

THE THEOCRAT

A Weekly Paper advocating the Rule of God in the Individual, in the Home, in the State, in the Nation, and in the World.

WILBUR GLENN VOLIVA, Editor.
THEODORE FORBY, Ass't Editor & Business Mgr.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$1.00 Three Months \$0.35
Six Months 60 Single Copies03

Foreign: Add one cent for postage to each issue.

Make all remittances payable to
WILBUR GLENN VOLIVA, Publisher.

Direct all correspondence concerning THE THEOCRAT to
THEODORE FORBY
Office of Publication, Administration Building,
Zion City, Illinois, U. S. A.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1914

Come and Be Saved.

By Elder C. F. Viking

I DO not ask if you belong to any church; I ask, Are you saved? Are you absolutely sure that you are saved? Are you satisfied in your heart that all is well with you?

If not, I plead with you to attend to that thing immediately. The outcome is in your own hands. God cannot save you by force. If you continue in your old, selfish, sinful, worldly way, and allow day after day to pass by without seriously considering this question, then you are your own worst enemy.

Are you ready to meet the coming Christ today, tonight, tomorrow. Remember the time of this is near. That we live in the last times of this age, immediately before the coming back again of the Christ, is absolutely clear. The signs of the time give solid proof thereof.

God demands of you that you without delay repent and confess and turn away from sin, and give your whole heart to Him Who is able to save.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30.

The Way of Salvation is very plain and clear. There is nothing clearer. Much praying and weeping and waiting does not help matters. You do not need to imagine that you are saved. You need not work up an overflowing feeling of ecstasy in order to be sure of salvation. Salvation does not come that way.

You have been misled in the past. Others have told you: "Believe, believe, only believe and you will be saved." But such teaching is wrong. If you believed yourself black in the face, you could not thereby be saved.

I can hear you say: "But what about the Philippian jailor to whom the apostle Paul said: 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,' was not the message to him, Believe, believe, only believe?"

Yes it was, but the jailor had cried out: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" He had already been convicted of sin. I am fully persuaded that the Holy Spirit of God had showed the jailor his own wicked heart and terrible condition; he was in agony and despair over his sins, and his loud cry from the heart in the dark night was from the heart of a penitent sinner, from a man who wanted freedom from the devil, and pardon for his terrible sins. It was not necessary to tell him to repent. That would have been mockery in his case.

As a sinking man in the sea he cried out louder and louder: Save me, save me, I am sinking, I am sinking into hell, save me: 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

And his cry was answered: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

The life-line of faith through Christ was thrown out to him by Paul, whose heart was full of joy and a desire to rescue him—and the jailor grasped it.

It was absolutely important that the man should have the right message at the right moment. It would have been of no use to have given him that message earlier in the evening. It would have meant nothing to

him then. It would not have helped him. What he needed then was repentance. It would have been wrong to have said to him then: "Only believe," it would have been right to have said to him: Repent. Now in the black night he needed faith.

Your past religious life, maybe, has been made up of experiences of feelings, and so today, you have no power over sin; you lack desire to read the Bible; you find no feast in the Word of God; you prefer every time to read other books; you have no hunger to commune with God in prayer; you have no joy in your heart; you feel like a coward; you find that to be a so-called Christian is not what you expected; you are just as lazy and worldly and unwilling to obey and serve God, if not worse, than you were before; you get revived periodically but it does not last, the feeling passes away. You are good in spots. You try to look like a Christian, but in your heart you have a hell.

My friend, I write these lines to help you. Many have told you that ZION preaches only Divine Healing, but you will find that it is not so. ZION preaches the Full Gospel of Salvation for spirit, soul and body.

John the Baptist said:

"O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

"Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father, for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." Luke 3:7, 8.

John did not say, Most Excellent Pharisees and Sadducees, the Very Reverend the High Priest of God, His Royal Highness King Herod, Dearly Beloved Worshipful Brothers—no: he said: "O generation of vipers." That was strong language indeed. It would have been impossible for John the Baptist to have occupied a Baptist pulpit in Chicago two Lord's Days in succession.

He was indignant with them. He called them by their right titles. It did not matter what pedigree they had. He spared none, not even the rich and learned, not even the king.

It made no difference that Abraham was their father. He simply ignored that. It meant nothing to him that they were members of the highest order of worship in Jerusalem. That thing did not save their skins. And it makes no difference today what church or assembly or society you belong to, you must repent.

John did not say, believe, believe, only believe; he said, repent, repent; but not only repent, he said, show that you repent, show it in your acts, bring forth fruits meet for repentance, bring forth the stolen goods.

Jesus said:

"Repent ye and believe the Gospel."—Mark 1:15.

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:1-3.

Therefore true repentance and true confession must precede true faith. A person cannot believe that he is a child of God when he is a child of the devil.

It is very easy to say: "God forgive me," and then to fall into the same sin again. You have tried in your own strength to give up certain habits and vices, but have not succeeded. These habits and vices are stronger than your own strength.

You must repent and confess. Confess, confess, confess your sins, not only to God,

but also to man. You have sinned not only against God, but you have sinned also against your fellowmen. Go to the one you have wronged and confess your sin. Go to your wife or husband as the case may be and confess your sin. If you have stolen, confess to the person from whom you have stolen. If you have killed, give yourself up to the police and confess. It is better to go to prison than to go to hell. *It is not enough to tell it to God.* If you have no one else to open your heart to, speak to some one in ZION and seek advice and prayer.

It is better to confess your secret sins to your nearest than to carry them. If you are a preacher, it makes no difference, confess. If you are in the employ of the State, it makes no difference, confess. If you are in prison, it makes no difference, confess. It is dangerous to delay confession. Confess to the person you have wronged, and if you cannot find that person, then confess to your nearest or to some one in ZION.

O my friend, you who are bound with terrible chains of sin and lust, and pressed down into the dust, you who are unclean and have soiled yourself in lustful mire, come and confess.

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9.

Begin at once to destroy your idols, no matter if others look upon you as insane. If you have tobacco, destroy it; swine, destroy them; medicine and alcohol, destroy them. Say farewell to comrades of sin and come. Fall on your knees in your corner, and confess to God, Who will be a Father to you, Who will receive you with open arms, and pour into your dry, shrunken, heavy laden heart life and power through His Holy Spirit.

God our Heavenly Father sent His Son into this world to save sinners, to heal the sick, and to cast out demons.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

When you have truly repented and confessed then you can believe with your whole heart, and put your whole weight on God, and trust in His Word. I say to you, whoever you may be, come to ZION and be saved. God uses human agencies in saving human beings. God used Paul in saving the Philippian jailor. I know of no place on earth where the way of salvation is made so clear and plain and true as in ZION. I know of no place where the ministers, yea, even the people, can be of such help in saving sinners as in ZION. I know of no place like ZION! This is no boast, it is a fact, which it is valuable for you to know. In ZION you will have an honest deal.

O what warmth and power and joy there is in ZION! Everything is real in ZION. There are no shams. God is a real, personal, loving Father; Jesus Christ is not a dead man on a crucifix, but a real, personal, wonderful Saviour and Healer; The Holy Spirit is a real, personal, ever-present Comforter and Guide. The Kingdom of God is a real Kingdom on this earth, set up in the hearts of men through the Word of God as preached in ZION through a real baptism, and through the Holy Spirit. The Bible is a real book from God, dealing with issues of life and of the most absorbing interest to mankind.

O that you could see the True Way to start in today! Come quickly and you shall have part in the wonderful things which God has prepared in ZION.

This is no theory or opinion or theology in ZION, it is the *Living Word of God.*

I read of a discoverer who made a trip through a large sand desert in Asia. In

his company were many hired men and camels and they had a good supply of provisions and water. The most important thing was water. An oversupply, calculated to last through till a certain river was reached, had been taken along. After a few days in the desert a head storm arose and beat down upon the weary travellers. The sand swept up into the air and blew like snow. The storm increased in fury until big sand-mounds like small hills formed in their path. They began to suffer terribly from the fine sand which filled into their noses and eyes and throats almost to suffocation. The heavens were darkened by the sand so that twilight reigned in the middle of the day. The progress was therefore extremely slow, far slower than had been anticipated. A larger quantity of water owing to increasing thirst and the drying up of everything by the sand, was required. In a few days more nothing would be left. The camels began to show fatigue. One after another sank down never to rise again. The men also dried up and could hardly force down food. Their tongues swelled, their blood thickened—water, water, water! was their cry. One after another of the men was left behind.

Finally there was only one man left—the discoverer. He was dying. All he could do was to creep on hands and knees. But he had reached a dried up river. There was hope in that river bed, somewhere, there would be water!

What did he care, that last day, for gold, for fame, for the world! He cared for water, and as long as there was any life left in his body, it cried out, water!

And he found it! A clear little pool smiled towards him in that river bed and he threw himself down to it and drank, drank, drank life-giving water, until life began to flow in his veins again, and he had strength to rise and rejoice!

But there is a still more wonderful water of which Jesus speaks in the 4th chapter of the Gospel of John, which He calls the *Living Water*. Not the water that flowed out from the dried up riverbed, nor the water from father Jacob's well, but the *Water which flows out from God*.

Repentance does not bring it, but repentance brings you to the well. Faith does not create that Water, but faith receives it from Him who gives it freely to all who humbly ask.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.

O how wonderful that is! You yourself will become a well of water! From yourself will flow living water! You will be a well in the desert from which God the Living Water will flow out to mankind. Life is worth living in that way! Come, O come to day!

"God is calling yet, oh, hear Him,
God is calling yet, oh, hear Him,
God is calling yet, oh, hear Him,
Calling, calling:
Come, oh come to Me. . . . Come, oh
come to Me. . . .
Weary, heavy laden,
Come, oh come to Me!"

ZION'S Fourteenth Feast of Tabernacles

Will be held, God willing,

in
SHILOH TABERNACLE

From the Evening, Wednesday July 8th, to
the Evening of Lord's Day, July 19th, 1914

Program in detail will appear shortly
in both "Leaves of Healing" and "The
Theocrat."