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SAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"Some men try to win salvation by their own righteousness. Paul tells us that our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God."

That is one of the precious bits of information imparted to the recent assembly of teachers, by one of the Utah Presbytery. The chief purpose of the instructions given on that occasion was, as announced, to equip the teachers for their mission to "fight Mormonism." The published report says, further:

"Mr. Thompson went on to argue that man's righteousness had nothing to do with his salvation, but it rested altogether on the grace of God. The child who is born again is as much saved at that moment, as he would be were he to live in the service of God for a hundred years."

That sort of "gospel" was pitted against the "Mormon" doctrine, of the necessity of good works as well as of faith, in order to obtain that salvation which the Gospel of Jesus Christ offers to those who obey it. Let us examine those assertions a little.

When and where did Paul, or any other Apostle, make that remark about OUR righteousness? The New Testament fails to furnish the answer, because no Apostle uttered such nonsense. Isaiah used that expression, in reference to the wickedness of the corrupt nation whom he was sent to warn. Here is what he said when addressing the Lord on the condition of his people:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.

"And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee; for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us because of our iniquities."—Isa. xiv: 6, 7.

Is there anything in that which can be fairly construed, to signify that "the righteousness of the Saints" is "like filthy rags in the sight of God?" Was not the prophet deploring the sinfulness of Israel? Was he not pleading with the Father to spare them in spite of their vile condition? He continued:

"Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever, behold, see one blesseth thee, we are all thy people."—verse 9.

What is the thought of a teacher of teachers who thus perverts holy writ for the purpose of showing them how to "fight" another religion? Of course, if his own awful creed were true, that the fate of all mankind was "unchangeably destined and determined," ages before they were born, and a certain fixed number of them were elected to be saved, and all the rest were "foreordained to everlasting death," "without any foresight of faith and good works," then personal righteousness would have no effect upon either the salvation or condemnation of any one. And the little matter of perverting scripture in order to assail a religious doctrine, would not signify, because if one is chosen to be saved he will be, no matter what he does, and if he is foreordained to be lost, he will be damned, whatever he does or does not.

But is it true that man's righteousness has nothing to do with his salvation? It is not true if the scriptures are true, which the Presbyterian creed declares "contain all things necessary to salvation," and "scripture is to be interpreted only by scripture." In that incomparable sermon on the mount, the Son of God declared to his hearers:

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."—Matt. v. 20.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."—vii, 21.

Did not Christ answer the question as to what a man should do to gain eternal life: "If thou wouldst enter into life keep the commandments?" What did John, the beloved Apostle, mean by saying:

"Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.—I Jno. iii, 7.

How dared the Apostle John contradict the Rev. Mr. Thompson in that emphatic manner? And what did the Apostle Paul mean by his strong language to the Romans, in direct opposition to the Presbyterian theory? He said:

"Who will render unto every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, and honor and immortality; eternal life."

"But unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness: indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil; to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

"But glory, honor and peace to every man that worketh good: to the Jew first and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God."—Rom. ii, 6—11.

But it will be asked, perhaps, did not Paul affirm that it is by faith we are saved? Did he not say "By grace are ye saved, through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast?" Certainly. But the Apostle, in all his dissertations on the doctrine of salvation by faith, sought to impress his readers with the truth that "without faith it is impossible to please God," and that it was the "works of the law;" that is, the Mosaic law, that he declared to be without saving force, and by which "no flesh should be justified." But he taught the "righteousness which is of faith" (Rom. ix, 30) and the necessity of obeying as well as believing the Gospel.

That is the key to Paul's doctrine of salvation by faith. If not a teacher of the works of salvation, he would be directly contradicted by the Apostle James, who might have been addressing one like our Presbyterian mentor:

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

"Ye see how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only."

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

The Apostle Peter said there were some things in Paul's epistles "hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable, wrest as they do also the other scriptures to their own destruction." There could be no greater wresting of the scriptures than that which makes personal righteousness of no saving force or effect. It leads to corruption and wickedness, and denies the teachings of the Son of God Himself.

The Latter-day Saints hold to the doctrine of salvation by faith and works of righteousness. They believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ means not only faith in His atonement, but a living faith that produces obedience to His commandments, and that this obedience is essential to salvation. Also that he who works righteousness the most perfectly, will receive the greater exaltation. Every one will be rewarded or punished according to his works. A person is not "saved," in the proper sense of the term, until he enters into the glory of the Father and is made one with Him and with Christ. John the Beloved says:

"And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

"He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him."—I Jno. i, 2-4.

The Apostle Paul disagrees with our Presbyterian critics in regard to assured salvation "as much to the child who is born again as he would be if he lived in the service of God for a hundred years." For Paul declared:

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means when I have preached to others myself should be a cast away."—I Cor. ix, 27.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."—x, 12.

Peter also differs with them and thus agrees with Paul:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than in the beginning."—II Peter, 2, 20.

We might quote further but this is enough for the present. It shows that the notion set forth in the Presbyterian creed called, "The Perseverance of the Saints," is as false as the heresy about righteousness. It says:

"They whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."

We proclaim to the world that it is sin that leads away from God into darkness and doom. It is righteousness, good works, rectitude of conduct springing from faith in Jesus Christ as the atoning Redeemer, that lifts man up to God and fits him for the divine presence. That man's salvation depends upon his own acceptance of and obedience to the truth, and that it is the desire of the Eternal Father that "all men should be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth."

Any other pretended "gospel" is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not "glad tidings" to tell human beings that most of them are predestinated to everlasting torment "for the glory of their Maker." It is not "good news" to the eternally lost, and ought not to be to the elect few who, it is acknowledged by their teachers, are no better than those who are condemned to an endless hell. The offer of salvation is to all, and all who will may partake of the waters of life, freely.

LONGEVITY AND FRAUD.

To the great majority of people it is pleasant to contemplate the thought that, as one result of the labor and discoveries of scientists, the death rate is decreasing in a remarkable degree. This is shown in the vital statistics for 1900. It is accounted for by the advances made in medical science and sanitation, and by the preventive and restrictive measures enforced by boards of health, in the cities particularly, while general education, it should be added, has enabled the masses of the people to take better care of themselves, because they know more about their bodies and the conditions of life, than their ancestors did.

The average length of life is said to have increased during the last census decade, from 31.1 years in 1890, to 35.2 in 1900, an increase in so short a time, of a little over four years. It is claimed by experts, that within the decade mentioned, the death rate all over the country has been reduced 25 per cent, and that within the next twenty years it will be reduced another 25 per cent. A reduction of only 12 per cent means, it is stated, an annual saving of 500,000 lives. That means a great addition to the forces by which the country is being built up and maintained, but it also is a pointer to students in our higher schools, warning them not to rush into the medical profession unless sure that that is their calling. For though there will be room in the front ranks of that profession, as in others, the decreasing death rate means less sickness and more competition in a field of labor, where, in many places, the demand is already more than supplied.

In connection with this subject, the adulteration of food should be considered, for it is quite plain that as long as the public is imposed upon by the dangerous counterfeits that appear in the market as necessaries of life, the good effects of the observance of sanitary laws in other respects must be considerably neutralized.

The bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture has recently exposed some of the fraudulent products that are sold as food. It has found vinegar that is but diluted acetic acid colored and sold as cider vinegar. Flavoring extracts and soda water syrups, the bureau finds, are largely adulterated, and cases of death resulting from the use of adulterated lemon extract containing wood spirits are of common occurrence, the report says. Such a toxic article as wood spirit is almost enough to kill when used in cooking. Coffee is sold that is not coffee at all, but a berry made of flour and given a coffee taste by means of drugs. "Pure spices" are often made out of cocoanut shells, flavored to suit. And the bureau finds that price has little to do with purity when it comes to spices—one grocer will put up a lot of adulterated stuff in fine boxes and charge a high price for it, while another will charge a lower price for the real article.

The bureau warns especially against the drugs used for the preservation of fruit and vegetables. A long list of such drugs are given. Some fruit men claim that they have new discoveries—entirely harmless—for preserving fruit; but the bureau says that this is all nonsense; that they are all drugs and chemicals not fit to be taken into the human system. Canned vegetables, too, are sometimes preserved by the use of drugs. The bureau has found a glass jar of them kept fresh and nice looking by putting a little blue vitriol in the jar.

Sugar and flour are about the only articles of food in which the bureau has found no adulterations. In everything else there appears to be worthless imitations sold at a high price, and even dangerous ingredients.

The health authorities should turn their attention to this fact. It will be of little use to live regular lives, and attend to the surroundings of homes, to sprinkle streets, boil the water and cleanse the slums, as long as disease and death are sold, under deceptive covers in the open market.

WAR RUMORS IN EUROPE.

Some observers of the signs on the European political horizon are not quite confident that a storm is not brewing. They point out that the powers are hesitating in signing the Chinese agreement, as if purposely deferring the final arrangement; that perhaps the sudden rupture in diplomatic relations between France and Turkey covers more important movements; and that rumors are abroad to the effect that Russia intends intervening in behalf of the Boers, and that the Czar is about to seek the co-operation of France and Germany for that purpose.

All this may not portend immediate trouble, but for years it has been felt by leading statesmen that Russia and Great Britain eventually have a battle to fight the outcome of which will be the radical change of the map of the world. Diplomatic arrangements may postpone this struggle, but it is believed it must come sooner or later.

France would perhaps not have any objection to trying its submarine boats against a first class naval power, and if Russia believes it could gain anything by interference at this time in behalf of the Boers and decides to do so, the two powers would undoubtedly stand together, provided the neutrality of Germany could be assured. Sometimes great storms develope from small clouds. The European situation at the present is therefore watched with some anxiety. The Franco-Turkish dispute is such a small cloud. By itself it is not regarded as serious, but the question is what other events it may call forth, if it is not settled speedily.

Kansas' light corn crop sits heavy upon the Kansan's breast.

The last rose of summer has just four more days in which to bloom.

"Money makes the mare go," but it never made Maud S. or Alix go like Cresceus.

When M. Constans departed from Constantinople he did not take French leave.

Prince Chun's illness may be only pretense but there is no doubt that he is very sick of his job.

Taking photographs of non-union men by pickets is a "purty" slick way of blacklisting.

M. Santos Dumont has taken no long voyages in his dirigible balloon but he has made flying trips.

A novel dealing with facts and human life and not theories and the strenuous life would be a most novel thing.

The friendship of King Edward and Kaiser William is strong and growing, but it has not reached the David and Jonathan stage yet.

The University campus has been turned into a botanical garden in which sunflowers, of strong and magnificent growth, predominate.

The Venezuelan-Colombian drama still holds forth on the world's stage. There have not been enough acts yet to determine whether the piece will end as a tragedy, melodrama or comedy.

An Ohio man, John Miller, aged ninety, is suing for a divorce. He and his wife were married in 1851. After years of life together they have found that marriage is a failure.

The Boer leaders have informed General Kitchener that they will continue to fight. This is one of the most insolent slaps ever given the British lion for the British military authorities have been declaring for months that the war was over.

Governor Yates of Illinois is to be asked to keep strike breakers out of the state. They rely on the precedent established by the late Governor Tanner, who kept negroes out. What Governor Yates will do remains to be seen, but strike breakers have as much right to seek work in Illinois as in any other state; in fact their rights are coextensive with those of strikers or anyone else.

Amalgamated officials seem very sensitive about settling the strike out of court. They seem to be as great ticklers for "regularity" as physicians. A cure is what people want and they are not at all particular as to the methods used. If the strike can be settled the people will not care as to the how.

The Sampson-Schley controversy has been a most unforunate thing for the principals to it and for the country at large. But it has been added to and if the latest charges shall prove true a gigantic scandal, affecting the government itself, will have developed. A Washington special to a Boston paper says that vague hints were dropped in the navy department the other day that serious charges will be made in behalf of Rear Admiral Schley; that some one in the department has mutilated the records; that letters have disappeared, and that pages out of letter-press copybooks have also disappeared. It is to be hoped that these hints are absolutely without foundation for nothing could so touch the honor of the navy department as to have its records mutilated. If there has been mutilation it has been by some knavish underling who thought to further the cause he had espoused. One thing is certain—that neither Sampson nor Schley would for a moment countenance such nefarious work. They are gentlemen in every sense of the word and would condemn any departure from gentlemanly ways.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

John Mitchell in the Independent.

It goes without saying that every strike and every lockout affects seriously others than those directly engaged in the strike or lockout. Great public interests are involved, and it is certainly a matter of no small concern to the public that some method be adopted through which strikes and lockouts may be entirely avoided, or at least reduced to the minimum. Experience has demonstrated that the most practical plan which the ingenuity of man has been able, up to this time, to devise is for employers to recognize the union; meet its representatives in conference; enter into trade agreements which shall obtain during the life of such agreements. The constitution and laws of nearly every labor organization make it an offense punishable by expulsion for any member to violate a trade agreement or even by subterfuge to evade any of its provisions.

New York Press.

The humiliating defeat of the labor leaders is the inspiring victory of the laboring men. The last order for an arbitrary, groundless, strategic, or sympathetic strike has, we believe, gone forth in this country. The Amalgamated association in the East may go the way of the railway union and the Knights of Labor, to the emancipation of a great region from truculent tyranny. But the unionism of the Chicago lodges which does "not wish to bring the association into disrepute with our employers or the general public by breaking a contract at this time," will gain a sanction from Americans generally which no unionism has had before.

Chicago Evening Post.

There is a clause in the constitution of the Amalgamated association for "mutual protection against broken contracts." If contracts are binding upon the employers they are equally binding upon the employes. Mr. Shaffer holds that the duty to the union as represented by its executive officers is paramount, but this singular and preposterous view would render contracts with a union worse than useless. All honor to the South Chicago men for their unequivocal rejection of it.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In Modern Culture for September there are several notable contributions, among which is "The Historical Basis of Anglo-Saxon Supremacy," by Frederick Austin Ogg. "The Homeseeker's last Haven" is the title of an illustrated article describing the opening of the last reservation in the Indian Territory to settlement. It is written by Mrs. Florence B. Crofford. Signor Fabiani contributes a second instalment of "Musical Reminiscences." The personality of Commodore Perry is discussed by Waldon Fawcett. The editor in his Current Events touches on "The Trusts and a Leisure Class," "Fiscal and Foreign Policies," "Sampson and Schley," and kindred topics. "The Dismantling of the Forests" is Orlando J. Stevenson's theme in his "Rambles Out of Doors."—Caxton Building, Cleveland, O.

The September number of McClure's Magazine is a brilliant number. It contains a description of the newly discovered animal Okopi, by Sir Harry H. Johnston; "How I Hope to Reach the North Pole," by Evelyn Briggs Baldwin; "Is the Airship Coming?" by Prof. Simon Newcomb; and "Rise of the American City," a story of the last census. Then there are a liberal amount of fiction and contributions on various topics.—McClure, Philip & Co., New York.

One of the happier tendencies in the life of today is the increasing intimacy of people with woods and animals, and fields and flowers. The opening article of Leslie's Monthly for September is upon the art of photographing birds, written and illustrated by Mr. A. H. Verrill. Booker T. Washington contributes a paper on "How Work is Done at Tuskegee." An interesting article is the narrative of Aguinaldo's capture, written by Lieut. Burton Mitchell, a cousin of Gen. Funston's, and a member of his staff. The fiction of the number includes a story of the wilder West, "The Bad Man," by E. Hough, "To Her!" a story of sentiment; "Hot Winds," a pathetic story, and the amusing tale of a successful defeat entitled "The Flight of the Victor," by Henry L. Mencken.—New York.

The September number of World's Work contains an interesting story of how the famous Goktelk viaduct was built near Mandalay, of American-made material, according to an American estimate, by an American company, told by J. C. Turk, who was the engineer in charge of the construction. The article is illustrated. Two articles, one about the Arnold Arboretum, by Sylvester Baxter, and the other concerning Luther Burbank and his experiments, by Liberty H. Bailey, will appeal to lovers of outdoor work. William H. Hunt writes of the condition of civil government in Porto Rico. There are articles on "Financing Trusts," by E. J. Edwards; on "Saving Boys from Crime," by Lillie Hamilton French; on the new page-printing telegraph, by Maximilian Foster, and about the Porto Rican Seal, by Francis E. Leupp.—Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

Mr. William Allen White has written for the Saturday Evening Post, a vivid description of the opening of the Indian lands and the city that sprang up in one night. Lord Balfour, it is announced, will contribute to an early number of the Post, a paper of official significance of Carnegie's Gift to Scotland. Lord Balfour is one of the trustees of the millions Mr. Carnegie has given to the Scotch universities.—Philadelphia.

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D. R. ALLEN, Secretary.

GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS.

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