

The BALL of FIRE of GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER and LILLIAN CHESTER ILLUSTRATED by C.D. RHODES

SYNOPSIS.

At a party meeting of the Market Square church...

CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

"You are blaming the church with a fault which lies in the people," protested the pastor...

touching his kinky wig with the tip of one finger. "When does everybody love a storm?"

The men whom Lucile and Arly had collected were an especial joy.



There is no Century Plant, He Shamelessly Confessed.

and by, defending him against her own iconoclastic sense of humor.

CHAPTER IX.

The Storm Center of Magnetic Attraction.

York makers of skyscrapers against a dark background of mountains...

one of my dances from Ted or somebody." "One will be enough for me, unless you can steal me some more of your own," he told her...

Her next partner came in search of her presently, and the music struck up, and Allison, nodding to his many acquaintances jollily, for he was in excellent humor...



She Was Glad to Rescue Herself From the Whirl of Anger.

"Gentlemen, There is Your Empire!" The seven quiet gentlemen who sat with Allison at his library table...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

Robert E. Taylor of the American Textiles company, a man who had quite disproved the theory that constructive business genius was confined to the North...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

"I can see where you will tear up the east and west traffic situation to a considerable extent," he thoughtfully commented...

His voice was so good, so comforting, so reassuring. "I think so," she replied, standing hesitantly in the doorway...

She had noticed that assumption of intimate understanding in him before, and she had secretly admired it.

"You look a little tired," she jocularly protested, Allison, as they strolled, side by side into the hall...

"Not very," she lightly replied, and unconsciously she nudged her hand more comfortably into its resting place.

"You are blaming the church with a fault which lies in the people," protested the pastor, shocked and disturbed...

"What else could they be with the 'watery spiritual gruel which the church provides'?" retorted Gall.

"I am interested in knowing what your particular new religion would be like," remarked Daddy Manning...

"It would be a return to the simple faith in God," Gall told him reverently. "It is still in the hearts of the people..."

"Absolutely!" and it struck the pastor with pain that Gall had never looked more beautiful than now...

"It is perhaps just as well that you are not the dictator of the city," the young Rev. Smith Boyd gazed down at her from his six feet of serious purpose...

"Gall's pretty upper lip curled. 'Personal ambition!' she snapped, and, without waiting to see the pallor which struck his face to stone, she headed her way out through the maid to her coupe."

"There is no Century Plant, He Shamelessly Confessed." and by, defending him against her own iconoclastic sense of humor.

York makers of skyscrapers against a dark background of mountains, whose heights, with the cathedral spire, waltz over Upper Alsace.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 17

JEHOVAH YEARNS OVER ISRAEL.

LESSON TEXT—Hosea 1:1-3. GOLDEN TEXT—I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love—Hosea 1:4.

A contemporary of Isaiah and Amos, Hosea continued to prophesy after the first captivity of the northern kingdom. His style is abrupt and figurative.

"The Perverse Child," vv. 1-7. The "remnant" (ch. 6:13) had cried out for relief. (See Isa. 1:9; Rom. 2:5). Jehovah's reply (begins 6:4) is a severe arraignment of Israel's backsliding as contrasted with his grace.

As contrasted with what a sinner or should be verse 2 gives a picture of Israel's wandering. The whole history of the nation is one of going after false gods.

"Let's get to the details," barked a voice with the volume of a St. Bernard. It came from Arthur Grandin, the head of the Union Fuel company, which controlled all the wood and coal in the United States...

"I'm putting in the Atlantic-Pacific as my share of the pool, gentlemen," explained Allison. "My project, as I have told you, is to make this the main trunk, the vertebrae as it were, of the International Transportation company. I have consolidated with the A-P the Municipal Transportation company, and I have put my entire fortune in it, to lay it on the table absolutely unencumbered."

He threw down the Atlantic-Pacific railroad and the Municipal Transportation company in the form of a cue-sheet typewritten paper.

"We'd better appoint someone to look after the legal end of things," suggested the towering Haverman, whose careless, lounging attitude contrasted oddly with his dignified long beard.

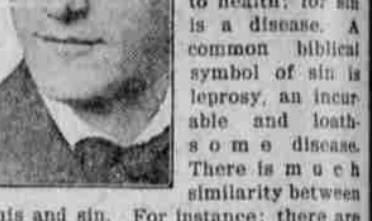
"I'll take care of it," said W. T. Chisholm of the Majestic Trust company, amid drawing the statement in front of him, he set a paperweight on it.

"The first step is not one of incorporation," went on Allison. "Before that is done there must be but one railroad system in the United States."

The Common Salvation

By REV. B. B. SUTCLIFFE

Each word of this text is important. Let us think of them, taking the last one first.



Salvation. We have space mention of three things suggested by the word. Salvation means a saving from a sickness and restoration to health; for sin is a disease. A common biblical symbol of sin is leprosy, an incurable and loathsome disease. There is much similarity between this and sin.

For instance, there are many so-called remedies for leprosy but none can be found to really stop its spread. The sinner too has many remedies for his sin but nothing that men can do can arrest its progress.

Again, leprosy becomes painful and distressing. Sin acts the same way. Hence we are told that "the wicked are like the troubled sea which cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace saith my God to the wicked." Sin begins quietly but ends, like leprosy, with bitter pain and distress. Again, leprosy is fatal to the one afflicted. It might well be called a living death. It is thus with sin. Many are today well and sound of body, but sorely afflicted by sin. As far as their souls are concerned they are in a living death.

The difference between the leper and the sinner is that the former gets rid of his trouble at death, but the latter must take his pain and distress with him. His salvation means the saving from sin to perfect health. Man alone can find no cure for his sin but Christ can and has. It is found in his own blood which "cleanseth us from all unrighteousness."

In the second place salvation means a saving from punishment; for sin is a crime as well as a disease. Salvation brings to the sinner a full and free pardon for every crime against the law of God; such a pardon that every trace of the evil committed is wiped from the sinner's record. Without such salvation the punishment for each sin must fall upon the sinner. And the punishment of sin is an awful thing; described as being torment and anguish and that eternal. But in this common salvation there is found relief from all the guilt, and pardon for every crime. "Let the sinner forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him and to our God for he will abundantly pardon."

In the third place salvation means the saving from death which is the result of the disease and the reward of the crime. It means the exchanging of eternal death for eternal life. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." If any should enquire how this health instead of sickness, this pardon instead of guilt, and this life instead of death can be obtained, the apostle answers, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

2. Common.—The "common" salvation suggests its wideness and means that it is shared by all alike. God is no respecter of persons and when he provided the common salvation he provided it to be shared by all alike. Whether white or black, moral or immoral, learned or illiterate, cultured or vulgar, all share alike in this "common" salvation. Again, this word means that the salvation is a universal thing. It is provided for every member of the human race. This is what the apostle means when he says, "whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." And, the last chapter of the Bible says, "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." The common salvation means that which is needed by all, provided for all, brought to all and offered to all, including the reader of these lines.

3. The.—This word speaks of the narrowness as "common" speaks of the wideness. It is not "a" salvation, but "the." It is not provided by man, nor can it be. It is just here that sinners go wrong and think they can evolve some scheme whereby they can cure themselves of the disease and do enough good deeds to counter-balance the evil and so avoid the punishment due to sin. But if we would have the salvation that saves from the disease of sin, and the pardon that covers the crime of sin, we must come to the Lord, with whom salvation is to be found. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." And when the Son came to be the Savior of men "he gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity." He took the sin and all its consequences, the crime and all its punishment, and gives to all who will receive it "the common salvation" in their place. Let the reader of these words believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and he shall be saved.

Fight Oversensitiveness. Oversensitiveness is the cause of many a failure. Self-consciousness is a drawn brake on the wheels. Many ability fail where some bumbling egotist with mediocre talents amid the trumpeting of the multitude is one of the weaknesses of the man that is hardest to overcome. His victory is more difficult than the conquest of a city, but prayer and faith and perseverance are the best of allies.

RARE CASE OF LOST MEMORY

Physicians Making Investigation of Man Afflicted With "Alexia" in Pronounced Form.

Dr. S. P. Goodhart, writing in the New York Medical Journal, reports on a rare case of alexia, which is a form of aphasia, in which the patient could not remember what he had just written.

This alexia is ascribed by the doctors to a lesion in the left hemisphere of that part of the parietal lobe known as the angular gyrus, where the visual memory center is probably situated.

CHAPTER X.

"Gentlemen, There is Your Empire!" The seven quiet gentlemen who sat with Allison at his library table, followed the concluding flourish of his hand toward the map on the wall, and either nodded or blinked appreciatively. The red line on his map was complete now, a broad, straight line from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and to it were added, on either side, irregular, angled red lines like the legs of a centipede, the feeders of the various systems which were under control of the new Atlantic-Pacific railroad.

"That's a brilliant piece of engineering, Allison," observed huge Richard Haverman, by way of pleasant comment, and he glanced admiringly at Allison after his eye had roved around the little company of notables. The feat of bringing these seven men together at a specific hour was greater than having consolidated the brilliant new Atlantic-Pacific railroad.

"Let's get to the details," barked a voice with the volume of a St. Bernard. It came from Arthur Grandin, the head of the Union Fuel company, which controlled all the wood and coal in the United States, and all the oil in the world. His bald spot came exactly on a level with the back of his chair, and he wore a fierce mustache.

"I'm putting in the Atlantic-Pacific as my share of the pool, gentlemen," explained Allison. "My project, as I have told you, is to make this the main trunk, the vertebrae as it were, of the International Transportation company. I have consolidated with the A-P the Municipal Transportation company, and I have put my entire fortune in it, to lay it on the table absolutely unencumbered."

He threw down the Atlantic-Pacific railroad and the Municipal Transportation company in the form of a cue-sheet typewritten paper.

"We'd better appoint someone to look after the legal end of things," suggested the towering Haverman, whose careless, lounging attitude contrasted oddly with his dignified long beard.

"I'll take care of it," said W. T. Chisholm of the Majestic Trust company, amid drawing the statement in front of him, he set a paperweight on it.

"The first step is not one of incorporation," went on Allison. "Before that is done there must be but one railroad system in the United States."

Cat's Pranks Bring Police.

A cat whose paws caught in the chains by which the gas lamps were turned on and off brought six policemen to the pawshop of Morris Rhodes, 106 Washington street.

Different in Real Life.

Another society girl has given up her task as war nurse and is coming home because, her friends say, there was too much scrubbing.

CHRISTIAN EPIC IN STONE

Strassburg Cathedral, Just Behind Rattle Line, One of the Glories of Gothic Architecture.

Just back of the line of battle in Alsace, within the zone where thoroughgoing destruction is threatened, another of the marvelous, most worthwhile works of our civilization stands exposed to the varying chances of battle. This is the beautiful cathedral of Strassburg, an architectural glory which makes mock of modern satisfaction at the expense of earlier centuries.

The enormous old minster, famed wherever joy in the ideal is felt, one of the choicest Gothic visions ever dreamed by a master mason, is a memory of ages when art was more a passion and religion and less a means for preference and daily bread.

Strassburg cathedral is a Christian epic in stone. Exquisite in proportion and detail, it rises, a great pile out of the surrounding city. Its spire vies with the loftiest daring of the New