

NEED OF GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

Light Should Not Be Hidden, but Always Exposed.

Reward Will Be a Position in the Mediatorial Kingdom to Be Set Up in the World Shortly.



PASTOR RUSSELL

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 18.—Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle was here today. He addressed large audiences in the Opera House. He had excellent attention. We report one of his discourses from the following text: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward."—Hebrews x, 23.

Our English word confidence is a synonym for faith. It is a very pretty thought that we should not cast away our faith, but hold firmly to it and gain a reward. This thought is expressed elsewhere in the Scriptures, but it is not the thought of our text. Here the word confidence more properly signifies assurance or out-spokenness, courageous presentation of a message not always kindly received. The Apostle is urging the followers of Christ to be of good courage, or, in the language of the Savior, that they should not put their "light under a bushel, but on a candlestick," where it would shine out for the blessing of men.

There is a practical side to the Gospel. Everything enjoined upon the followers of Christ and all their trying experiences in life are wisely intended to work out for them character-development of good, firm, fine texture. It is a mistake to think, as some of us have thought in the past, that it is the will of God that we should merely hear of Christ and give a nominal assent to the message of his death as our Redeemer and turn from outward forms of sin—and then, contented with our progress, help others to the same low standards.

The Father Does the Drawing. Quite to the contrary, the teachings of Jesus and his Apostles ignore the world as a whole and merely seek for a special class with hearing ears and appreciative hearts. The Gospel message set forth in the Bible knows nothing of the ordinary mission work of rescuing drunkards and harlots and the profane. While not refusing publicans and harlots it did not go about seeking them. It waited for them to seek for righteousness and, as the Master said, "No man can come unto me except the Father which sent me draw him"; and whosoever cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out (John vi, 37, 44, 65). As a matter of fact, those who came to the Master and those who have been interested in his message ever since, have not, in any large proportion, been the rich, the great, the learned, the noble, according to the course of this world, but chiefly the poor, rich in faith toward our God.

Take as an illustration St. Paul's course when he went to Athens. We do not find that he started a mission Sunday School and offered the children the prospect of a picnic or a Sunday School treat, in order to gather them for a half hour's talk about nothing. "To keep them off the streets." Neither did he seek out the drunkards in the slums and establish a sin mission. On the contrary he sought the ear of the intelligent classes, the thinking classes, irrespective of their wealth or station. Why? Because he had a message—a message which children could not understand; a message which drunkards were incapacitated from understanding; a message which should appeal, if at all, to the best people of Athens, whether rich or poor.

Have we not had, to a considerable extent, the wrong idea? Are we wiser than the Lord and the Apostles and able to give them pointers as to methods instead of following their example, as we were instructed to do? They proclaimed the Second Coming of Messiah and the establishment of his Kingdom. They preached that the very object of his Reign of Righteousness for a thousand years will be the putting down of sin in its every form and the lifting up of poor, fallen humanity. They taught that there was danger of attempting to make a proselyte and really doing more harm than good thereby. They taught that the special work to which God's people are now commissioned as ministers or servants of Christ is the proclaiming of the Gospel—"the Good Tidings of the Kingdom"—not the proclaiming of eternal torment nor the attempt to drive the world of mankind from sin through fear. They taught that the work of this present Age is the selection from amongst mankind of the Bride of Christ, to be Messiah's associates in his Kingdom, for the blessing of all the world. It is this message of the goodness of God that our text declares should be proclaimed with courage, with boldness, with outspokenness.

A Great Fight of Afflictions. St. Paul is criticizing some who had for quite a time been Christians and who had been granted large opportunities for growth in grace and knowledge. He says to them, "For the time ye ought to be teachers, but ye need that one teach you again which be the great principles of the doctrine of Christ." They had lost the first prin-

iples. They had gotten entangled with vain philosophies and their spirituality was at a low ebb. Conditions are very similar today. After eighteen centuries of Divine instruction and with the wonderful Bibles now at our command and with helps for Bible study, what manner of Christians ought we to be—in faith, in love, in obedience, in courage? St. Paul points out the necessity for the Lord's people to assemble themselves together for fellowship and for the study of his Word and to provoke one another to love and good works. The necessity for this, he suggests, is that sin on the part of those who have received a knowledge of the Truth and been made partakers of the Holy Spirit is a much more serious matter than the same conduct would have been before they came into the precious relationship of spirit-begotten children of God. He says, "For if we sin after that we have received a knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of condemnation and fiery indignation which shall devour us as God's adversaries" (verses 23, 27).

Have we grasped the import of the thought? It signifies that those of us who have accepted the Divine terms and entered the family of God will have no future opportunity in another life. We must either make our "calling and election sure" under the terms of the call, as accepted, or be rejected as unworthy of life everlasting—as fit for the Second Death—annihilation. He who despised Moses' Law died without mercy. But he who, having come to a clear knowledge of the Truth, shall be found a willing sinner, will not only be cut off from a further opportunity in the present Age, but be everlastingly cut off from life, destroyed. "God is able to destroy both soul and body"—the present life and our future hope. These thoughts should make very earnest, very diligent, all who have accepted Christ and been accepted by him.

Nevertheless Be Not Discouraged. These things were written, not only for the Hebrew Christians of St. Paul's day, but intended by the Holy Spirit for all the household of faith. We should not rock ourselves to sleep, nor give to each other opiates. While the world is not yet on trial for eternal life, the Church is now being tested—for life or death eternal. The thought should sober us. As the Apostle suggests, "Be diligent, he sober," be faithful, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

But St. Paul or, rather, the Holy Spirit through him, took cognizance of the fact that the Lord's people are in a world that is "no friend to grace to help them on to God." The Apostle recognized that we might become discouraged with our own faults and weaknesses. Hence, after earnestly exhorting to faithfulness and energy and after pointing out the dangers of slothfulness and of being over-charged with the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches and thus losing the spirit of Christ, he turns from this threatening attitude and uses encouraging words.

He says, "Call to mind the former days in which, following your illumination of the Holy Spirit, you endured a great fight of afflictions." St. Paul's intimation is that at that time, while suffering persecutions, the brethren were really in a better, more alive, spiritual condition than later. The prosperity, privileges, freedom from persecution enjoyed, had made them slothful and less courageous. He would have them and us call to mind the victories won in the past, that we might have courage for the present and the future. How gracious, how helpful, are all the provisions of our God for those who now hear his call and seek to walk in Jesus' steps! To these he guarantees that every experience of life which his providence shall permit shall work for good, for blessing, for valuable experience and education along lines of righteousness and character-development.

Two Classes of the Faithful. In time of war not all can go forth as soldiers. Some, unfit for such service, may perform a useful part at home supporting, encouraging, sending supplies to those at the front, etc. And so it is in the army of the Lord; Jesus is the Captain of all those who voluntarily enlist as soldiers of the cross to battle against sin, especially in themselves—fighting a "good fight of faith" and overcoming the spirit of the world which surges all about them, threatening to overwhelm them as New Creatures in Christ. St. Paul intimates a strong persecution, openly manifested by the worldly-spirited, Satan-deceived people of God. He says, "Ye endured a great fight of afflictions, partly whilst ye were made a gazing stock both by reproaches and afflictions and partly whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods" (verses 32-34).

St. Paul and others prominent amongst the Lord's followers naturally would receive the brunt of Satan's attacks. It is presumed that the Epistle of which our text is a part was written while St. Paul was a prisoner at Rome. Fellow Jews, so far from being sympathetic for a countryman, reproached him as a traitor, unorthodox, seeking to tear down the work of God and to ignore the Divine promises belonging to Israel and their sacred traditions. By the Romans, too, he was regarded with suspicion, as one giving allegiance to another King, Jesus, and not therefore disposed to use his Roman citizenship specially for the pride and glory of the Empire. St. Paul declares that thus himself and those who espouse the cause of the

Lord are despised and rejected by all. He says that we are counted as the filth and offscouring of the earth—that which nobody cares for or values, but which all would like to get rid of, as the darkness always hates the light and seeks to quench it and reigns completely only when all lights are extinguished. Christians, far and near, either by expressing sympathy for the Apostle or fellowshipping with him, or by defending him from the unjust and malicious slanders circulated against him, thereby exposed themselves to similar reproaches and disesteem, opposition from their neighbors, etc.

History tells us of various terrible persecutions of the Christians by the Roman Emperors. It declares, for instance, that to gratify his depraved mind Nero, the Emperor, caused a certain portion of the city of Rome to be burned by incendiaries and that when he found how angry the people were he blamed the entire matter upon the inoffensive Christians—partly, no doubt, because these had no friends, either at court or amongst the people. They could be blamed with impunity and the Emperor's own vicious criminality would thus be hidden. On this account hundreds of Christians were publicly and brutally put to death.

"Great Recompense of Reward." Poor human nature finds it difficult to stand alone with God and with the few who are on his side—the side of righteousness and truth. When, additionally, there comes persecution it tries their hearts, proves their loyalty. This is exactly what the Lord designs. He is now seeking a special class of overcomers to be joint-heirs with his Son on the spirit plane as the Bride of Messiah. Through these he intends shortly to grant to Israel and, through Israel, to all mankind glorious blessings of instruction and restitution. To be qualified to thus serve in the instruction and uplifting of humanity it is necessary that these called ones should be of strong character—copies of their Master, in the spirit of their minds. To these he says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. iii, 21).

We can best see how some of the more prominent followers of the Lord who suffered martyrdom because of their loyalty to the principles of righteousness and to the name of Jesus would be accounted overcomers and members of the Kingdom class. But sometimes it is difficult for us to discern clearly how the less prominent, less persecuted ones stand with God. St. Paul's argument proves that they stand well—that God counts them in as martyrs, as faithful unto death, if they have the martyr spirit, if they are loyal, courageous for the Truth, even though they never seal their testimony at the stake, even though they never are counted worthy of open, or public opposition or persecution. Here is an encouragement for all and this is exactly what St. Paul would stimulate us to in the words of our text.

We Must Let the Light Shine. He says, "Cast not away, therefore, your outspokenness, which hath great recompense of reward." The Lord has not promised a great reward to us for merely believing, merely trusting, and in a cowardly manner keeping our light hidden, but to us that test its exposure should bring to us persecution or reproach. He seeketh not such. Such will not be counted worthy of a place in the Kingdom which is to bless the world. St. Paul elsewhere declares, "If we deny him, he will also deny us" (II Timothy ii, 12). If we have accepted the Lord as our Counselor, Guide, Captain, Teacher, Exemplar, Bridegroom, he expects of us courage to confess him as such and on all suitable and proper occasions to let our light shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven" (Matthew v, 16). Our good works are to so accord with the Master's teaching that, however we may be represented by others, all who know us infinitely will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus and have learned of him. They should also see that our courage, our boldness, our outspokenness, is not a desire to preach ourselves, not vainglory in ourselves, but that, on the contrary, we preach Christ and the glorious message of his Word, which always has brought opposition and persecution from the Adversary and from all who are under his blinding influence.

Every faithful follower of Jesus must be a confessor—must show his colors. We do not mean by this that he must be belligerent and fight a carnal warfare, either with swords or spears or hands or tongue. On the contrary, like his Master, he must ever be alert to do good. His orders from the Captain are, "Speak evil of no man." What he must speak forth and show forth by his life is the doctrine of Christ—the Truth, the Light, in contrast with the prevailing Error and Darkness.

The reward which the Scriptures hold before our eyes of faith is so great that, to the worldly, it seems foolish to believe in it. It is to consist of a share with our Lord in his glory, honor and immortality; in his Mediatorial Kingdom soon to be established; in his great work as the Mediator of the New Covenant in granting Divine blessings, through the merit of the better sacrifices, to the people of Israel and eventually through them to all mankind. Not all have a knowledge of this great reward; not all, therefore, have the encouragement to faithfulness which this knowledge inspires. Not all even have the ears to hear. It is written, "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him and he will show them his Covenant" Psalm xxv, 14.

THREATENED

To Cut Down Wires Of Mt. Vernon Electric Co.

Did The Cleveland, Akron & Columbus Railway Co.

So An Injunction Suit Is Brought In Common Pleas

The Will Of Mrs. Mary Patterson Filed In Probate

Other Items Of Interest From Temple Of Justice

The Mt. Vernon Electric Company filed an injunction suit in the court of common pleas early Friday morning against the Cleveland, Akron and Columbus Railway company, to restrain the defendant from cutting a string of electric light wires over the tracks of the railroad company in the vicinity of South McKenzie street.

The plaintiff states that a string of electric wires have been constructed from the new plant of the plaintiff on South McKenzie street and that it was necessary to string the same over the tracks of the railroad company. The wires were fully 30 feet over the tracks of the defendant and in no way interfered with the operation of trains. The allegation is made that on Friday the defendant threatened to cut down the wires belonging to the plaintiff and will do so unless restrained by an injunction. The plaintiff therefore prays for a temporary injunction until the matter can be heard in common pleas court. A temporary injunction was allowed Friday morning by Probate Judge Berry. The attorney for the plaintiff is C. E. Critchfield.

The Patterson Will.—The last will and testament of Mary Anna Patterson, late of Mt. Vernon, has been filed in probate. By the terms of the will she directs that all her property and chattels be converted into money and that the same be divided equally among her children, share and share alike. Harry C. Stoylo is named as the guardian of the minor children and Harry C. Stoylo and Lewis B. Houck are named as executors. The will was signed May 10, 1910, in the presence of Lewis B. Houck and O. B. Stillwell.

First Partial.—A partial account has been filed in probate by Charles VanVoorhis, administrator of T. F. VanVoorhis, showing the following: Received \$2,627.76, paid out \$2,244.67, balance \$383.

First and Final.—W. O. Bowers, guardian of Mary E. Rudolph, has filed a first and final account in probate showing the following: Received \$956.72, paid out \$247.57, balance \$709.15.

Inventory and Appraisal.—In the matter of the estate of Ella A. Vance, an inventory and appraisal has been filed, showing the following: Securities \$300, real estate \$6,500; Total \$7,300.

Marriage License.—George A. Williams, glass worker, and Laura A. Dudgeon, both of Mt. Vernon.

Deeds Filed.—L. H. Burgess to Clarence Crider, 16 acres in Milford, \$700. Wm. Rush et al. to Clyde Rush et al., parcel in Morris, \$1. P. J. Parker, sheriff, to Milford grange, No. 1491, parcel in Milford, \$30.

Infant's Death.—The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Underhill died at the home of the parents near North Liberty on Thursday afternoon at about one o'clock, after a short illness. The funeral and interment at North Liberty on Friday afternoon.

The Bladensburg schools will give an entertainment in the town hall Saturday evening, December 24. In which the pupils from each of the four rooms will participate. Everybody is cordially invited to attend for the entertainment is going to be fine. WANTED—At A. J. Flaharty's hardware store, East Front St., Mt. Vernon, Ohio, hides, sheep pelts, tallow and furs, ginseng and golden seal. Write or phone for prices.

COUNTY

Officers Not Elected By The Census Of 1910

Columbus, O., Dec. 16.—Candidates for office who were successful at the last election, so far as those coming under the county officers' salary law are concerned, will be somewhat downcast if the opinions of Attorney-General Deaman holds good. In this opinion to the State Bureau of Public Accounting it is held that salaries of all such officers shall be based upon the population of 1900 instead of 1910.

The county salary law provides that the compensation of the officials is to be regulated by the population in accordance with the census next preceding the election. The inquiring officials were elected on November 8, but the census was not made public until November 23.

It is understood that the members of the State Accounting Bureau have an entirely different view, as have also quite a number of recently elected officials, and the courts may have to pass upon the subject.

PAINFUL Injury Sustained By A Brandon Man

Earl Hayes, residing about two miles south of Brandon, met with a very painful injury while at work near his home on Friday morning. Mr. Hayes was driving a team of horses hitched to a mud boat and was hauling some heavy posts when the rig, on which he was riding, suddenly slipped sideways. In falling to the ground, he twisted his right ankle severely and dislocating the joint. Dr. Yoakam of Homer was called to reduce the dislocation.

SOCIETY NOTES

Surprise Party Given at Bangs On Thursday evening the young people of Bangs and vicinity gave Miss Orpha McManis a surprise in honor of her eighteenth birthday anniversary. The hostess was presented with a handsome toilet set. A pleasant evening was spent by the guests and light refreshments were served. Those present were Herbert P. Robinson, Dale Halsey, Elizabeth Burgess, Fay Bell, Carl Critchfield, Besie Burkholder, Walter Burkholder, Edna Shutt, Orpha McManis, Howard Hyatt, Fred Shutt, Elden Hyatt, James McFarland, Charles Halsey, George R. Ott, Thomas Bell, James Hawkins, Louise Burgess.

Entertained With Dinner Mrs. W. H. Wright entertained at her home in Bangs on Thursday with a twelve o'clock dinner. Those seated at the table were Miss Ethel Wright of Columbus, Clara White of Gambier, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Babbs, Miss Pearl Bell, Miss Rose Critchfield, Mrs. Cassil, Mrs. Weirick, Mrs. Keyes, Mrs. McClelland and Mrs. John Bird of Bangs.

Johnson-Cotton Wedding Invitations have been received in this city for the wedding of Miss Gertrude Cotton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett E. Cotton, to Mr. Emmett E. Johnson, which is to take place at St. Peter's Episcopal church Pittsburg, Pa., Wednesday evening, December 28th. The bride-to-be has visited here frequently and has many friends in Mt. Vernon. Her grandfather, John Cotton, was a resident of Mt. Vernon many years ago.

INJURED Was A B. & O. Brakeman In This City On Friday

J. W. Yeast, a B. & O. brakeman residing at Newark, Ohio, met with an unfortunate accident while at work on his train Friday just after noon. Yeast was assisting in switching cars in the local yards and was twisting a break wheel when the engine suddenly jolted the cars violently. He was thrown to the ground, alighting on his right foot in such a position that the ligaments in the ankle were torn and lacerated. Dr. N. R. Eastman was called in attendance. The injured man was taken to his home in Newark as soon as possible.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Hatcher. In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA. ALCOHOL 3 PER CENT. Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Rectifying the Stomach and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN. Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP. 900 DROPS. 35 DROPS - 75 CENTS. Guaranteed under the Food and Drug Act of 1906. Exact Copy of Wrapper. THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

A History Lesson Your grandfather tended his corn with a hoe. Your father thought the old double shovel was about the best thing ever invented. YOU ride along on a two-row cultivator and tend more corn than any ten men equipped like your father or your grandfather. This is only one instance showing that modern methods mean less work and more money. Again: Your grandfather traded coon skins for sugar. He had little real money. Your father, no doubt, secreted his money somewhere about the house, ran the risk of fire and burglary, and sometimes loaned it and never got it back. In those days security debts were common and caused much trouble. And YOU! Have you adopted modern money methods of banking as you did with cultivating corn? Do you have a bank account, pay by check and enjoy the convenience and profit of modern banking methods? Or are you still using the old hoecultural methods of your forefathers? Something here to think about. We can prove our claims if you will grant us the opportunity. The Gambier Banking Co. GAMBIER, OHIO

FOR THE HOLIDAYS We have made a careful selection of pretty and useful presents. We are of the opinion that if you have in mind any of the things mentioned below it will be to your interest to look at them. Toilet Sets...\$1 TO \$5 Stationery box...25c TO \$2 Manicure Sets...\$1 TO \$3 Fountain Pens...\$1 TO \$2.50 Shaving Sets...\$1 TO \$2.50 Post Card Albums priced at...10c TO \$1.50 Smoking Sets...\$1 TO \$2 Perfume, packages...25c TO \$3 Glove and Handkerchiefs boxes...75c, \$2 Postal Cards...1c TO 50c Hat and Clothes Brushes...35c TO \$1.50 Perfume, packages...25c TO \$3 Military Brushes at...\$1.50 TO \$3.50 Cigars, per box...50c TO \$2 Traveling Sets...\$1.50 TO \$5 Cigar Cases...25c TO \$1 Cigarettes...\$1 TO \$8 ALLEN'S DRUG STORE 219 South Main Street. "Under the Porch"

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed and qualified Executor of the estate of HARROD BIGGS late of Knox County, Ohio, deceased by the Probate Court of said county, December 9, 1910. CHARLES E. BIGGS, Gambier, Ohio. FARMS FOR SALE—50 acres, 3/4 miles from city, price \$3,500. Also a stock and grain farm, containing 250 acres, has four producing gas wells. New 9-room dwelling. Price \$52 per acre. Stream & Rimer. Dr. Elizabeth Critchfield of New York, who with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis, who has been her guest for several weeks, arrived in Mt. Vernon Friday to visit with relatives. BANNER WANT ADS PAY