atonement by the Precious Blood opened here yesterday. Pastor Russell, of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York, was the principal speaker on the program today. He made two addresses. We quote one of these as follows:—

Our text is from one of the Messianic Psalms. It represents our Lord as making known to his people the Heavenly Father's decree rewarding him for his faithfulness as our Redeemer, assuring him of his exaltation to the Kingdom, and that with this will come the inheritance of all the earth, with power to fully subject all things to the Heavenly Father's will. He was to have it for the mere request—"Ask of me." As a matter of fact, this world-wide dominion has not yet come to Messiah; the heathen are not yet his inheritance; the uttermost parts of the earth are not yet his possession. Indeed, as the Prophet declares, "Darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the heathen."

When we remember our Redeemer's love for the race, the love which led him to lay down his life "to seek and to recover that which was lost," we are inclined to amazement that he has not yet asked the Father for his inheritance of the heathen—we are astonished that he has permitted "the prince of darkness" and the "reign of sin and death" for more than eighteen centuries since he suffered, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. Our perplexity in the matter might well be answered by our Lord's words to the Sadducees, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." As we come to understand the Scriptures more fully, and to appreciate how the power of God will be exercised in bringing the heathen under the domination of the Redeemer, the eyes of our understanding open and we are enabled to rejoice accordingly.

Why He Did Not Ask.

Our Lord did not ask for his great power to reign at an earlier date because he knew the Father's plan, and was well contented with the Divine times and seasons; he had no wish of change in this. He did not ask to receive the heathen for an inheritance at the beginning of this Gospel Age, but has been content to wait and place that request in its due time in harmony with another feature of the Divine program which must first be fulfilled. That other feature is the selection of the Church, the Bride of Christ, the members of His Body. It pleased the Father to make our Lord not only the world's Redeemer, and the world's King, but also to make him the High Priest of an Under-priesthood, the Bridegroom of the Church, his Bride; the Elder Brother of these saints of glory whom the Father is pleased to have developed during this Gospel Age as "New Creatures in Christ Jesus"—sharers of his sufferings, and of his glory to follow.

Meantime the heathen have been suffering no damage. Born in sin, shapen in iniquity, condemned to death, they were having experiences with sin and death, and going down to the great prison-house for periods of unconsciousness—until the Redeemer at his second advent shall call them and all mankind from the great prison-house, the tomb. This he foretold saying, "All that are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of Man and come forth." This will include not only the Church of the First-Born ones, who have been approved of God, and who, passing trial now, will come forth unto life eternal, but it will include also all the remainder of mankind, those who have not had God's approval, all of whom, because redeemed, shall come forth unto judgment—trial a fair trial will be theirs, to determine their worthiness or unworthiness of life eternal by the manner in which they will receive or reject the Christ of God when, during the Millennium, the same shall be made fully known to them.

It was part of the Divine purpose also that the whole earth should be filled with people, and hence the bringing forth of a progeny is a part of the Divine will. The few short years of the present life, with experience of sin and death conditions, will in due time be supplemented by the glorious period of the Millennium, with its grand opportunities for lessons of righteousness and obedience and rewards. Its corrective "stripes," or punishments, to the careless will be to the intent that so many as possible may ultimately be entirely recovered from death conditions and brought into full accord with God in Christ. And others, demonstrating their unwillingness to come into heart sympathy with righteousness, will be utterly destroyed from amongst the people (Acts III, 23).

The More Excellent Way.

So, then, our Lord's reason for not asking sooner for the heathen as his inheritance, and the remotest parts of the earth for his possession, was because he knew the Father's plan to be a different plan, and that it was the more excellent way, and he delighted to do the Father's will. And so with

all the followers of Christ: So soon as they ascertain the Father's glorious plan of salvation, they find it to be soul-satisfying, and greatly prefer it to any plan of their own. It is the undeveloped Christians, whom the Apostle designates "babes in Christ," who are continually praying to the Heavenly Father for a change of the Divine program, imagining that their wisdom and their love in respect to the heathen are superior to those of the infinite Creator. Nearly all Christian people have had their experience with such ignorance, and we are glad to suppose that the Heavenly Father laid out the sin of such presumption to our charge, but rather sympathetically appreciated our interest in the heathen, although he must have deprecated our lack of reverence, our headiness, our high-minded assumptions of more than infinite wisdom.

We are not saying a word against missions—home and foreign. Quite to the contrary; we believe that every Christian should labor with heart and hand to do all in his power to glorify the Father and the Redeemer, and to enlighten his fellowmen respecting the cross of Christ, and the blessings and privileges which it secures. But while gladly, willingly, serving the divine cause, "instant in season and out of season," we should learn to labor and to wait. We should learn that the laboring under present conditions is chiefly arranged for our benefit—for the development in the minds of the Royal Priesthood of the sacrificing qualities, and the graces of the holy Spirit—meekness, gentleness, patience, faith, long-suffering, brotherly kindness, love.

Co-workers Together With God.

Let us be sure, dear friends, that any theory of ours respecting the heathen, or any other feature of the Divine program, which in any degree implies superior wisdom, or superior energy, or superior love, on our part, as compared with that of our Heavenly Father and our Redeemer, must be wrong. The sooner we learn to pray from the heart, "Thy will be done," the better it will be for us, the more will we be able to get into harmony with our Lord, and the more will we be used as his ambassadors and representatives. The wisdom of man is foolishness with God, and the wisdom of God is foolishness with man, hence we must not take the human standpoint in investigating or reasoning upon the Divine purposes and program. Rather, we must go direct to the Word of God, that we may discern the beauty, the harmony of his plans.

It is written that obedience is better than sacrifice, and this being recognized, how careful it should make us to inquire what the will of the Lord is; to search the Scriptures, that we may there ascertain the Divine program, and be found in harmony therewith. There we find that the Lord's present work is the completing of the Royal Priesthood, the Royal Judge, the Royal Prophet, the Royal Mediator, the Great King, for the world of mankind—for the world's deliverance from the bondage of sin and death, and their assistance back to harmony with God. Thus seeing, we will have patience in respect to the heathen, and strive now to make our own calling and election sure, and lay down our lives for the brethren in assisting to build them up in the most holy faith, "until we all come to the measure of the stature of a man in Christ"—the great Mediator of the New Covenant, of which Jesus is the Head.

Converting the World.

When will the world be converted? When will Christ ask for the heathen? When will the Father give them to him? How long, O Lord? The Scriptural answer, dear friends, is, that it has pleased the Father to select the "Jewet" class during this Gospel Age by means which the world would think foolish—by means of the preaching of the good tidings. But his program for the future age is different. There are millions who have no ear to hear the preaching of the cross of Christ. There are millions who have no eye of faith to see the glorious things of God. In fact, according to the Scriptures, only a "little flock" comparatively, can be brought into accord with the Lord under the conditions of the present time, because sin abounds, because death reigns, because Satan, the prince of this world, now works antagonistically in the hearts of the children of disobedience.

Hence it has pleased God to have a different method of dealing with the world of mankind in general from that which he adopted for dealing with the Church in this Age. In the next age force will be used, and not merely moral suasion. Force will be employed in putting down the reign of evil. Satan will not merely be requested to desist from deceiving the world, but will be bound for a thousand years, and be unable to deceive the nations. Likewise, mankind will no longer be invited to accept Christ, and to give their hearts in obedience to him, but, on the contrary, they will be compelled to be obedient. As it is written, "Unto him every knee shall bow and every

tongue confess, to the glory of God." Offers of grace will no longer be held out, with reward for faith attached; instead, knowledge shall fill the whole earth as the waters cover the great deep (Philippians ii, 10, 11; Isaiah xl, 5). As a result, no one shall then say to his neighbor, or to his brother, Know thou the Lord! for they all shall know him, from the least unto the greatest of them (Jeremiah xxxi, 34).

Heathen Fall Under Him.

Another Psalm describes Messiah's triumph in the Millennial Age, saying, "Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most Mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously in the cause of Truth and Meekness and Righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee" (Psalm xlv, 3-5). Instead of the word "people" here, read the word "heathen" as in the original, and we have a picture of the conversion of the heathen as it will shortly be accomplished. We are not to suppose the Lord will ride upon a horse, nor that literal arrows will literally pierce the hearts of his enemies. We are to understand this picture to signify our Lord's triumphant conquering of the world, and that the arrows of truth which will go forth unto the whole world will reach the hearts of men, and smite them down. Even so we read that when St. Peter preached at Pentecost that the Jews had taken and crucified the Son of God, the hearers were cut to the heart with the lance of truth. Thank God for such arrows from the quiver of Divine wisdom, justice, love. We rejoice that the heathen will thus be conquered for the Lord, and thus eventually every knee bow and every tongue confess.

This work of dealing with the heathen, with the world, with all except the Church, will begin with the generation living at the time of the establishment of the Lord's Kingdom. In due time it will proceed and ultimately include all that are in their graves, in the reverse order from that which they entered, and the last shall be the first to come forth—"every man in his own order" or class.

Too frequently do Bible students neglect to see whether or not their interpretations are in harmony with the context of the passages under discussion. Let us not make this mistake. Turning to the second Psalm, we find that, following our text and a part with it, is the declaration, "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (verse 9). The application of this evidently is to the time for our Lord's second advent, when the selection of the Church shall be completed, and she shall have entered into his glory as the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, symbolically pictured in the New Jerusalem from God out of heaven. From that New Jerusalem we are told that the river of the water of life shall flow freely, and that whosoever will may partake of it freely—all that are athirst. On either bank will grow the trees of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. And the Spirit and the Bride will say Come, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely. But meantime, before the nations, the world, will be ready for that blessing from the New Jerusalem, they must needs pass through a period of very deep humiliation—"a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."

As for the nations of that time, the extent to which they will suffer destruction will depend largely on their own attitude, as is intimated by the verses following our text. Those of the nations who freely and heartily accept of Messiah's rule will be correspondingly saved from the breaking process. Hence it is urged, "Kiss the Son, O ye kings of the earth; kiss the Son lest he be angry with you and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little." But while this seems to offer leniency, mercy, these favors are conditional on the manner in which the Messianic Kingdom shall be received. Other Scriptures seem to intimate that all the nations, not only heathen but civilized, will be found in violent opposition to the heavenly Kingdom, and hence that all together they will be crushed as the vessels of a potter.

The Glorious Outcome.

The Lord tells us that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are his ways higher than man's ways, and his plans higher than man's plans. And this we find true as we come to better understand the Scriptures. Who ever dreamed of such lengths and breadths and heights and depths of love divine, all love exceeding, as are implied and included in God's great plan of selecting, first the Church—Jesus the Head and the Church, His Body—and then through these blessing all the families of the earth with a knowledge of Himself and the glorious opportunities for life eternal! We make no claims of universal salvation, because the Scriptures do not authorize this, but distinctly speak of some who will die the Second Death, proving themselves not sufficiently in harmony with righteousness to be worthy of eternal life—even after being brought to a knowledge of the Truth. But the Scriptures do show us that when all the unwilling and disobedient shall have been cut off in the Second Death, then the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, and every creature in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth, shall be heard acclaiming praise, honor, glory, dominion, and might, to him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever. And he upon the throne declares, Behold, I make all things new. And there shall be no more sighing, and no more crying, and no more dying, for the former things shall have passed away (Revelation xxi, 1-5).

PASTOR RUSSELL REPLIES.

The following communication was received recently from Pastor C. T. Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle, in which he defines his position on certain religious points. We find that his sermons, which are published in this paper, and leading papers throughout the state, are attracting much attention as well as criticism in some parts.

In this letter Pastor Russell defines his interpretation on important scriptural passages, which should prove interesting to all those who have been reading his sermons. Mr. C. R. Kurtz, Pub., June 22, 1909. The Centre Democrat, Bellefonte, Pa.

Dear Sir:— Communications have reached me from your city intimating that in certain circles I am classed as a Universalist. Surely those who make this charge have not read either my sermons or my books. Most positively do we set forth, in language so plain as to be unmistakable, the Scripture teaching that "the wages of sin is death," and that "the soul that sinneth it shall die." We endeavor to present the Bible teaching in contradiction to the false theories foisted upon Christians during the dark ages by our great adversary, Satan. It was he that contradicted the Almighty in Eden, saying, "Ye shall not surely die"—the wages of sin is not death. It was he who introduced the doctrine of eternal life in torment as the wages of sin. Thus we have all Christendom, according to their creeds, believing that the All-wise Creator, who knew the end from the beginning, permitted the tempter to enter Eden and then damned our first parents to an eternity of living torture; and not only so, but that God foreordained that all the children of Adam should share with him that indescribably horrible penalty. The creeds teach that Christ died to deliver them from that sentence of eternal torment, but that only a mere hand-full that accept him and become saints of an established character will escape that eternal torture and enter Heavenly bliss.

Very few sane men and women can believe these teachings of the creeds if once they will give the subject thought. The difficulty is, however, that the thoughtful ones who reject such horrible aspersions against the Divine character reject the Bible also and become infidels because they believe that these teachings of eternal life in torment are the teachings of the Scriptures.

Our endeavor is to assist those who are looking for a better interpretation of the Word of God. We point them to the fact that the Scriptures declare DEATH, not eternal torment, to be the penalty of sin. We point them to the fact that Christ who suffered the penalty for our sins did not go to eternal torment for us, but, as the Scriptures declare, "CHRIST DIED FOR EVERY MAN." He DIED, the just for the unjust—not merely for the church of this Gospel Age, the elect, but, "by the grace of God for every man."

All of my writings set forth that this Gospel Age is the time in which God lifts up the Church, the "little flock," out of sin and death conditions to be associated with the Redeemer in his glorious Millennial reign, which will be for the uplifting of mankind in general—first the living, subsequently those that "sleep in the dust of the earth." We do teach, in harmony with reason and with full Scriptural proof, that as every member of the human race shared with Father Adam his death penalty, every member of the race, through Christ, will share his opportunity of recuperation, of restitution to the full perfection of life—either as members of the church on the spirit plane or as members of the world on the earthly plane.

But invariably we show, and give Scriptural proof, that those who reject this grace of God, the opportunity for eternal life, will die the "second death"—eternal extinction of being—without hope of further redemption or resurrection.—Acts 3:23; 2 Peter 2:12. We also present the Scriptural teaching that every good and every evil deed of life willfully done, will receive either a reward or a punishment. "A cup of cold water given to a disciple will by no means lose its reward," and, every sin against right will receive "stripes," as said the Master.—Mark 9:41; Luke 12:48.

From time to time we will take up various "parables and dark sayings" of Jesus which, partly through imperfect translations and partly by reason of our prejudiced or colored spectacles, have been misunderstood to teach eternal torment. Every one of these can be shown to be in fullest accord with Divine Wisdom, Love, Justice and Power.

We can readily understand how some, who have long been preaching wrongly and befogging the people instead of enlightening them, would like to still further befog them by misrepresenting our presentations. However we have no railing accusation to bring but answer in the words of one of old, "The Lord rebuke thee" in his own time and manner. Indeed, some of our bitterest opponents have, like Saul of Tarsus, later on "seen a great light" and become most valiant co-laborers in the cause they once persecuted. Very sincerely yours, C. T. RUSSELL, Pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle.

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CAUTION NOTICE. All persons doing business with one W. G. Bullock, trading as the Unionville Lumber Co., will please take notice that I have no connection with said company nor with said Bullock, and will not be responsible for any debts he may contract. R. T. COMELY, Fleming.

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE. Estate of Charles Smith, late of Bellefonte Borough, deceased. Letters of administration in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to present the same without delay to Harry Keller, ADDA B. SMITH, Atty., 228 Administratrix.

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE. Estate of Carrie E. Hering, late of Gregg twp., deceased. Letters of administration in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to present the same without delay to JENNIE M. SHOOK, Admrx., Spring Mills. GETTIG, BOWER & ZEBBY, Atty's.

ADMINISTRATORS' NOTICE. Estate of Jacob DeLong, late of Liberty twp., deceased. Letters of administration having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay to F. MILFORD PLETCHER, Admr., Blanchard, Pa.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Maria M. Rumberger, late of Ferguson twp., deceased. Letters testamentary in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the estate will please present them duly authenticated to the undersigned, WM. GROH RUNKLE, Executor, Bellefonte.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Catharine Harper late of Potter township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of Catharine Harper, late of Potter township, deceased, have been issued to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the estate will please present them duly authenticated to the undersigned, WM. GROH RUNKLE, Executor, Bellefonte.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. William Knoefinger late of Spring township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of Wm. Knoefinger, late of Spring township, deceased, have been issued to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the estate will please present them duly authenticated to the undersigned, HENRY H. KNOEFINGER, WM. GROH RUNKLE, Executors, Bellefonte.

NOTICE TO GENERAL CONTRACTORS. General contractors are herewith invited to submit bids for additions and alterations to the Centre County Courthouse at Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Plans and specifications for the same will be posted in the Commissioners' office on and after Saturday, July 2nd, from 9 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M. In order that any bid shall receive due consideration, it must be delivered to the Commissioners' Clerk on or before Monday, July 26th, 1909, at 3 o'clock P. M.

The Commissioners reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids. JACOB WOODRING, H. E. ZIMMERMAN, Co. Com'rs JOHN L. DUNLAP, Atty.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. Estate of C. Bruce Garman, late of the Borough of Bellefonte, deceased. The undersigned, an Auditor appointed by the Orphan's Court of Centre County, to examine and dispose of the exceptions filed to the first and final account of Charles R. Kurtz, Executor of the last will and testament of the above named decedent, and to make disposition of the funds in the hands of the Executor to and among those legally entitled to receive the same, will meet the parties interested as at and to the duties on Tuesday, August 3rd, 1909, at ten o'clock A. M. at the offices of Blanchard, Temple Court, Bellefonte, Pa., when and where all persons interested are required to present their claims before the said Auditor or be forever barred from coming in for a share of the said funds. JOHN BLANCHARD, Auditor.

TWO FARMS FOR SALE. MILLSBURG FARM—Valuable farm in Boggs Township, Centre County, Penna., two miles east of Millsburg and one mile west of Curtis Station, on Bald Eagle Valley Railroad, 80 acres all cleared and in high cultivation. The improvements being one large two-story frame ten-roomed dwelling, one two-story frame six-room dwelling, large bank barn, 50x80 feet, vineyard and large orchard, good well of water and cistern, wagon shed and outbuildings, and known as the Harvey farm. For price and terms inquire of IVES L. HARVEY, Ellis Harvey, Orvis, Pa. H. T. HALL, Lock Haven, Pa.

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