

BROOKLYN ABERNACLE

PASTOR RUSSELL'S WEEKLY SERMON

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The Academy of Music was crowded to hear Pastor Russell on God's mindfulness of man from the text, "What is Man That Thou Art Mindful of Him?" (Psalm 139:4). The large audience listened with intense interest, so that a pin-drop could have been heard. The speaker said:

For some weeks our city will be in the throes of a "Revival of Religion." Hundreds of ministers have placed themselves and their congregations under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Chapman and Mr. Alexander, the famous singer, for the purpose of reviving religion; for the purpose of rescuing human souls from eternal torment, as the proposition is generally understood. Business men have sacrificed large sums of money for this noble work of rescue, reasoning that if thousands of dollars are spent in fire-fighting apparatus for the protection of human life for a few years, the services of Messrs. Chapman and Alexander will be cheap if they carry away \$25,000 for a month's work, provided the results show a goodly number rescued from eternal torment.

We sympathize with some of these large-hearted and open-handed business men who give their money for so laudable an object. Yet we cannot think that many, nay not even a majority, of those who contributed this sum have done so conscientiously. We cannot think that one-half of them believe in the teaching of eternal torture, nor can we think that more than one-tenth of them believe that a practical conversion is signified by a response to an invitation which implies a preference for heavenly bliss, rather than for eternal anguish. However, it is for those who pay the money to exercise their own consciences in this matter, and it is none of our business what they decide.

We sympathize also with the hundreds of pastors of this city who have joined in this movement, which they hope will increase their congregations and church revenues, but these pastors know in reality that the Bible does not teach eternal torment, and they have discarded the Bible anyway in favor of higher critical infidelity. There is an unhappy and stultified position.

We sympathize still more with the poor people whose education along spiritual lines is almost wholly neglected and who live in constant fear of the God who loves them and in dreadful misunderstanding of the Bible, which he has given them. Between the imperfectness of the translation and the coloring of prejudice and the twist of misunderstanding of some parables and symbols they are helpless in the presence of educated men who teach inferentially what they do not themselves believe. Alas! Poor "foolish people!" that you should be betrayed by those in whom you repose confidence and whom you unwittingly pay for keeping you in the dark by taking from you the key of knowledge. Truly, "My people perish for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

Sympathize Still More With God.
But still more we sympathize with God, whose name is dishonored, whose justice, mercy, wisdom, love and power are traduced, nay, vilified. We say to myself, how wonderful the patience of God, which for centuries has endured blasphemous misrepresentations of His good character and divine plan of the ages! Well, does He tell us that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so His plans and methods in respect to our salvation are higher than ours—not lower. We all, does He tell us that human fear toward Him is taught by the precepts of men, not according to His word (Isaiah xxix:13). We can see reason why the Lord has kept silence toward the heathen, but we are perplexed that judgments have so long delayed to come to those who, knowing better, still slander the great and holy name and misrepresent the Divine purposes.

What would a chief shepherd do to an under-shepherd found misleading the sheep, guiding them into poisonous pastures? We believe that he would take the sheep from them, even though he allowed them still to shepherd the goats. And it is quite our thought that such a judgment impends over Christendom and that all shepherds, false to their trust, will be dismissed ignominiously, and that very soon.

Some urge that we should do evil in order to obtain good results; that we should misrepresent the Divine character in order to get people to join the church. It is urged that some may, as a result of this evangelistic movement, lead a more orderly and decent life hereafter as citizens, and that we should be willing to join in traducing our Creator, in order to obtain this result? We answer, No, a thousand times. Not in our judgment the perversions of the truth, the dishonoring of our Maker, the instilling of misconceptions into the minds of the people, is an awful cost to pay, even if the results should be a hundred times as great as promised. Well did Jesus say, "Ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte and when he is gained, you make him two-fold more a child of destruction than yourselves" (Matthew xxiii:15). The conversions achieved by misrepresentations of God instill a poison into the heart difficult to eradicate. Impervious to the truth.

It grieves me to be obliged conscientiously thus to characterize a movement which has, at least, an outward appearance of godliness. It will attract to me the venom of those whose hypocrisies I criticize. It is not the money that they will collect that grieves me, for those who give it honestly, thinking thus to serve the Lord, will surely be blessed by Him. It is the hypocrisy of the thing, the misrepresentation of their own belief and unbelief and the slander against the holy name of the Creator and the further bamboozling and throwing of dust into the eyes of the common people—

this awakens, and should awaken, righteous indignation. And this more others do not speak, the more I must speak in denunciation and in warning to the people to search the Scriptures and become undecieved.

Hearken Now to Our Text.

The teachings of all of the creeds of the "Dark Ages" which have come down to us, although they contain many good things, are so befogged with misrepresentations of God as to be a stench to our nostrils and a menace to our spiritual health. They picture to us a God either reckless and careless of the future interests of his human creatures, or else as powerless to aid any but the few. They picture to us millions going down to torture during the four thousand years before Jesus came into the world to seek and save that which was lost. They picture to us that since He coming only a handful, comparatively, of the human family have become His disciples, footstep followers. "Meet for the inheritance of the saints in light." All the others, according to our Protestant creeds, Calvinistic and Arminian, have gone down to eternal torture. From this standpoint it is that Dr. Chapman and Mr. Alexander are the heroes of the hour, saving a few more whom God would have otherwise neglected, or, as some might say, saving them in spite of Divine foreordination to the contrary.

But what say the Scriptures? Does the Bible substantiate such theories? Nay, nay! In harmony with our text, the entire Bible reveals to us a God as infinite in His wisdom and power as in His justice and love. Our text tells us that He is mindful of His creatures—humanity. He was mindful in the very beginning when He created man and foreknew His fall. Away back there He foretold that "the seed of the woman should ultimately bruise the serpent's head." Away back there He indicated His Divine purpose, in due time, to redeem man from destruction (not from eternal torment, for none were sentenced to torment).

The skins which covered the nakedness of our first parents cost the lives of animals, and thus God typically prophesied "better sacrifices" for the perfect covering of man's sin and shame. In God's dealings with the nation of Israel, He gave numerous types foreshadowing the latter blessings, following "the better sacrifices," blessing all the families of the earth. (God was mindful of man's interests all the time for over 4,000 years), even though, during that long period, nothing was actually accomplished. The salvation was purposed, was planned, was assured, but must be waited for until God's due time.

Reconciliation by "Better Sacrifices."
When Jesus appeared the world was still in an error, the one little nation of Israel was still under divine condemnation because of sin—because their typical sacrifices were insufficient and merely foreshadows of "the better sacrifices," which God was mindful later to bring to pass.

Those "better sacrifices" are not yet completed, though nearly so, we believe. They consist of "the Man Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for all," and also of the faithful few whom He has accepted as His disciples, who are walking in His steps, representing their bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, through their Redeemer (Roman xii:1).

God is still mindful of humanity. He has not forgotten His responsibilities as a creator. The theory that God shirks His responsibility and allows the 99,900 who die daily to drop into eternal torment because of carelessness or indifference on our part is not true—is not Scriptural.

God affirms His own responsibility for every feature of His plan. He declares "My word that is gone forth out of my mouth shall not return to me void; it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah lv:11). Hence we should understand that God sent no message to convert the world during the first 4,150 years after Adam's creation, because He did not fill the world to be converted then. He had no message for the world. His time had not come. St. Paul refers to this, saying, "The times of that ignorance God winked at" (took no notice of). But now, since the death of Jesus, the just for the unjust, and the opening up of possibilities for a future life through a resurrection, God commands all men everywhere to repent. And all who become disciples of Jesus are privileged to be ambassadors for God, to convey to all who have the hearing ear a message of God's mercy to bind up the brokenhearted, to declare the acceptable year and the opening of the prison doors. But the work in the present time is restricted. Not all could possibly be blessed now—and the elect must have an ear to hear and must be "drawn to the Father" and must walk in the Master's footsteps and thus become copies of God's dear Son. This is the only work thus far, and it is not to the world, but to the few who have the hearing ear and who leave the world to become followers of Jesus.

"The High Calling in Christ."
The Bible declares that now God is sending forth a "high calling in Christ." Those called during this gospel age are called to walk in Jesus' footsteps as saints, "presenting their bodies living sacrifices," suffering with their Master and for His cause. The promise to all these is that, if faithful, they shall share with the great Redeemer His messianic throne which is yet to bless the world. To this bride-class the Redeemer will be the bridegroom, Lord and head. Sharing His sufferings they will share His glory, honor and immortality. And these will participate in the glorious Messianic work soon to begin. If evangelists and others would preach this "narrow way" of the gospel of Christ, how we would rejoice

KEEPING SEEDS DRY



The amateur gardener must remember to keep his seeds in a dry place. (Chicago Evening Post.)

Starting a New Orchard

(By M. L. Dean, State Horticulturist.)
In starting into the fruit growing business on a small ranch, consisting of five to ten acres, as many are doing in the fruit section today, it is advisable to select varieties which are adapted to the markets tributary to their section. Montana's markets are her cities east of the range and others tributary to the three great trunk lines leading into the eastern states. The rapid increase of population and production of the whole country makes the marketing problem more complex every year, until at the present time it is not a question of varieties we can grow, but rather which we can grow and market in the best condition at the right time to catch the fancy prices.

A grower must have it fixed in his mind whether he is to enter to the fancy trade, or place his fruits upon the general or common markets of the large cities and villages. There are numerous varieties of fruit which possess excellence in a marked degree, but which are of little value to the commercial grower because they are too delicate to stand up under long shipment.

The Most Money.
It is in selecting these fine flavored fruits and marketing them in nice condition that the small grower will find large profits, but I believe too many are trying to grow apples for the Palmer House or Waldorf Astoria which sell at 25 cents apiece, with knowledge and conditions better adapted to the production of the 5 cent standard apple. Who will make the most money? The grower who specializes most intelligently, and puts that intelligence into actual operation, is bound to win.

California is noted for its Belle Fleur; Colorado equally so for her Jonathans; Wenatchee stands foremost in the development of the Wine-sap; southern Oregon excels in the Yellow Newtowns; Hood River and Mosier carry off the honors in the Spitzburgs. Other sections the Rome Beauty, Wagener, dano and McIntosh, and no section of the entire northwest can produce some of these, especially the last four varieties, of finer quality than can the fruit valleys of Montana.

There were Rome Beauties and Wageners exhibited at the State Horticultural society meeting in Missoula, January 31, grown in Flathead county that were as fine as any ever exhibited at Spokane.

The Bitter Root had McIntosh and Jonathans on display which could not be excelled, and other varieties showed quality par excellence, but those were not the grades of apples that make the money for the average grower. They are the varieties, however, that are standards in the markets of the world. They are not the fads—Oh, beware of the fads in the apple orchard. Let the other fellow experiment with new things. The delicious Winter Banana and others which could be named are fads that never will be in the standard classes. They are hard to grow of a desirable grade. They must be handled with extreme care and a system of education must be inaugurated to tell to the world that they are good apples. The standards have world-wide reputations. They are the sure things.

The question of marketing fruit is one which demands more study every year, as new and unseen conditions are constantly presenting themselves and the grower who is the quickest to note these changes in market demands is the man who secures the top prices for his fruit, whether he is marketing his individual crop or whether he is handling the output of an organization. Distribution is the essential factor which must solve the problem of profitable production, hence distribution measures consumption. Several factors enter into the distribution and probably cost is the principal one. It isn't the million people who pay 25 cents for the apple that must be reached, but the other 89,999,000 people who cannot pay 25 cents, nor perhaps half of that, who must be reached in a way that they can consume the apples.

Producer vs. Consumer.
The barrier between the producer and consumer is too high, and it will not be overcome until there is broad and practical co-operation in selling methods that will get the fruit to the consumer, with only reasonable

compensation to the distributing agencies for services rendered. If land is wisely selected and varieties are planted that are known to produce good crops in the immediate vicinity, and at a minimum price, for the variety selected there need be no fear of who will survive the future.

One of the brightest signs of the times among the fruit growers is the increasing friendliness manifested in many sections by the "Get-together movements."

The State Horticultural society has stimulated these movements until we now have several local Horticultural societies all working to the same end, the upbuilding of the horticultural interests and assisting each individual grower in solving his particular problems. Co-operation is the password that will admit both the grower and the seller into the chamber of success.

The fruit from different orchards reaches the same market, is placed side by side and is subjected to the critical eye of the purchaser. Why should not the producers stand side by side and help each other in perfecting their systems of production, so that each may produce fruit of the highest quality, then by a concerted action they can demand the highest price. The small orchards of the country have produced the bulk of the fruit in the past; they will also measure the output in the future and the growers must co-operate in every way if they expect to attain the highest degree of success and secure the maximum profits.

This is especially true with small fruits. Montana is a great market for Hood River strawberries. The fruit growers of Montana should grasp the situation and take advantage of the opportunities at hand, which are ideal for the growing of the most remunerative of all fruit—the strawberry.

In conclusion: Decide upon what class of fruit you wish to grow, select varieties with that point in view. Apply systematic methods and success is yours.

Every person who plants an apple tree makes Montana more beautiful and adds to its fruitfulness.

Scout Fred Lake of the Browns says that Bobby Wallace's team looks 100 per cent stronger than last year.

SMUDGE POTS DEFY JACK FROST IRRIGATION AFFECTS FRUIT BUDS

SCHEME TO PRESERVE ORCHARDS FROM COLD HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.

FRUIT SPURS CAN BE FORCED TO BEAR ANNUALLY BY PROPER USE OF WATER.

That the devastating cold wave of last April taught western orchardists a severe but thorough lesson is evidenced by an article by Louis Meyer in Popular Mechanics. The total loss caused to the fruits and other crops of the United States in one night was estimated at from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000. But there was one section of the country immune—the Grand Valley of Colorado—where a \$2,500,000 crop of fruit was saved by the use of smudge-pots or more properly, orchard heaters. Mr. Meyer says:

"Orchard heaters were used for the first time in the Grand valley three years ago. Last year was the first time that their practicability was effectively demonstrated. Before that period an effort had been made to induce the orange growers of California to experiment with orchard heating, using ordinary hard palls and crude oil, which was obtainable in the refineries nearby at a trifling expense. The orange growers were not only skeptical but also very reluctant to admit that there was any danger from frost.

Finding no market for the palls which he had manufactured for the purpose, a California grower thought he might work them off on the orchardists of the Grand valley. The manager of a fruit growers' association agreed to help him when he arrived in the valley, but the growers were not at all enthusiastic. However, rather than ship them back, the pots were offered for 'little more than the freight, and as the weather bureau happened to send out a frost warning at that auspicious moment, some of the more progressive growers agreed to experiment with the pots. The result was that they saved almost their entire crop, while others in the valley lost everything."

"The smudge-pot has been much improved during the last year and there are now a number of good pots on the market.

"PIGS IS PIGS."

We can make pork with alfalfa, sugar beets and a very little grain here in our dear loved Montana, and make more money than our forefathers used to make out of their corn-fed swine in old Missouri. The Montana farmer that is established on a little home can carry on pork making and make an excellent profit, more, we believe, than can be made by the corn grower of the middle west. To do this the farmer must have alfalfa meadows and a little ground on which sugar beets will grow. And it would be better to grow a little grain. There is not the money to be made in growing wheat, alfalfa or any other crop to sell in bushel or bale that there would be to grow it to feed to livestock. And now that the range has been narrowed to nothing, the hog, which needs less range than anything else, may be used to a good advantage. The hog will live largely on alfalfa. They flourish on the plant during the growing season, and will live on the dry hay, but alfalfa run through a cutter and steamed is very much better. Wheat, oats and barley mixed and ground is good to mix with steamed alfalfa. The grinding of alfalfa may prove an advantageous manner of treating alfalfa for hog feed; we are not persuaded as to this, we know that the chopped and steamed plan is all right and that sugar beets and the chopped hay is good, and we believe alfalfa on any farm will make pork at a low cost. Our idea is for the small farmer to grow hogs and continually improve his land. We know he can do this and we believe the man on 40 acres of irrigated land by raising swine can make some money with these feeds which prosper so abundantly here.

Abundant evidence shows that leaf buds and flower buds as propagated under irrigation in this country are not structurally distinct. Every bud on the apple tree is formed as a leaf bud and it is also true that each has power to become a flower bud. Leaf and flower buds are in a measure interchangeable. By proper pruning a flower bud may be converted into a leaf bud and by ringing the spur a leaf bud may become a flower bud. The flower buds may be one, two or many years old and lying dormant before they form flowers. Factors which tend to the formation of flower buds are a restriction to the movement of prepared food in the branches, such as is caused by a wrinkling of the bark formed by the union of the fruit spur with the branch which supports it. Dry weather is also conducive to the formation of flower buds since during such periods evaporation through the leaves is rapid and the sap becomes concentrated and rich in prepared food, but unless the trees are liberally irrigated early in August these flower buds will become abortive and fail to bloom in the spring. When the fruit spurs have been forced to push into growth or sap sprouts start freely from the old wood, growth is abnormal and fruit production is postponed. As active wood and leaf growth ceases the formation of flower buds begin and may continue until cold weather sets in but it is necessary to have the certain quantity of moisture to develop this condition as we have described. By means of irrigation fruit spurs have been forced to fruit annually instead of biennially. During very favorable seasons for the formation of flowers all the one-year, two-year and three-year-old buds, many older buds and some buds formed during the year may come through with a fruit crop—Denver Field and Farm.

LITTLE DROPS OF WATER MINGLED WITH THE SAND

Chicago, April 15.—When John De Witt, poet-laureate of the Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest, wrote: "Little drops of water, mingled with the sand, make a mighty difference in the price of land," or words to that effect, he gave conclusive testimony that he had some experience in the cost of orchard lands before and after irrigation. Land is worth what it will produce, and experts declare that land will never be cheaper than it is today.

The national irrigation act is regarded by most observers of conditions in the arid and semi-arid states as the most beneficial statute yet placed upon the federal books. Farmers and orchardists in the western country hail it as the second emancipation proclamation, as it has freed thousands from drudgery in the thronged cities and made them independent, prosperous and happy in comfortable homes on fertile lands in the open country.

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