

The Bible Standard

“Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;...”

Psalm 43:3

“LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE”

Isaiah 62:10

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIMELY-WANDERLUST

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” Col. 4:5.

The term “redeeming” is taken from the Greek word *exagorazo*, which means to publicly purchase and take possession of; buying the opportunity (Rotherham); securing the season (Diaglott). We, as the Lord’s people, realize we are surrounded by evil and those with evil intent daily; the tendency of which is to absorb our energy, influence, and time in things sinful and foolish or at least unprofitable to our Christian Walk. We are, therefore, to *purchase* and to *secure out* of the evil time, and apart from these unfavorable influences, as large a proportion of time as may be possible for devotion to higher interests: our spiritual sustenance and strengthening, and for the assistance of others in spiritual things. Such purchasing will cost us something of self-denial, or gratification of our natural appetites and tendencies, and something also of the good opinion and fellowship of others, who will “think it strange” that we run not with them to the same extent as formerly (1 Pet. 4:4). But we will be glad to bear witness to the Truth and its Spirit, by word and conduct, walking in harmony with the true wisdom that cometh from above, exercising the spirit “of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7), and to this end redeeming (publicly purchasing out and taking possession of) the time, taking advantage of (securing) every available opportunity.

In view of the fact that those who have consecrated themselves to God are being made a spectacle to all those outside as well as within their own company (1 Cor. 4:9), St. Paul urges that we bear this in mind, and that we walk wisely, so that, as far as it is possible, our conduct, etc., may be transparent before the world. We call to mind many of his words of special instruction on this point. Among others, he says (Rom. 12:18), “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” If circumstances have placed us among contentious and disagreeable people, here is a good opportunity to show them by our actions, and without the least ostentation, our spirit of self-sacrifice, our benevolence, sympathetic understanding, longsuffering, forbearance and love. Such a spirit will rebuke the world and show them a more excellent way, whether they are yet ready to walk in it or not. This spirit, however, should not

permit continued oppression and injustice for the sake of dearly bought peace.

Sometimes we, as Jesus and St. Paul did, may have to speak very plainly and pointedly, and warn of a coming time of reckoning when the actions of the present life must all be accounted for (Matt. 12:36; Acts 24:25). St. Paul reasoned with Felix, until this strong man trembled in view of the coming time of reckoning. Our title draws our mind into the meaning of *timely* (occurring at a suitable time) and *wanderlust* (prompted by an impulse to roam or travel). We are to deliver the Truth as due in its proper time. We are to purchase and secure out of the evil time as large a proportion of time as may be possible for devotion to higher interests (our own spiritual sustenance), because without God’s love we are nothing! Where do we find our spiritual sustenance? We answer—the Bible! We learn by associating our Christian walk with that of one of God’s chosen ones. When we make a purchase there is of necessity a cost, perhaps self-denial, gratification of our natural appetites, loss of fellowship with longtime friends because we have become strange to them as we now have the desire to become a footstep follower of Jesus.

Timely Wanderlust, our Lord Jesus had it, from 29 AD to 33 AD, when he covered the small country of Palestine with the use of a donkey or by walking (redeeming the time). “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked to us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” (Luke 24:32). Yes, the two disciples also had wanderlust to walk in wisdom! Our Lord’s longest wanderlust was from Jerusalem north to Caesarea-Philippi, about 110 miles (Matt. 16:13). Our Lord used this time to carefully make the Truth clear and plain to the humble and earnest seekers. Those that traveled with Him to care for His personal needs must have been greatly blessed.

Considerable thought has been given to the fact that our Lord had no HOME OF HIS OWN, however this allowed Him to publicly purchase time for a higher interest. Did this cause Him to live as a pauper? No, our Lord had a home whenever convenient at Bethany with Lazarus, Mary, Martha and they honored Him with

JESUS SAID

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement.”

Matt. 12:36

a SUMPTUOUS FEAST (R-5283) and an alabaster box of ointment. Our Lord attended weddings and was the guest of a rich man (Pharisee) in one of the best homes of that time. “And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to meat” (Luke 7:37). One of the Pharisees evidently was impressed with our Lord’s character and teachings and for a time he believed on Jesus, but did not confess the Lord lest he would be put out of the synagogue, for he “loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43).

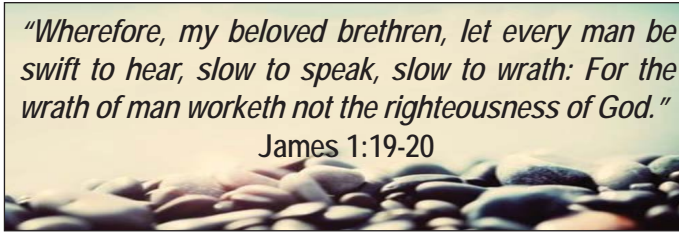
Jesus used the best roads and the best means of His time. So then, what were His sufferings? His sufferings were through the opposition of His foes in that “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isa. 53:3). He endured these things patiently for the Truth’s sake and set an example for us to walk in His steps, similarly enduring worldly contradictions, oppositions, slanders for the sake of the Brethren. Let us not view sufferings with Christ, as some have, that the Master’s sufferings were wearing sandals instead of shoes, walking instead of riding; things that were common for His day or time.

The Consecrated Children of God, living in the expanded Gospel Age Harvest, must with great caution have fellowship with the world, for to do so, one walks in harmony with its ideas and conforms to its ways. In this sense we may not love it but, must be apart from it and in opposition to it. The way pointed out to us is, in some respects at least, a difficult way, and a lonely way; but it is the only way of peace and lasting happiness. This present evil world, with the lust thereof, is rapidly passing away, it is hollow and unsatisfying and eventually leads to disaster and ruin; but those whose delight is in the Lord’s way have blessed communion and fellowship with Him. Their joys come from a source which the world cannot comprehend. They live on a higher plane, breathe a purer atmosphere and enjoy a holier, sweeter friendship than the world could ever offer.

But if any man in Christ descend from these high privileges to partake of the poor substitutes which the world has to offer, he is thereby proving his lack of appreciation, and his unworthiness of the heavenly things; the love of the Father is not in him; and he may well fear the verdict of the day of decision.

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

James 1:19-20



We now examine another time, when “many shall run to and fro” (Dan. 12:4). We can readily see that we now live in a time of much running to and fro. Nahum 2:3, 4 sheds more light on this subject of travel:

“The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against the other in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.”

This prophecy (“chariots with flaming torches”) seems to point to our present day methods of transportation: jet aircraft, buses, automobiles, trolley-cars and railway trains—which “rage in the streets and jostle one another in the broad ways.”

While it is true that there were no fine hotels in our Lord’s day, no railroads, and His locomotion was accomplished by little ships, on foot or donkey; had Pastor Russell followed the Master’s footsteps literally, the Gospel Age harvest work would have been vastly decreased. We must keep in mind that the Harvest of the Jewish Age was merely confined to the little country of Palestine; whereas the Harvest of the Gospel Age was world-wide and was to be accomplished, in its narrow sense, in a similar length of time—forty years.

PROPHECY FULFILLED DAN. 12:4

We now consider this prophecy’s fulfillment in spreading the Truth regarding God’s Divine Plan of the Ages around the world. Pastor Russell was fulfilling this prophecy (“of running to and fro”) on his 8,000 mile transcontinental trip.

Prior to the locomotive, in the days of old when travel across the prairies and over the mountains was by ox-team, daylight was the only time in which people could travel across the continent and weary weeks were spent in making the trip. Next came the stagecoach as the principle means of travel. This coach was a heavy and uncomfortable box-like affair with only leather curtains to be drawn for the passenger’s comfort in stormy weather. The distance traveled each day was about forty miles. In many cases the passengers were obliged to get out and push in order to get the coach out of the mud.

There were no bridges over the large rivers, so in summer the coach was put on a raft and floated across, and in winter driven across the ice. With these few examples we can see that travel across the United States before the building of railroads was an exceedingly tiresome

and expensive process. As time moved forward and the need to spread the Truth was evident, God provided train travel for Pastor Russell's 1913 Transcontinental Tour. Over almost the same trail rolled the well-lighted, comfortably-cushioned cars "hotels on wheels" allowing for timely wanderlust in comfort. Yes, an air of quiet luxury pervaded in travel across the USA, displaying feats of engineering which once had been deemed impossible. This provided the greatest efficiency of which the human mind was capable in caring for the thousands who rode behind the "Iron Horse." Pastor Russell remarked: While the world rides behind these same steel racers, and thinks it has all come about because of their own enlightenment, we recognize that it is all because God's due time has come for those to travel, who are to carry the message of the kingdom.

TRANSCONTINENTAL TOUR

June 2 – July 2, 1913

Over two hundred Bible Students accompanied Pastor Russell on an eight-thousand-mile tour. They came from all walks of life—physicians, lawyers, clerks, farmers, etc., and from various parts of the United States and Canada. We mention, they did not travel as paid delegates, nor were their expenses paid by any society.

This tour, so far as Pastor Russell was concerned, began in New York, making one day stops at Kalamazoo, Mich.; Toledo, Ohio.; Kansas City, Mo.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Pertle Springs, Mo., joining the touring party in Hot Springs, Ark. A large part of the party began in Chicago, Ill. where the train was made up. Others joined the party at other stops along the way. We, with pleasure, give some of the details of such an arrangement, whereby over two hundred people could live, travel, eat and sleep on a moving train for thirty days. The two-track ox-trail had been transformed into two ribbons of steel; slowly plodding oxen gave way to the hundred-ton locomotives and a journey of months was reduced to a trip of two days and one night. From the windows of the speeding train people gazed upon mountains, valleys, fertile field and thriving towns.

Arrangements were made to charter an entire vestibule train for a period of thirty days. This train was for the use and purpose of bringing the Truth as due to other parts of the USA. Some were concerned they could not stand thirty days living on a train. However the reverse was the case, many put on flesh. This was doubtless due to the modern comforts of travel, plenty of good wholesome food and freedom of ordinary cares of life. They were living in a wonderful day, as the fore gleams of great travel blessings were increasingly being given by the Lord.

Our Lord's personal work was confined to the small

country of Palestine, which he covered by donkey or walking. This was not so with the "Servant" whom the Lord had appointed; Pastor Russell's work in the Gospel Age harvest was worldwide covering thousands of miles, necessitating the use of the most rapid means of travel and the comforts necessary to such a strenuous life. It was because of the magnitude and scope of the work being done in that harvest period that the Lord permitted men's minds to be illuminated and enlightened to invent and manufacture the wonderful contrivances of that time: the railway trains, ocean steamships, telephone, telegraph, mail express and freight systems, etc. There was much work to be done, vast territories to be covered and all within a comparatively short time; forty years from 1874.

The make-up of this train consisted of one parlor observation car, two other compartment cars, two standard Pullman sleeping cars, three tourist Pullman sleeping cars, one kitchen car and one baggage car for a total of eleven cars, all provided electric lights and electric fans. The vestibule is the space between cars which is enclosed for safe travel from the back to the front of the train. This allowed for fellowshipping, singing of hymns, listening to a discourse as the train was traveling. The cars were clean and very comfortable for a journey across the continent.

The kitchen car was staffed with a chef and an assistant whose business it was to provide meals for the brethren on this 8,000 mile tour. The commissary car was a sixty-five-foot baggage car specially fitted for the purpose of this trip. In it were large refrigerators to hold fresh meats, butter, milk, cream, etc. There were large racks for the needed china and cooking dishes. One table was covered with tin, with three sinks for cleanup. Also, there was storage for large quantities of potatoes and cases of canned goods. Supplies were replenished fresh, nearly every place they stopped.

To prepare for a meal meant to spread twenty-eight tables with linen, glasses, plates, cups, side dishes, knives, spoons, salts, sugars, etc. When the first setting was finished it was necessary to carry out all the dirty dishes left by 104 people to be washed, and reset the tables so as to feed the rest of the hungry ones. It was necessary to have about two and a half settings at each meal. Breakfast: some fruit, then a breakfast food, then potatoes, meat, eggs, hot biscuits, corn bread and coffee. For dinner: Included varieties of roasted meat, potatoes with a side dish, bread, tea or coffee and pudding. For supper some cold meat, potatoes, biscuits, tea, sauce, cake.

The requirements for a meal were half bushel of potatoes, eight pounds of coffee, the same for butter, five gallons of milk, two gallons of cream, about thirty-eight cans of spinach, one-hundred pounds of beef, a whole calf

or two sheep, etc., with one-half barrel of ice water.

BROTHER RUSSELL'S LETTER FROM HONOLULU TO THE "BETHEL" FAMILY:

Beloved in the Lord: I drop this note at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. I wish you to know of my continued love for you all. We daily remember you and all the dear Israel of God at the Throne of Heavenly Grace and feel sure you are remembering us. I will report the journey this far.

We had a delightful day at Pittsburgh, Dec. 4th; about 40 children were baptized, a church election was held, and a discourse was delivered to about 350; the house overflowed.

At St. Louis, Dec. 5th, I had much pleasure in meeting the dear friends, and addressed them for about an hour. Dallas, Tex., was our next stop—on Dec. 6th. We had quite a nice little convention. Nearly 30 children were baptized.

San Antonio gave us a hearty greeting on the 7th. We had meetings all day. The interest and spirit were splendid. That class of Bible students seems to be growing steadily, both in numbers and in grace, yet not without trials.

Los Angeles, Cal., was reached in due time for Sunday services, Dec. 10th. A more hearty welcome could not be asked. "Love Divine, all love excelling," seems to be the secret of this class's progress. About 400 were present in the forenoon, and about 2,100 at the afternoon meeting for the public.

Fresno, Cal., we reached for services on the 11th. About 60 of the friends from surrounding country attended during the day, and at the public meeting at night the attendance was about 500. Matters went exceedingly well, considering that there is no Class of I.B.S.A. there.

San Francisco, Cal., was reached on Dec. 12th (or rather Oakland). Good testimonies in the forenoon showed that the classes here are in splendid condition, apparently faithful and humble. The afternoon meeting was on consecration and the evening meeting on Baptism. At our request no advertising was done, so the attendance of about 300 must have been chiefly interested people. About 26 symbolized their consecration. The session closed with an enjoyable Love Feast. The next day nearly 100 bade us goodbye and sang us away on our journey as the steamship *Shinyo Maru* left dock.

With much love to you—one and all—your brother and servant, C. T. RUSSELL.

BROTHER RUSSELL'S TRAVEL WORLDWIDE

Steamship travel—In the time of the end there was to be much travel and increase of knowledge on all lines of thought, religious and secular (Dan. 12:4). As mentioned,

such travel began with the invention of the steamship very shortly after 1799, continued with railroads and has increased with trolleys, automobiles, and airplanes. And a marvelous increase of secular and religious knowledge marks the period from 1799.

In his sermon commenting on Isa. 40:12, "*Who hath measured the seas in the hollow of His hand,*" (NKJ) he writes: "The wonderful force and immensity of the thought of our text cannot be appreciated by those who have never been upon the great ocean. As we travel through the water at railroad speed and keep watch in every direction, yet seldom see a vessel, large or small, day after day, we begin to get a little conception of the world in which we live. It is so much larger than previously we were able to comprehend." This shows how the vastness of the seas made a deep impression on his mind and how rapidly the steamship allowed him to spread his ministry around the world.

STEAMSHIP TRAVEL TO EUROPE THE LONDON CONVENTION AUGUST 1-4, 1913

There is necessarily a considerable difference between a Convention held in a great city and one held in a countryside. There is also a slight temperamental difference between the blended English character of America and Canada and the composite English of Great Britain; hence there is always a slight difference between the Conventions held on opposite sides of the Atlantic. But the oneness of spirit of all the dear Conventioneers is manifest to everybody who has attended both. And how reasonable this is! All spirit-begotten, all children of the one Father, all patterning themselves after the same glorious Savior, these dear ones must have many wonderfully harmonious characteristics. "By one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body."—1 Corinthians 12:13.

The world-wide Harvest Message could have no more potent testimony than this—the oneness of spirit manifested among the members of the Body of Christ. It is gathering the wheat class to the Lord, to His Word and into sympathy with each other. We can be taught in the School of Christ only in proportion as we realize our own insufficiency and need of guidance in the ways of the Lord and submit ourselves to the Master's instruction.

The total number in attendance from outside the London Tabernacle Congregation was about nine hundred, the most of these from nearby towns and cities, though some of them came from Germany, Denmark and Sweden, besides an American representation. One hundred and sixty-nine symbolized their consecration

by water immersion, symbolized their immersion into Christ's death—Romans 6:3-5.

Following the London Convention his ministry continued in Plymouth, Exeter, Cheltenham, London again, Lincoln, Hull, Wakefield, York, Tunbridge Wells, London again, Walsall, Chester, Blackburn, Bolton and Preston.

FROM ENGLAND SERVICES WERE HELD IN SCOTLAND, AND FRANCE

The Glasgow Three-Day Convention opened August 23rd. It was a fine crowd, numbering about eight hundred to nine hundred—chiefly from Scotland, with visitors also from Ireland and England. We always enjoy our visits to Glasgow. Our Scotch brethren and sisters manifest a warmth and zeal of Christian love, which is impressive and inspiring. We addressed the Convention four times on things pertaining to the Kingdom—how we shall make our calling and election sure to a share therein; also respecting the value of Bible Study as an aid to character-building, etc.

Following the Glasgow Convention, he visited Sterling, Coatbridge, Kilmarnock and Southport Then he served in Paris, France. Here he met the little Convention of about seventy earnest, zealous brethren, and sisters, some of whom had come as much as a thousand kilometers—from Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, and various parts of France. They represented little classes of Bible Students and were full of the same loving zeal manifested amongst other nationalities.

He arrived back in London September 2, attended to some affairs connected with the work there, and left for Liverpool on the 3rd, embarking the same day on the steamship "Tunisian."

He said, "We had a pleasant homeward voyage, with good opportunities for literary work, reaching Brooklyn on Friday morning, September 12."

STEAMSHIP TRAVEL TO THE CONTINENTS OF EUROPE, ASIA, AND AFRICA

The Steamship facilitated his ministry to the European continent, including the countries: England, Ireland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, and Russia. He traveled by Steamship to the Asian continent including the countries: Japan, China, and India. The African continent also, where he served in: South Africa, West Africa, and Liberia. Pastor Russell made these overseas ministerial trips annually.

THE NEWSPAPER WORK

We would be amiss if we did not comment on the newspaper harvest work of Pastor Russell. We quote

from (R-6021-22): We might term this the Grenadier Department of the army. It seeks out the hiding places of the enemy, and endeavors to leave little "bombs" in every available place. The output for 1916 has not quite equaled that of 1915. We cautioned the friends to be much more careful that each "bomb" be properly placed, so that no waste be made. The amount of free literature distributed is almost beyond our comprehension. The total output for the year was 22,158,000 BIBLE STUDENTS MONTHLIES. To print these took over 598,000 pounds of paper, or 16 carloads. Who can estimate the number of strongholds of error which these "bombs" may have overthrown? But that is only an incidental feature of the work. The principal thing was the reflex action upon our own hearts. How we have rejoiced as we sought to carry the Message of Good Tidings to others and to free them from the shackles of error, even as we ourselves have been freed! . . .

Now that Brother Russell has passed beyond, the sermon feature will be discontinued entirely. The blessing of the Lord has rested upon this work far beyond our highest expectations. We remember when we thought if we could secure fifty newspapers to publish the sermons it would be a wonderful witness . . . at one time about 2,000 papers were publishing the sermons simultaneously and altogether over 4,000 papers published weekly reports. We asked for showers, and the Lord gave us rainfalls almost amounting to floods. What an evidence of His might and power to open doors whenever it may please Him and best serve His cause! [End Quote]

THE PHOTO-DRAMA WORK

We continue to quote from (R-6022): There are twenty-one DRAMAS in active service, exhibiting mostly on Sundays; very few working during the week. These twenty-one are being operated mostly by the Classes of the larger cities, even where the DRAMA has been previously exhibited with success. We are receiving some glowing reports. One of these, from Toronto, Canada, informs us that in a hall seating 1,000, frequently hundreds are turned away at a single exhibition. Those attending are showing marked interest and are leaving many cards of inquiry. The PHOTO-DRAMA has also been shown upon several of the large American battleships, and many have manifested marked interest. It was also shown to the soldiers down upon the Mexican border, and good reports are coming from there. We have two more DRAMAS ready for use. If any of the large Classes are so situated that they could handle the PHOTO-DRAMA for a season, the Society will be pleased to hear from them; and if they do not have local operators arrangements could probably be made to supply them on short notice. Our latest information is

that the DRAMA has witnessed to about twelve million. Many classes have in this way been doubled, and prejudice against the Truth has been dispelled as perhaps could not otherwise have been accomplished. [End Quote] For an extended report of Pastor Russell's work see E-9, Ch. 5.

FROM PIGEONS TO INSTANT MESSAGES

We understand that in scientific nomenclature there is no difference between a Dove and Pigeon. Perhaps, the pigeon/dove sent out by Noah was the first long distance communication: "And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth" (Gen. 8:11). The message indicated that the blessing of the Lord was bringing vegetation. As we have been given to understand, when God saw the need to have His Truth advance, He provided a new and better way of communication.

In 1832 Samuel F.B. Morse became interested in the possibility of electric telegraphy. Morse was on a ship returning from Europe and there met Charles Thomas Jackson, a Boston-based scientist who had developed an electromagnet. He independently developed and patented a recording electric telegraph in 1837. In 1835 Morse's assistant Alfred Vail developed an instrument that was called the register for recording the received messages. It embossed dots and dashes on a moving paper tape by a stylus which was operated by an electromagnet.

For years, the pair struggled to find investors, until 1842, when Morse gained the attention of Maine Congressman Francis Ormand Jonathan Smith. In December of that same year, Morse strung wires between two committee rooms in the Capitol and sent messages back and forth. With Smith's support, the demonstration won Morse a \$30,000 Congressional appropriation to construct an experimental 38-mile telegraph line between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland. On May 24, 1844, Morse tapped out his now-famous first message, "What hath God wrought!" Before the invention, information had to be sent by horses, boats, trains, and any other transportation. Usually the telegraph wires were strung along with the railroads.

Thomas A. Watson, one of Alexander Graham Bell's assistants, was trying to reactivate a telegraph transmitter. Hearing the sound, Bell believed that he could solve the problem of sending a human voice over a wire. He figured out how to transmit a simple current first and received a patent for that invention on March 7, 1876. The invention of the telephone had a great impact towards society and broadened the idea of communication. The whole point of the telephone is to instantly connect with others at great distances around the world. Communicating could

never have been easier. Throughout the last 144 years developments in tone dialing, call tracing, music on hold, and electronic ringers have greatly changed the modern telephone. Personal communication got easier after the invention of the cell phone in the year 1973, and the internet. We list some of many search engines: Google, Bing, Yahoo, Baidu, Yandex, DuckDuckGO, and then there is Twitter, Instagram, Texting, Facebook, etc.

Now we have smartphones that have more technology in them than the spacecraft that we sent to the moon 50 years ago. Cellular concepts have helped us to create significant improvements to communication and information access in almost every corner of the world. It took more than a decade for the first phones to reach the market, but now there are new models coming out every year from some manufacturers.

ANOTHER BOOK TO BE WRITTEN REVELATION 20:12

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

The present social order, with its corruption and massive inequities, will cease—not be permitted anywhere—when the throne of *justice* is established in the earth; The Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ. Then, faith in Christ and love for God and obedience to the new order will be the ruling principles. This change of society will not begin until God through Christ has taken His great power and begun to reign, the current order of affairs having by then been overthrown in the Time of Trouble, now upon the world.

A related prophecy is found in Isa. 40:4: "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." This we understand to be but another way of showing that society is to be *reconstructed* and that equity is to prevail, the present inequities being levelled off.

Not only is present society to pass, but also the present "heavens," or powers of spiritual control. The Word of God declares Satan to be "the prince of the power of the air" who "now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). He is also called "the prince of this world" (John 14:30). He will be completely bound (Mark 3:24-27). Consequently, his control, or spiritual power, now exercised in favor of evil doing, will cease.

We do not understand this to mean a marshaling of mankind in ranks, and rows, before a literal Judgment-bench. During the Millennial period mankind will live

their lives under the scrutiny of the sympathetic Judge. A similar figure is that of the Sheep and Goats in Matt. 25:31-46.

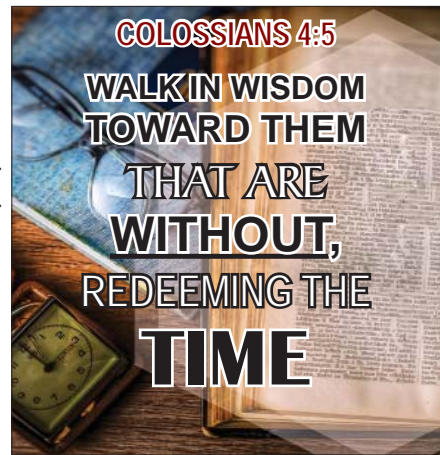
As during this age a small number of humanity escapes the condemnation of death, by obtaining spiritual life offered on certain conditions (2 Pet. 1:4), so we understand the world of mankind are to be privileged to escape from the death condemnation by obedience to the laws of the coming Kingdom on earth. Their right to this offer of everlasting life comes because of Jesus having provided a ransom for them.

The books opened, according to the rulings of which they will be tried, we understand to be the books of the Bible. The elect Church herself was judged according to these same books. This too, accords with Jesus' statement that His words "shall judge him in the last day"—the Millennial day of John 12:48.

During Christ's Millennial Mediatorial Reign the words of Jesus will no longer be hidden under parables and dark sayings; the secret things will then be uncovered. The "books" of the old and new testament will be opened, and the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth. We have good reason to believe that the Bible will be used then, not so much as the sole means of communicating God's will, but as a source of information, much as we now use histories. It will enlighten men respecting the Divine promises and supervision of the world and respecting God's laws, etc. Not only the words of the Master and of the apostles of the New Testament, but also the divine message through the prophets of old. The Bible is now a sealed book to the world, understood only by those who are His and by them because revealed to them through His Spirit.

And another book was opened, the "book of life". This suggests that as there is a book or record of life that will be kept in the next age of those worthy of perfect life on the human plane. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God [before His judicial throne]; and the books [the 66 books of the Bible—the words of Jesus, His Apostles and the prophets of old] were opened [expounded, made clear] (Rev. 20:12, Isa. 29:18, 24; Luke 24:27, 32): and another book was opened,"—the Millennial revelations, the New Covenant revelations, the laws and teachings of Jesus as Lawgiver, as Prince of Peace, and as King of Kings, will be made clear.

The New Covenant is the Scriptural name for the new arrangement between God and man which will be initiated at the beginning of the Mediatorial Reign
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of Christ. The purpose of the New Covenant is to receive the world of mankind back into favor with God. The New Covenant consists of three stages, which we may compare to a house under construction.

The first, or *foundational* stage of a house is the blueprint. This corresponds to the "better sacrifices" (Heb. 9:23) of Christ and the Church that were laid down during the Gospel Age, and that form the basis of the New Covenant.

The second stage is the *building* of the house. This corresponds to the *sealing* or *inaugurating* of the New Covenant. It will take the entire Millennial Age to complete this work. It is during this time that the Christ, the great Mediator, Head and Body, will stand between God and man and guarantee each party to the other. By the end of the Millennial Age, the Christ will have restored all the outwardly obedient to the perfection that Adam enjoyed in Eden.

The third stage is the *inhabiting* of the house. This corresponds to the *operation* of the New Covenant between God and man, which will begin at the end of the Millennial Age and will last forever. The Mediator will turn the race over to God, and they will come into direct covenant relationship with Him. The first order of business during this stage will be the Little Season of testing. Every individual will be thoroughly examined as to their heart intentions and all who fail will be consigned to the Second Death. The faithful will embark upon the Ages of Glory, the blessings of which are not revealed in God's Word.

As to the terms of the New Covenant, the details will not be revealed until New Covenant revelations are given. These are hinted at in the last part of Rev. 20:12, "And another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

No doubt the terms will be based upon love for God and one's fellow man as our Lord so eloquently stated in Matt. 22:37-39. During that time God will symbolically engraft His law of love in their inward parts and write it on the tables of their hearts (Jer. 31:33). He will give them a new spirit and take away their stony hearts, replacing them with hearts of flesh (Ezek. 11:19).

Praise God for Bro. Russell's ministry and those that He chose to follow him with the continuation and unfolding of present Truth as due using all the modern forms of transportation and communications the Lord provides from His pre-millennial blessings!

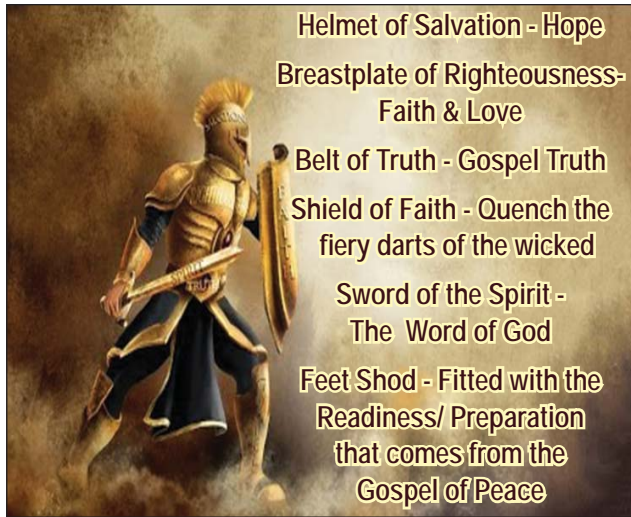
THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

“Take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph. 6:13).

By seeking to know God’s will in order to do it, His people are preparing themselves for the glorious inheritance of the faithful. Fortified by the development of Christlikeness, these will not fall (2 Pet. 1:5-11), no matter what the trial that the Lord may permit to come upon them. In our text the Apostle Paul indicates that some would be able to stand in “the evil day,” and implies that a great many at that time would not be able to stand. He declares that those who hope to stand in that day would need to put on “the whole armour of God.” We have been advised of an impending battle that will test our spirits to the full; so the proper thing to do is to have our armor on prior to the battle.

The Lord did not reveal to the Apostles when “the evil day” would come. They knew that it was then future, but how far in the future they did not know. They did not expect it before their death, for some of them said that they expected to put off the present body, to die, and to awaken in the first resurrection. They believed the second coming of Christ to be some little time distant. Evidently it was a part of God’s plan to keep His people uninformed concerning the exact time of the day of the Lord, until due (Mark 13:32; 1 Thes. 5:1-5); but He provided for them that they would be able to stand when “the evil day” would arrive, if they would diligently put on and keep on the armor. Yes, we must study to be approved of God!

God’s Word points us to the great Time of Trouble with which this Gospel Age ends. There was a special harvest work of the Parousia and Epiphany and the seven steps of harvest continue to this very day, during the expanded Gospel Age Harvest. The seven steps of harvest are: reaping, sheaving, drying, threshing, winnowing, sifting and garnering. It is indicated as a time of very severe trial, not only to the world, but also to the Lord’s people. This “evil day” is now upon us, for “the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Mal. 3:1, 2; Rev. 3:10; 6:17). The urgent message to the Lord’s people for this evil day is “Put on the whole armor of God”—Be prepared for the great testing of this day, that you may be able to stand! Each piece of the armor, each grace of



Helmet of Salvation - Hope

Breastplate of Righteousness-
Faith & Love

Belt of Truth - Gospel Truth

Shield of Faith - Quench the
fiery darts of the wicked

Sword of the Spirit -
The Word of God

Feet Shod - Fitted with the
Readiness/ Preparation
that comes from the
Gospel of Peace

the holy Spirit, is a part of the necessary preparation for this evil day, when, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:13; 4:5; Eph. 6:13-18; 2 Pet. 1:4-11; Gal. 5:19-26).

The Apostle Paul forewarned the Church that in “the latter times,” “the last days,” “perilous times” would come, when many would “depart from the faith”

(1 Tim. 4:1, 2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7). The times in which we live are peculiarly perilous to Christian faith, because of the many subtle and delusive forms of error [*sifting* the sixth part of harvesting] now springing up to intercept the progress of the Truth. But God’s provision for His people is equal to the emergency of these “perilous times.” Never before this “evil day” was the *whole* armor of God so much needed. The Lord hands us this armor, piece by piece, and tells us to put it on and to wear it, that we might become accustomed to it and feel at ease and at home in it, for no one can stand without it in this, “the evil day.”

The called and faithful of God have been heeding this counsel. Carefully they have buckled on every part of the armor as fast as they have received it and in consequence they today stand completely clothed with the Truth (Eph. 6:13-19). Their loins are girt about with it; their feet are shod with it, and it covers their head (their intellectual faculties) as a helmet of salvation (salvation from the snares and delusions of error). Also they have on the breastplate of righteousness—Christ’s righteousness and a righteous character, which the Truth has developed in them. In their hands they bear the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and which they are now able to handle with ease and vigor in defense of the doctrines of Christ; while their shield of faith is a capable defense against all the fiery darts of the enemy.

Praise God for such armor! Have you put it on? Do not rest satisfied with the idea that you can get along as well as your fathers did, with the armor as they had it. The time has come when you must have it as needed today, or you will surely fall. The armor as presented to the saints of the past was sufficient for their day and trial, but a

greater prevalence of error and trial of faith in this “evil day” necessitates a more complete defense.

Christian faith is being tested today as never before. Satan’s agents have today invented a greater multiplicity of beliefs contradictory to God’s Word than ever before. Because many have “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” God has permissively sent them “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thes. 2:10, 11). Many thousands have fallen into various modern delusions of the mind by using a massive array of mind-altering drugs. This leads to foolish behavior and often ends in disaster. The abuse of tobacco, alcohol, prescription, and illicit drugs is economically taxing to the United States, annually costing approximately \$137 billion in direct health care expenses. In addition the reckless teachings from thousands of pulpits in Christendom who preach infidelity, homosexuality and anything except the Truth of God’s Word.

Instead of putting on the whole armor of God and standing ready and properly equipped to defend themselves and others against the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil, many have laid aside much of the armor, piece by piece, and have gone to sleep. Many are taken unawares. “How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? {Yet} a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as a robber, And thy want as an armed man” (Prov. 6:9-11; 24:30-34 A.R.V.).

But we who are faithful soldiers of the cross are



properly armed, wide-awake and on the alert at all times. We are “the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober. . . . But let us, who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thes. 5:5-8). “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:14-17). Only, as our text declares, will we be “able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

We understand that the call to come out of her my people has gone out to the last class to be part of God’s one true Church (Rev. 18:4). This faithful pre-millennial seed of the Abraham class, Consecrated Epiphany Campers, will praise God forever as princes in the earth; able assistants to the Worthies, “I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations; therefore shall the people praise thee forever and ever” (Psa. 45:17; PT ’84, p 92). The Consecrated Epiphany Campers are now the primary class that Jehovah is preparing for the coming work during the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ. The Consecrated Epiphany Campers have their armor in place and are holding high the banner of Truth in defense of God’s Word.

GIVING ALL CHRISTIANS THE TRUTH—WHEN?

Bible Standard Ministries [LHMM] is the movement Jehovah has used for many years [100+] to bring forward constructive advancing Truth, based on the teachings of God’s chosen vessel Pastor Charles Taze Russell (Matt. 24:45, 46). This movement has been privileged to make known to all who have a hearing ear and a seeing-eye the Biblical Truths of God’s great plan of salvation for all consecrated people. This movement has been privileged to make known the Biblical Truths on all the five pre-restitution classes—the Little Flock, the Ancient Worthies, the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies, and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers—symbolized respectively by Mt. Zion, Moriah, Akra, Bezetha and the hill Ophel. These called and faithful servants will be given the special means of assisting the non-elect up the Highway of Holiness. In Psa. 72: 3 we
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read, “The mountains shall bring peace to the people and the little hills, by righteousness.” God will exalt these five pre-restitution classes for this purpose. We speak of these as God’s Gospel-Age Sheep and the Gospel-Age spiritual elect.

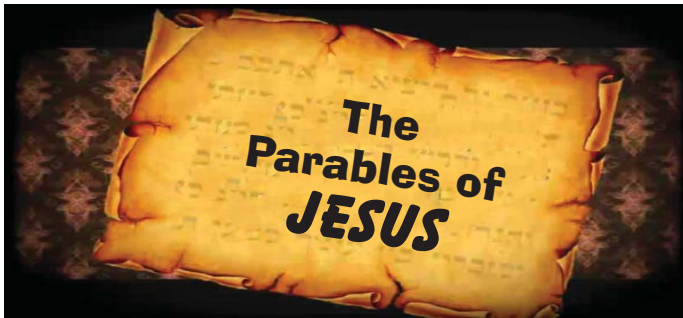
The fifth pre-restitution class—The Consecrated Epiphany Camper, is highly honored by God, for they are proving themselves faithful under severe trials. While they are not of the four very elect classes, they will be privileged to be the special assistants of the Worthies and will be very able helpers to the world of mankind as they, with them, come up the Highway of Holiness. What a wonderful Heavenly Father we have! How gracious He is to us all! Let us keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21)!

Bro. Headman gave these thoughts, referring to

Christianity today: “Instead of our approach being, how much error do they have? (which we are very much inclined to resist), we should say, how much Truth do they have? and build upon the Truth they do have, even though considered little from our point of view.” St. Paul was a good example as shown in Acts 17:22, 23: “he accommodated himself to the varying capacities and peculiarities of all sorts . . . of people, to confer blessings upon them” (PT ’77, p. 22, col. 2). See also Acts 23:9 as referred to in PT ’53, p. 61.

“Therefore, as Epiphany brethren, we must be more liberal in our approach than we were 70 years ago and become more evangelistic in our approach. On the other hand, we should be careful to remember who we are, and the importance of Bro. Johnson and the Epiphany Truths in our midst, which are the reasons for our existing separately at all.”

We must keep in mind, that since 1950 we are in a new time. With this thought in mind we present some basic thoughts of presenting the Truth at this time. We recognize that the *great and detailed* work of the Parousia and Epiphany has been completed and our work is now two- fold (1) maintaining the teachings necessary for the growth of the Consecrated Epiphany Campers for their specific service in the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ and (2) a gathering for Epiphany purposes from among *all* Christians, even those in Babylon, which contains many *quasi*-elect (both justified and consecrated) (PT 2003, p. 44).



Let us now examine some parables that will help us to understand how these highly prized sheep we have mentioned will be used by God in bringing His kingdom blessings to the people. We cite Matt. 13: 34, 35 to bring to our minds how important parables are: “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

LEAVEN HIDDEN IN THE MEAL

(Matt. 13:33)

This parable illustrates the process by which the nominal

Church would get into and remain in the wrong condition of heart. We understand the three measures of meal to represent the true faith, hope, and love, which were to remain with the Church after the gifts of the Spirit, given to establish the early Church (such as healing, working miracles, speaking in unknown tongues) would cease (1 Cor. 12:28-31; 13:1, 2, 8-13).

As a woman would take her batch of flour for baking and put leaven (yeast) into it, the entire mass becoming leavened, the same is true with the nominal Church of Christ: the spiritual food for the entire household would become leavened or corrupted by mixing the leaven of error with the true faith, hope, and love. Every portion would gradually become more or less vitiated with the leaven of false doctrines, permeating the entire mass. The result we see today—almost every doctrine presented by Jesus and His Apostles has become more or less twisted and perverted by the errors of the Dark Ages.

THE TREASURE HID IN A FIELD

(Matt. 13:44)

Here the Kingdom is likened unto “treasure hid in a field.” A man, realizing its value, desired it for himself and had such faith in it that he disposed of all his property in order to buy the field, which contained the precious treasure. The field seems to represent the world of mankind. In the world of mankind, our Lord saw a treasure. Prospectively, He saw the result of His own redemptive work, the deliverance of many from the bondage of corruption into the full liberty of sons of God. In the Gospel Age, this consists of the five pre-restitution classes and in the Millennial Age the restitution work will consist of the world of mankind (Rom. 8:21). In view of this treasure He “purchased” the field and He was fully satisfied to give His life, and all He then had, to purchase the world (Isa. 53:11).

The field belongs to God and He placed the treasure there. He offered it for sale to any willing to pay the price. The buyer is the Lord. Those who accept His invitation join with Him in the sacrifice of their earthly interests to be sharers with Him in His Kingdom—in the work of the Age to come, to unearth all that treasure in the blessing of the world of mankind. The hiding of the treasure is necessary, as our Lord intimates: “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matt. 7:6)—they will not understand you, will think you foolish, and in their disappointment may do you injury.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

(Matt. 13:45, 46)

Pearls were much more in vogue in ancient times than

now. Pearl buyers traded in these gems and carried them to market, where they were highly esteemed. The merchant of this parable comes across the finest pearl he has ever seen. He considers it so priceless that he rejoices to sell or trade all his other pearls and property to become the owner of it.

Likewise, the Gospel offer of a share with Christ in His Kingdom is superior to all the propositions of the world. The honor of the world, of name, fame, position and wealth are indeed desirable. In fact, the Scriptures say, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches” (Prov. 22:1). But when our eyes behold “the pearl of great price,” the Kingdom offer of our Lord Jesus, the offer of assisting Him in His great work of blessing all the families of the earth, we realize this is a priceless thing, worth far more than all the honors, dignities and pleasures of the world.

Those worthy to buy this pearl will gladly exchange all earthly things for it—even their good name, and this will be necessary, for the Master forewarned them, saying, they “shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matt. 5:11, 12). He who is not willing to have the Kingdom at such a cost is not worthy of the Kingdom. “We must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). Only those who willingly endure such tribulations for righteousness’ sake—for the sake of the Truth, in obedience to their calling, are overcomers.

THE NET WHICH GATHERED OF EVERY KIND (Matt. 13:47-50)

Another parable of the Kingdom represents the Gospel message as a dragnet. Only one kind of symbolic *fish* (men, Matt. 4:19) is desired, but the net gathers every kind—real Christians, half-deceived and deluded Christians, and multitudes of hypocrites. Not every kind inherits the Kingdom with Christ Jesus, the end of the Gospel Age is here designated a sifting, separating time. The desirable fish are gathered into vessels, and the remainder are cast back into the sea as unfit for a place among the elect in this Kingdom, though not necessarily unfit for future salvation during the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ.

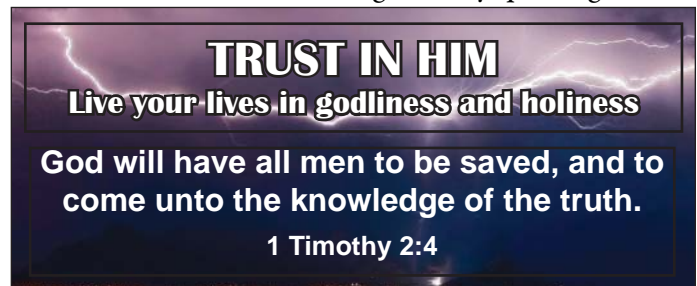
In vs. 49, 50, the furnace of fire symbolizes the great Time of Trouble with which this Expanded Gospel Age Harvest ends, in which the kingdoms of this world give place to Christ’s Mediatorial Kingdom. It is the establishment of this Kingdom upon the earth for which the Church has been praying for 20 centuries, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). What a Kingdom it will be! Entrusted to Jesus and His Little Flock (Luke 12:32), it will be empowered to establish the rule of heaven on earth!

THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus in this Parable tells what takes place after His Kingdom is set up—after the exaltation of the Bride class, the Lamb’s Wife and Joint-heirs in His Kingdom. This is clearly stated by the Master, saying, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the *holy angels* with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory” (emphasis ours). Then follows a description of the work of the Millennial Age. “Before him shall be gathered all nations.” This refers to the people of the world. Everybody except the Church will be before His great white throne of justice, mercy, and love (comp. Rev. 20:11-15). “God . . . hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).

Six thousand years ago, Adam and his entire race were judged in Eden, and the sentence was death (Gen. 2:17). None of the race is by nature worthy of everlasting life, for all are sinners. In due time God sent His Son to die for Adam’s sin, in order that, “since by man (Adam) came death, by man (Jesus) came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order . . .” (1 Cor. 15:21-23).

The first order to be made alive in Christ was the Church, called out of the world, “begotten again” of the Holy spirit. These were to pass their judgment, their trial, throughout the Gospel Age. These worthy ones, with characters that are pleasing and acceptable to God, are joint-heirs (“holy angels”) with Him in His Kingdom and in His work of judging the world throughout its trial period, the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ (1 Cor. 6:2, 3). He promised that all the faithful would sit with Him in His throne (Rev. 3:21)—the throne pictured in the words of our text—before which all the peoples of the world will be assembled, figuratively speaking.



Those in the parable have accepted Christ’s terms and desire to be on judgment, on trial, for everlasting life. Messiah’s Kingdom will exercise its power and disseminate the knowledge of God and of righteousness (1 Tim. 2:4),

with a view to encouraging, helping and uplifting all the willing and obedient. All such will then be privileged to rise more and more out of sin and death conditions, out of imperfection of mind and body and out of immoral conduct to the full image of God on the human plane, as possessed by Adam in the beginning.

The work of the entire Millennial Age will bring this about. Righteousness will then reign as sin reigns now (2 Pet. 3:13). Then the world in general, will be a grand place, in that great Kingdom (mountain) where “they shall not hurt nor destroy” (Isa. 11:9), where the curse shall be gradually rolled away, and there shall be no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain, no more dying (Rev. 21:1-5), and where the blessing of God, bringing perfection, will prevail. All who live during those thousand years will be greatly blessed.

THE LORD CAN READ THE HEART

THE LAW OF RETRIBUTION

We now address the sins of the world. Will there be punishments for these? We answer that it will be equally as just for God to forgive the sins of the world for Christ’s sake as it has been just for Him to forgive the sins of the One True Church for Christ’s sake (1 John 2:2). God is no respecter of persons and is equally as willing to forgive the sins of the world as the sins of the Church, when the world, repenting of sin, accept Christ as their Redeemer.

This does not mean that justice is to be ignored. We assume that certain stripes, or punishments, will be permitted to follow the world. It will be from these weaknesses and frailties that they will be gradually raised up to perfection during those blessed thousand years of Christ’s Kingdom when Satan will be bound and not permitted to deceive any during that period (Rev. 20:1-3).

Outwardly the “sheep” and the “goats” will have much the same appearance and demeanor, except to the Judge, the King, who will read their hearts and ultimately manifest to all that there has been a distinct heart difference between the two classes, all of whom will have been on trial during the thousand years, receiving blessings from the Kingdom.

WE WERE BORN SINNERS

THE BASIS OF JUDGMENT

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psa. 51:5). All of mankind came into the world as sinners and developed a character that each became known by. This developed character will be fully evaluated by the Great Judge, each individual

rated either as a “sheep” or a “goat.” The sheep class will be received at the right hand of Jehovah. The goat class, separated to His left, will drop out of His favor, even though they will be receiving the Kingdom blessings and rendering outward conformity to its laws. At the close of the Millennium, the decision of the Judge will be manifested. Surprise will be shown at His decision by both groups. To the “sheep” at His right hand He will say, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” When God laid the foundation of the earth and planned its human habitation, His design was to give the kingdom on earth to you. The time has come for you to enter into this kingdom and to possess it. The kingdom here referred to is not the Mediatorial Kingdom. It is the kingdom which God gave to Adam and which he lost through disobedience and which Christ redeemed by sacrificing Himself. It will be given only to those who will have developed God-like characters, those who will have become the Lord’s “sheep” during the Millennium.

RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL PREVAIL

The “goats” of the parable will be sentenced as follows: “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire [destruction], prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). Granted all the privileges, blessings and experiences of the thousand years of contact with righteousness, Truth and the Spirit of God, you render an outward obedience, but at heart have not come into harmony with God. I cannot recognize you as My sheep. I cannot present you to the Father blameless and irrepensible. You must be destroyed; the punishment is the Second Death, everlasting destruction. The penalty upon you is everlasting because there will not be any further provision made for your redemption or your resurrection from the Second Death.

ALL WILL BE JUDGED

You will be as though you had never existed (Obad. 16). You have utterly failed to appreciate the goodness of God and to copy His character-likeness. Eternal life is only for those who have God’s likeness and Spirit.

Both classes, the “sheep” and the “goats,” are surprised at what the Judge declares as the basis for His judgment. Our Lord’s words to the sheep were, “I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.” To the goat class, He said, “I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no

drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not” (Matt. 25:40-46).

Both “sheep” and “goats” claimed that they had no knowledge of such experiences. When did we minister unto Thee? When did we fail to minister unto Thee? The answer is revealing: Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, or did it not unto him, ye did or did it not unto Me.

With the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom, all who come into harmony with it will have the great privilege of doing something to help others. The world is blind and starved now, for lack of spiritual food and the anointing eyesalve of the Truth (Rev. 3:18). While the Millennial blessings will be showered upon those who accept the Lord’s terms, others will need assistance. Those having the spirit of God, the spirit of Love, will gladly carry the heavenly message of reconciliation to all humanity, apply the eyesalve to the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, and help the sin-sick back into harmony with God—to the blessings of Messiah’s Kingdom, to the way these may be obtained—helping them to cover their nakedness with the covering righteousness of Christ. All who will take pleasure in this work will be manifesting that they possess God’s Spirit and are co-laborers with Him. These will be the “sheep.” However, those who will be careless as to their consecration vow, selfishly enjoying the Millennial blessings themselves, *will be of the goat class* and correspondingly will be out of favor with the great King of kings, their Judge.

Their willful disobedience will bring upon them the fire of God’s jealousy. This eternal fire is the fire of God’s jealousy or anger, which burns against and destroys everything antagonistic to His righteousness (Zeph. 3:8). It is a figurative expression representing complete destruction. Yes, an “everlasting punishment” (Matt. 25:46), an everlasting “cutting off.” The Greek word *kolasin*, in v. 46 translated “punishment,” does not mean *torment*, as some have been led to think. According to Liddell and Scott’s Greek lexicon, its primary meaning is “*a pruning or checking the growth of trees.*”

The Emphatic Diaglott by Benjamin Wilson states: “That is, in the fire mentioned in verse 41. The Common Version, and many modern ones render *kolasin aionioon*, everlasting punishment, conveying the idea, as generally interpreted, of *basinos*, torment. *Kolasin* in its various forms only occurs in three other places in the New Testament—Acts 4:21; 2 Pet. 2:9; 1 John 4:18. It is derived from *kolazoo*, which signifies: 1. *To cut off*; as lopping off branches of trees, to prune. 2. *To restrain*,

to repress. The Greeks write – ‘The charioteer [*kolazei*] restrains his fiery steeds.’ 3. *To chastise, to punish*. To cut off an individual from life, or society, or even to restrain, is esteemed as *punishment*;—has arisen this *third* metaphorical use of the word. The primary signification has been adopted, because it agrees better with the second member of the sentence, preserving the force and beauty of the antithesis. The righteous go to *life*, the wicked to the *cutting off* from life, or *death*. See 2 Thes. 1:9.”

APPRECIATION OF TRUE LIBERTY

True Christians, who not only appreciate their liberty, freedom from ignorance and superstition, but who accept the Lord’s Message in full, and by consecration of their all take up their cross to follow the dear Redeemer, not living merely for the present joys, comforts, and honors, but chiefly for the Father’s will to be done—what about these? Ah! theirs is a peculiar case, difficult for many to comprehend. As the Master said to them, “In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world.” So it is also that the world understands them not and thinks of them merely as foolish persons who have no joy, no happiness, no pleasure in life. On the contrary, these well know that they have more pleasure, more joy, more happiness than their friends have, because the peace of God which passeth understanding rules in their hearts. They not only joy and rejoice in the future prospect—in a hope of a share in the Kingdom blessings, but are happy in present trials, difficulties, and oppositions (Rom. 5:3-5).

Ah, this is the secret of true peace and true joy—the love of God, the promises of God, the realization from God’s Word that present trials and difficulties are all working together for good to them that love Him, to all called ones according to His purpose—preparing them for the honor, blessing, and usefulness of this present time and after. These have learned not to care so much for the smiles or frowns of the world, as they once did. They look beyond for the smile of their Heavenly Lord, and are happy, while by the eye of faith they discern that, no matter what their earthly conditions may be, they rejoice in the privilege of serving their Master and His cause. (Continued on Back Page)





TETZEL SELLING INDULGENCES

About the time that Martin Luther began to study the New Testament and was amazed at its simplicity—when he was grasping the great Bible Truth of justification by faith—he encountered Tetzel. The effect was to convince him the more that great errors had gradually crept into the faith and spirit of the Church. Tetzel was selling Indulgences under the Pope's authority. The proceeds were to be used in completing St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome.

Tetzel may or may not have exceeded his authority, but the record is that he preached, not the merit of Christ's sacrifice, but the power of the Pope, and of himself, his agent, saying, You have friends in Purgatory, suffering there for various sins. The Pope has the power to release them; I am his agent. Those who donate to this fund drop their money into this box, assured that the moment they do so their friends will be released from Purgatorial suffering.

Catholic though he still was, and a believer in Purgatory, Luther could not tolerate such a commercial proposition as that the grace of God should be purchased with money. He denounced Tetzel vigorously.

So far as we are aware, the public sale of Indulgences has been stopped in most civilized lands, but until recently in Mexico many Church tables were spread with Indulgences, specifying various sins and crimes, and bearing fixed prices.

Protestants, and some Catholics, have assumed that these Indulgences are permits to sin. The Church of Rome, however, claims that they never issue permits to commit sin, but merely so much remission of Purgatorial sufferings.

Amongst Bible students today, there seems to be a growing conviction that the Bible teaches that there is no consciousness in death—that the awakening moment in the Resurrection Morning will connect up with the dying thought. The proof-texts for Purgatory they apply to saints in this life, to the world's "stripes" in the next Age, and to the "time of trouble."

LESSON 83

- 1* What amazed Martin Luther about the New Testament? Par. 1
- 2* What great Bible Truth was he grasping?
- 3 Who did he encounter at that time?
- 4* What convinced him that great errors had gradually crept into the faith and spirit of the Church?
- 5* Tetzel was selling Indulgences under who's authority? What were the proceeds to be used for?
- 6* What was Tetzel preaching? Par. 2
- 7* Who did he say had the power to release those in Purgatory?
- 8* When donated money was dropped it into Tetzel's box, what supposedly happened?
- 9* What was Luther and what did he believe about Purgatory? Par. 3
- 10* Why could he not tolerate the selling of Indulgences?
- 11* What did he do concerning Tetzel?
- 12 Has the public sale of Indulgences been stopped in most civilized lands? Par. 4
- 13* Who have assumed that these Indulgences are permits to sin? Par. 5
- 14* What has the Church of Rome claimed about the use of Indulgences?
- 15* What does the Bible teach about consciousness in death? Par. 6
- 16* What will take place in the Resurrection Morning?
- 17* The Scriptures that have been used to try to prove a Purgatory really apply to what?

* The questions marked with an asterisk are especially for children.



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TO:

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**RESURRECTION BLESSINGS
 FOR THE WORLD**

There will come a time that God will direct the work to go to the Heathen world and with good reason we can say that it will be the “sheep” that will be especially interested in, praying for and preparing for those who are in the great prison-house of death. While the blessing of the Lord will provide an abundance for all, we may assume that this provision will be in the hands of their fellows. By engaging their time and energy, these “sheep” will be manifesting a purpose, a will, in harmony with that of their Creator. God has willed that all who are in their graves shall come forth at the command of Jesus (John 5:28, 29), and those in sympathy with God and Christ will be co-laborers with God in accomplishing the work for which Christ died. Any not interested in that work will be lacking in God’s Spirit. This is exactly what is charged against the goat class. He who sits upon the throne, having redeemed the world of mankind and having provided for the resurrection of all these redeemed ones, counts them in a certain sense as representing Himself—as He indicates in the parable.

Interesting thought: It is a mistake to think that one must be in the antitypical Holy in order to see and understand the deep things of the Word of God. Not all Bible Truth, nor even all spiritual Truth, is meant by the shewbread. The shewbread, *which could be eaten only by the priests*, typified something that *only the antitypical Priests* could appropriate to themselves, and this is everything involved in the Sarah Covenant promises. Hence the Sarah Covenant promises—those that God gave to the Christ class alone—are the antitypical shewbread. To *eat* the antitypical shewbread does not mean to *understand* the deep things; it means to *appropriate to oneself*, to *make one’s own*, the promises of the Sarah Covenant, which, of course, it is impossible now to do, seeing that these promises are no longer available to anyone (PT 1953 p. 61).

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Pending the easing of restrictions on assemblies.

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MY CONSECRATION

To God I made my consecration;
 I said, Thy will, not mine be done;
 And shall I now in hesitation;
 Release what victory I have won?
 Ah, No! for still in faith I’m resting;
 In His great love what joy I find;
 I look to Him and see His leading;
 His Word sustains my heart and mind.

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