

SEVEN HUNDRED PEOPLE BRAVE COLD TO ATTEND SERVICE AT TABERNACLE

Winter's Winds Bring Size of Congregation to Smallest of Series of Evangelistic Services in Big Building on South Side—Thirty Converts Profess Religion.

EPIGRAMS.

Your will is supreme, Christ could turn water into wine, multiply the loaves and fishes and speak the word that calmed the sea because there was no will to oppose Him, but when he stands before a human soul he can only say, "Will thou be made clean?"

Sinners are lost not by reason of anything in Jesus, not because He is not able to save, not because He is not willing to save them, but because of something in themselves, they will not come to Him for salvation.

The greater the light you have, the greater your guilt in rejecting Jesus Christ, and the greater will be your punishment in the world to come.

If there is one thing for which I am shouting, happy and shall praise God forever for, it is the fact that He did not permit me to die in my sins.

Satan cannot enter your heart without your consent, and Jesus Christ never will; God will never compel you to be a Christian.

The nearest way for some of you to the throne of grace is around by your neighbor's house.

You say you haven't time to be a Christian. Yes, but you will never get so busy but what you will take time to attend your own funeral services.

Out of the 700 people whom the cold could not keep away from last evening's service at the big temporary church across the river there were 80 who knelt in the sawdust before Evangelist Lowry to profess salvation, to make public acknowledgment of their faith in God and Christ. The faithful 700—the smallest audience since the evangelistic campaign was started—seemed lost in the long reach of the tabernacle.

Outside the wind whistled shrill and the streets were deserted. In the tabernacle it was comfortably warm. It is safe to say that not a home on the south side was more adequately heated last night than the great, rough, sawdust-floored structure that is a temple for a time.

Why All Men Are Not Saved was the subject of Mr. Lowry's sermon last evening. In part he said:

The Sermon. Text: John 5:40: "And ye will not come to Me that ye might have life."

How sad it is to think so few are being saved out of the great masses of the world's population; how strange it is, when all might be saved if they would. Luke 19:10: "The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost." And ye will not come to Me that ye might have life. Isaiah 1:18: "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." And ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life. Once more the last invitation in the Bible, Rev. 22:17: "And the Spirit and the bride say, come and let him that heareth say, come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take of the waters of life freely." And ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life. Now, what is the teaching of the text, in fact, all these texts that I have quoted and many others I might quote along this line? It is this: "Sinners are lost, not by reason of anything in Jesus Christ, but by reason of something in themselves, they will not come to Christ that they might be saved." So I propose to show in the first place that men are lost not by reason of anything in Jesus Christ.

Not because Jesus Christ is not sufficient to save all men. The Bible shows that Jesus Christ is sufficient to save the whole world if the whole world would come to Christ. John 1:29: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God; which taketh away the sin of the world." The death of Jesus Christ took the sin of the world out of the way, so that a clear way to God, and pardon, and life, was open to all. I John 3:2: "And this is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but for the whole world." A basis is provided upon which God can deal in mercy with the whole world. I Timothy 2:5-6: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all."

Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all. He died for all. The ransom price has been paid for all. The sin accounts for all men are settled. All the sinners need to do is to accept by faith the purchase price and he is a justified man. Hebrews 2:9: "But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor and that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Jesus died for every man. Not for all men as a race, but for each individual man in the race. God can now deal in mercy with the individual and offer him salvation on the ground of Christ's death. Christ is sufficient for all, and I would prove it by this argument. If He was sufficient for one sinner, then He must be sufficient for all. If one single sinner could have been saved without the death of Jesus, then all could have been saved without His dying. Gal. 3:21: "For if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law, and Jesus would not have been put to death. But there has never been a man saved outside of the redemption of Jesus Christ, nor there never will be one. You say, "If that be true, what about men who lived before Christ?" They

were saved through faith in the Christ that was to come, while we are saved through the Christ that has come—that is all the difference.

Christ Wants to Save. Sinners are lost not because Christ is unwilling to save all. The scripture shows that Jesus is quite willing and anxious to save all sinners. II Peter 3:9: "For the Lord God is long suffering to us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Ezekiel 33:11: "Say unto them as I live saith the Lord, I have not pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye! turn ye! for why will ye die?" There is no unwillingness in the heart of Jesus.

A Broken Heart. A broken-hearted mother came to the home of an English rector and besought him to help her find her daughter who had gone away to live a life of sin. He said to her, "If you will bring me every picture you possess I will do my best." The mother brought all the pictures she had of herself and the clergyman wrote underneath the face in red ink just two words, "Come back." These pictures were placed in the mission stations and in the haunts of vice. Weeks passed by until at last one day the young girl was passing into a place of sin when she saw the face of her mother. She paused to look and tears so blinded her eyes that she could not for a moment see the words. Then brushing away the tears, she saw the invitation, turned her face toward her home, on the edge of London. She reached home in the night time, put her hand on the latch of the door, and behold! it yielded to her touch. She had no more than crossed the threshold when she found herself in her mother's arms, greeted by the exclamation, "My dear child, the door has never been locked since you went away!" Sinner friend, the door of God's mercy has never been shut since you turned away. He says, "Return unto Me and I will have mercy and abundantly pardon." So we know then that sinners are lost, not by reason of anything in Jesus, for He is both abundantly able and willing to save all. But why are they not saved? Our text says, "And ye will not come to Me that ye might have life."

Ignorant of Christ. Next, Mr. Lowry gave some reasons why men do not come to Christ. "Because they are ignorant of Jesus Christ and His mission." Paul explains his actions before conversion in Timothy 1:18: "Who was before a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious, but I obtain mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." That, it seems to me, is one of the chief reasons why most men reject Christ—is because they are ignorant of what the death of Christ Jesus meant.

Fool No Need. Because they have no sense of their need of a saviour.

Before I was converted, I led a moral life. Many might have supposed me to be a Christian and I thought my chances for being saved were equal to most anybody's, and why? I had no sense of a need of Jesus Christ as a saviour. But hear me now, I would not exchange my place in Christ today for my position then for all the world. Yes, if there is one thing in my life for which I am shouting happy today, it is the fact that God did not permit me to die in my sin. If you will look around you, you will see that most men have no feeling of anxiety about their souls. Indeed, this is too much known by woeful and daily experience. Sometimes when we go to see them that are sick, old, how senseless and how seared is their conscience! They are neither sensible of heaven nor of hell, of sin nor of a saviour. Speak to them of their condition and the state of their souls and you shall find them often as ignorant as if they had no souls. Others, though they lie ready to die, yet they are busying themselves about their outward affairs, as though they should certainly live forever. It is the man or woman who knows they are lost who are easily led to Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 21:34: "Verily, I say unto you that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you," speaking to the Pharisees. Jesus did not mean that the publicans and the harlots would be saved if they did not repent; but that they were the first to accept Him because they knew they were lost, and that they needed a saviour.

One night after prayer meeting, a minister went back through the congregation shaking hands with the people and found one man with his head down weeping bitterly. The minister walked up and asked him why he was weeping, when he looked up through his tears and said "I am lost, I am lost!" To which the pastor replied "Thank God for that." The poor man looked at him in amazement and said "How can you thank God I am lost?" "Why," said he, turning to Luke 19:10: "The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which is lost." It is for such as you that Jesus Christ suffered and died; and he was led to Jesus.

Gospel Foolishness. Others do not come to Jesus because the gospel is foolishness to them. I Cor. 1:23: "We preach Christ crucified unto the Jews, a stumbling block, and unto the Gentiles, foolishness." I Cor. 2:14: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but unto us, who are saved, it is the power of God."

An earnest Christian man and a

faithful reader of the Bible was called on by an infidel, who said, "I do not understand, nor do I believe," said he, "that the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away sin."

You and St. Paul quite agree on that subject," answered the Bible student. "How?" Turn to I Cor. 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but unto us who are saved it is the power of God." The infidel hung his head and began to study the Bible. He soon found it to be God's power unto salvation to him.

Too Proud. Another reason why many do not come to Christ is because they are not willing to humble themselves, or, in other words, they are ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Every man would like to be saved, but he does not want to be saved in God's way. Everyone would like to be saved in his own way. But Jesus says, Matt. 18:3: "Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Humility is one of the first principles of conversion. And unless a man is willing to humble himself and confess he never can be saved. Rom. 10:9: "That if thou confess with thy mouth, Jesus as Lord and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Love of Sin. A fifth reason why many do not come to Christ is because they love their sins and lust. Gal. 1:4: "Who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of our God and Father." Many do not want to be delivered from their sins. They love the lust of the world. Some say, "Why is it that it is so much easier to get men to follow Mohammed than Christ?" That is very easily explained. One may be a follower of Mohammedanism and live a foul, licentious life, but when a man comes to Christ he knows that he must give up his sin. That is the reason why all false religions such as Christian Science, spiritualism, Mormonism and many others have large followings. People are always looking for some other way to be saved aside from giving up their lusts and sins. Why are not some of you men Christians? It is simply because you roll your sins as a sweet morsel under your tongue. If you will not give up your sins, there is no power in heaven or earth to save you. The devil cannot enter your heart without your consent and Jesus Christ never will.

Too Busy. Others do not come to Jesus. They say they haven't time to be Christians. One says, "I haven't time to attend the church. I haven't time for the family altar. I must attend my lodge meetings. I must attend the card parties. I must attend the dances." What have you done with your time? Some of you, your are already gray, your eyes are growing dim and still you are unsaved. You say you have no time to be a Christian. You are too busy with things of this world, but men, you will never get so busy but what you will take time to attend your own funeral service. You will take time to die, Rev. A. Patterson was a city missionary whose work was largely visiting homes and trying to lead men and women to Christ by personal work. Amongst the persons that he visited was a lady in comfortable circumstances but with no time, she thought, to spare for her soul. When visiting the district in which she lived he always called but never got admittance. One day, after he had spoken very solemnly at the door and warned her of her danger of dying without Christ, he was going upstairs to visit another family when she came out and cried after him, "Oh, be sure and not be long in coming back again, for I wish to see you." In a few days he made it a point to call. "I'm sorry," she said, the moment that she opened the door, "I have no time to receive you today; a friend has come and I must go with him."

"Well," said Mr. Patterson, "you will have time to die whether you are ready or not. Let me say this to you in case you and I never meet again: Behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation. He that, being often reproved, hardeneth his neck shall be suddenly destroyed, and that without remedy." She thanked him and he went away. That night she and her brother went to the theater. She took ill while she was there. She came home and grew worse, and by 5 o'clock next morning she was in eternity. She didn't have time for religion, but she very suddenly took time to die.

Greater Punishment. Mr. Lowry closed by showing the greater the light, the greater the guilt, and the greater will be the punishment to those who reject Jesus. This is the teaching of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Amos 3:2: "You only have I now of all the families of the earth; therefore, I shall punish you for all your iniquities." The Jews had the oracles of God, they had Moses and the prophets, therefore, God shows them that they should be punished for all their sins. Matthew 11:32: "When began He to upbraid the cities where in most of his mighty works were done because they repented not. Woe unto thee, Chorazin, woe unto thee, Bethsaida, for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you."

No Excuse. If a man who is brought to a knowledge of the truth continues to reject Jesus, his punishment will be much greater. Some of you congratulate yourselves on the fact that you were born in this gospel enlightened land. If you continue to reject Jesus Christ and die in this lost condition, it would be a million times better for you in hell if you had been born in darkest Africa. A young man, trained in this country wrote back from the Sandwich islands a glowing description of their horrible abominations, and in his letter he expressed his gratitude that he was born in a gospel-enlightened land. He might well have spared his censure of the dark-minded heathen; his own guilt in remaining an impenitent sinner under all the light of Christian America was

(Continued on Page Seven.)

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