

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

"WHICH IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?"

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Romans i, 16).

Portland, Me., Sept. 11.—The International Bible Students Convention is in session here with an excellent attendance and deep interest manifested.

Three weeks ago today Christendom was startled by a communication which announced that the Christian Alliance had lifted a collection of \$60,000 in a few minutes—\$300 in cash, the balance in promises.

Secular editors were astonished! They had been congratulating Christian people that the days of the rack, the thumb screw and the stake were past and that from every quarter were coming appeals for Christian Union which, it was hoped, might even ultimately include all denominations of Catholics and Protestants.

Everybody knows that the word Gospel signifies "good tidings." And everybody ought to know that, as Christian people, we have for centuries misused the word, applying it to the bad tidings of great misery to all people, except the mere handful of the elect.

There are two reasons why Brother Simpson thought it doubtful if he could come next year following our three days of this year.

(1) He knew instinctively that his collections would be smaller, hardly worth coming for, if the people should begin to get the eyes of their understanding more widely opened respecting what really constitutes the Gospel of Christ.

(2) The \$60,000 "raised" was not cash and a large proportion of it never will be. Some of it is promised over and over again and telegraphed over and over, as was the case with the young woman who in the spectacular manner offered her jewels from time to time and had it mentioned in the papers.

Chicago Stockyard Method. This same method is illustrated in the Chicago Stock Yards. A fine, large, trained bull gallops out to meet the cattle destined for slaughter. He waits before them and becomes their leader. Following him in a grand rush for a narrow passage they crowd one another to the executioner, who knocks them senseless. A special place just large enough for himself is provided for the decoy bull, who, later, goes out to lead on another herd for the slaughter.

We do not mean to say that those who give their money are slaughtered or otherwise injured. We believe that they are blessed that everyone is blessed who sacrifices anything honorably unto the Lord, or to what they suppose to be his service, whether it is or not. It is the method of getting the money from the people and the deception practised which we deplore.

"The Darkness Hateth the Light." Some one may inquire why the Christian Alliance should fear us and whether or not we have ever done them harm. We reply, Never have we injured them in the slightest degree, nor ever even publicly mentioned their

same before. Their opposition to us is on the lines of general principles mentioned by the Great Teacher, "The darkness hateth the light." "All things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light" (Ephesians v, 13). Our work is to proclaim the true Gospel—to incite Christian people to Bible study in the light of the Bible's own testimony and without sectarian specialties, which, in the past, have so distorted the Word of God and set it forth in false colors.

As Christian people come to see the grossness of the errors by which they have been blinded, the light not only has a blessed and transforming effect upon their minds, but it influences their pocketbooks also. They no longer appreciate the "business" methods of the Alliance nor the brand of Gospel which it sets forth. The more God's people come to a correct understanding of the teachings of his Word, the smaller will be the collections of the Christian Alliance. That is the real secret of their opposition. I would that it were true that they would never take up another collection at Old Orchard! The heathen have already had too much of their Gospel of damnation. God's name has already been slandered and blasphemed enough by the false Gospel message—that nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand of humanity ever born are to suffer eternal torment because of father Adam's sin and the ignorance, stupidity and meanness which have resulted.

Let the Truth Prevail. If the intelligent men connected with the Alliance really believe the horrible nightmare of the Dark Ages which they are proclaiming as the Gospel of Christ, then, of course, they are excusable for preaching it. It is not for others to judge of their honesty in this matter, but it is for others to decide that they will no longer assist or cooperate in the spread of such horrible travesties upon the Divine character—no longer assist financially or otherwise in binding upon the poor heathen at home and abroad increased ignorance and superstition.

Everybody knows that the word Gospel signifies "good tidings." And everybody ought to know that, as Christian people, we have for centuries misused the word, applying it to the bad tidings of great misery to all people, except the mere handful of the elect. We did this because it was handed down to us by our forefathers. What Jesus said to the Jews has been true of us as Christians, "Ye do make void the Law of God through your traditions." Thank God that, as in the natural world he is sending us now the electric light instead of the tallow candle, so through Bible study helps, concordances, etc., his Word (the Lamp to his people's footsteps until the day dawn), is now shining brighter than ever before.

Which is the True Gospel? Catholic and Protestant orthodoxy have set forth for centuries two general views of the Gospel of Christ. To whatever extent they now disagree with these they should publicly disown and abandon them. Until then they are besmirched with whatever odium attaches.

The Catholic Gospel (Good Tidings) is that all the heathen, all Catholics and all Protestants, except a mere handful, go to a Purgatory of awful suffering, terrible anguish, lasting for decades, centuries and thousands of years, roasting, boiling, agonizing, and thus purging away their sins and dross that they may ultimately attain to heavenly bliss for the remainder of eternity. If that is good tidings it can be considered such only in contrast with something more horrible, if that be imaginable.

Our Protestant Gospel, of which we are so proud that we want to thrust it upon Jews and Catholics and heathens everywhere, we should thoroughly understand, enjoy and appreciate before we waste good time and money giving it to others. Here it is: Four centuries ago our forefathers were not Protestants but Catholics and believed in Purgatory, etc., as above. Then what was known as the Reformation Movement set in. Catholics, Jews and infidels will admit with Protestants that a great blessing of enlightenment and civilization has come to the world in the train of the Reformation Movement. But none of us is prepared to admit that the Reformers were perfect, nor their work perfect.

The Reformers criticized the Catholic teachings which they had formerly believed. They examined their Bibles and found nothing there to the effect that Mary was the mother of God, nor that we should pray to saints, nor that we should use pictures or images in our worship, nor that their sacrifice of Christ in the mass was proper, nor that there was a Purgatory anywhere. The Reformers threw out these things as unscriptural. They completely demolished Purgatory in their minds, declaring that it had never been anything more than imagination. Then came another thought, viz: What must we do with the thousands

of millions of mankind that we and our fathers for centuries supposed were in Purgatory roasting, stewing, tortured, but hoping for heaven. They looked at one another in consternation. They had hearts and sympathies and felt that as it had devolved upon them to smash Purgatory, it must also devolve upon them to re-locate all those thousands of millions whom they had on their hands. They felt the weight of the responsibility. Could they demand of God that they should be put into heaven? Surely not! Surely not! The saintly few are fit for heaven! They, as well as all, recognized that fact. Then, with blank consternation, they determined that they must crowd the entire mass into a hell of eternal torture and shut the gates upon them forever and write upon the gates, "Who enters here abandons hope."

Brother Calvin to the Rescue. Taking from practically all humanity all future hope made the Reformers for the time heartless. It would be awful to do that for one person, but to thus "do" all humanity seemed terrible. And then to be obliged to label that gospel "Good Tidings" must certainly have been a trying experience for the Reformers.

But Brother John Calvin helped them amazingly and took from them their burden. He told them that they should not worry, because it was all God's fault and not theirs. God had predestinated them to that awful future long before he created man. Now they should merely try to think of themselves as the "elect" and try to forget everybody else. Of course, it seemed horrible to charge all these things against the God of all Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power. But it was the only solution which occurred to them. John Calvin's theories were afterwards embodied in the "Westminster Confession of Faith." And that confession of faith became the foundation of nearly all Protestant creeds. Brother John Wesley afterwards objected, but admitted that only the saintly went to heaven and everybody else went to eternal torment. His protest was that, instead of this being by Divine foreordination and intention, it was, on the contrary, because of Divine unwisdom and incompleteness.

"Good Tidings of Great Joy." Surely no sane person can any longer defend any of the above "Gospels" as the true one, of which St. Paul was not ashamed! Surely St. Paul never preached any of those Gospels, nor did any of the Apostles—nor does the Bible support such theories, except by the turning and twisting of language, mis-translations of the original and mis-interpretations of some parables. The plain statements of the Scriptures are all directly to the opposite. The Bible teaches that "the wages of sin is death," not Purgatory nor eternal torment. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Adam, the perfect, was placed on trial for life eternal or death eternal. He sinned and the sentence against him was, "Cursed is the earth for thy sake; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return unto the ground from whence thou wast taken" (Genesis iii, 17-19). St. Paul declares the same: "By one man's disobedience sin entered into the world; and thus death passed upon all men, because all are sinners" (Romans v, 12).

Looking about us we find this true. Everybody who is not dead is dying. As the Bible says, we are living under a reign of Sin and Death. Nothing that man can do can either eradicate sin or lift us out of our dead and dying condition. God alone can help us! He proposes to help us and the message respecting that help is, in the Scriptures, called the Gospel. Its announcement by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth is full, complete, satisfactory, viz: "Behold, we bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior (life-giver) which is Christ the Lord" (Luke ii, 10).

Ah, now we have the Truth! The penalty of sin is death. And the "good tidings" is that God has provided for our recovery from sin and death. The Savior gave his life for the cancellation of our sin, for the satisfaction of Justice, that in due time Adam and all his condemned and imperfect race might be released from the condemnation and be lifted out of the sin and death conditions which now prevail. That uplifting is Scripturally called the resurrection of the dead. Hence the preaching of the early Church was, "Jesus and the Resurrection"—the Redeemer and his work.

Still More Good Tidings. The good tidings for the race in general is that the Redeemer in God's due time will become King of kings and Lord of lords—the Messiah of glory, God's glorious Representative. For a thousand years the regenerating work for Adam's race will progress (Matthew xix, 28; Acts ii, 19-22). God's Chosen People, Israel, will be the earthly agents of the heavenly and invisible King of glory. By the close of his reign the whole earth will have been transformed into the Paradise of God. "He will make the place of his feet glorious." And mankind will all be perfect again, in God's image. There will be no more sin, no more sickness, no more dying, because all the things of sin and death will have passed away and he who sits upon the Throne will have renewed all things (Revelation xxi, 5). All who, after coming to a full knowledge of the Truth of God's love and gracious provision, still love sin and hate righteousness, will be destroyed in the Second Death, from which there will be no redemption, no resurrection, no recovery; as St. Peter says, "They shall perish like brute beasts."

CHILDREN'S DAY

At The County Fair To Be Wednesday

Children, remember that Wednesday, Sept. 14, is your day at the Fair. There will be lots of nice horses, sheep, swine, cattle and ponies galore. The merchants' display will be grand, and then the buzz of the machinery department, the display made by the various grange societies will be great. And chickens of all kinds, great big pumpkins, onions and all sorts of vegetables, and one man has engaged 300 square feet to display flowers which will be fine. And then the women's and children's department will be overflowing, and the educational exhibit given by the O. S. U. college of agriculture will be very interesting to all. Then we have the merry-go-round, ocean-wave, moving pictures, cracker jack, pop corn, peanuts, ice cream and many, many other things of interest, and last, but not least, a fine play ground for you. Come children, that is all there is to it. We want you as our guests. Now after looking over the many things of interest, we believe you ought to bring papa and mamma with you. We expect to see at least five thousand children all in a bunch at the Fair, Wednesday, Sept. 14.

NOTES

Of Interest From The Gas Fields

(Utica Herald)

The Grief well of the Ohio Fuel Supply company, north of Martinsburg, came in dry last week.

The Logan company started a well last week on the Wm. Howe farm south of Granville.

The Columbus Natural Gas Co. is laying a line from its wells near Highwater to the main line near Fredonia.

The Charles Deeds well of the Columbus Natural Gas, southwest of Granville, was dry so far as gas is concerned, but had a trace of oil.

The Ohio Fuel has made a location on M. L. Brown between New Way and Appleton, and has started the tools on Wm. Helser, northeast of Alexandria.

CONFERENCE

Of M. E. Church To Convene At Bucyrus

The North Ohio conference of the Methodist church which includes Mt. Vernon will convene at Bucyrus next Wednesday. Bishop Thomas B. Neely of New Orleans, will preside. The business sessions of the conference will be held each morning. The appointments of the pastors for the coming year will likely be made on the morning of Monday, Sept. 19. In the afternoon and evening speakers representing the various departments of church work will speak. Wednesday evening is the Sunday school and Epworth league meeting. The Woman's Home Missionary society is on Thursday and the Women's Foreign society on Saturday. On Friday the conference will meet with the central Ohio conference at the old mission at Upper Sandusky. This was the first mission of the Methodist church. First church, Mansfield, will invite the conference for its session of 1911.

COURT HOUSE NOTES

First and Final—Clifton M. Rice, administrator of Willis Robinson, has filed a first and final account in probate, showing the following: Received \$505.50, paid out the same amount.

Account Filed—F. V. Owen, assignee of Albert and Orin Bowman, has filed a first and final account in probate, showing the following: Received \$5,436.53, paid out \$5,495.09, due assignee \$58.56.

Third Partial—H. E. Ewers, guardian of Clifton N. Ewers, has filed a third partial account in probate, showing the following: Received \$395.88, paid out \$24.30, balance \$271.58.

Marriage License—William Mawer, flour packer, and Elizabeth Griffin, both of Mt. Vernon. The Rev. John T. Black.

BEAM

Objects To New Valuation On Telephone Company

Frank L. Beam, president of the Ohio Independent Telephone Association, with a committee of leading independent telephone men, appointed by the executive committee of the association, was in Columbus yesterday to appear before the state tax commission in regard to the valuation of the telephone plants of the state.

In speaking of the new valuations placed on the telephone companies, Mr. Beam said that they were to apply under the limited tax rate and if all other public utilities were advanced in the same proportion, there would be no objection, but the association objected to increasing the valuations and paying under the present high tax rate. In speaking of the failure of a number of the smaller telephone companies to be represented at the hearing before the commission Wednesday, Mr. Beam said that they had left their interests in the charge of the association, and for that reason did not deem it necessary to come to Columbus, but that their nonappearance should not be taken as evidence that they were satisfied with the valuations for the present year.—Columbus Journal.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Uley of Hoopston, Ill., are visiting their parents and relatives south of town on the Martinsburg road. Mr. Uley has purchased a cattle ranch adjoining the town of Eagle Lake, Tex., where they expect to make their future home and will be accompanied by his son, H. H. Uley and family.

Mr. John Gotshall, who was operated on at the Mt. Vernon hospital and sanitarium for appendicitis several weeks ago was removed to his home on South Catherine street Friday morning.

Messrs. James Greer, Darwin Lowrey and John Wright of Buckeye City went to Cleveland Friday morning to witness the baseball game between Cleveland and Detroit.

Mrs. F. O. Padgett and daughter, Ruth, returned to their home in Delaware Friday morning after a several days' visit with relatives in Buckeye City.

Mrs. Blanche Hess and son, Frederick, of Holmesville, Ohio, are spending several days with relatives in Buckeye City.

Mr. Amos Row and son, William, and Messrs. Earl and Lee Squires of Brandon spent Thursday in Columbus attending the state fair.

Mrs. Sadie Coppert of Butler underwent an operation at the Mt. Vernon hospital on Friday afternoon.

Miss Mary Ballo of Bloomfield is confined to her home by a severe attack of illness.

Mrs. Ida McClelland of Butler arrived in Mt. Vernon Saturday noon to spend Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Daniels of East Gambier street.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Koehl and family of Ridgewood avenue, left Saturday morning for Dayton, where they will spend several days with relatives.

Mrs. O. W. Youngblood was taken from the Mt. Vernon hospital to her home on Madison street Friday afternoon in McCornick's ambulance after undergoing an operation.

Mr. B. F. Cornell has returned to his home in Mt. Vernon after a several days' visit with relatives and friends in Peoria, Ill.

Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Baker have returned to their home on East High street after an extended visit with relatives in Zanesville and Corning.

Mr. Thomas E. Tauger, accompanied by his nephew, Mr. Raymond Tauger, are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Carey of Bryden Road, Columbus.

The Harvester, Great Five-year-old, And Veteran Who Drives Him



Photo by American Press Association.

The Harvester, driven by Ed Geers and owned by August Uhlken of Millwaakee, recently trotted a mile in 2:02, and racing enthusiasts are wondering if he will go under the two minute mark before the season is over. No one but Geers has ever driven him in private or public, and he has never lost but one race.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children, The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Hutchins In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA

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