

The Wreck of Faith.

By REV. J. H. RALSTON, D.D.
Secretary of Correspondence Department,
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

TEXT—When the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?—Luke 18:8.



These words have been interpreted as meaning that when Jesus Christ returns, in this world that he will find no faith. They have been interpreted as being simply an inquiry, because of the teachings of the Bible and present world conditions as to faith at that time. In either case we have a wreck in view, whether real or imaginary.

Faith may be understood as the body of Christian truth given once for all in the first century, embracing the fundamentals of our Christian system—the infallibility of the Holy Scriptures, the deity of Christ, the lost state of man by nature, the only hope of recovery by the atonement of Christ on the cross, etc. This may be considered from the standpoint of the church in its visible form or that of the individual, personal interest in the subject being emphasized with reference to the latter rather than with the former. The aspect of the former, because it determines the aspect of the latter, shall have fuller treatment.

Faith has had a varied experience. For some three centuries it was held with comparative fidelity. Then the clouds of paganism and lust for embracing Christianity as an element of political life began to gather. For some centuries there was great darkness. In the period of the Crusades there were flickering lights. Then darkness came over Christian thought until the days of Huss in Bohemia and Wickliffe in England. Persecution in Bohemia and indifference in England soon brought another season of darkness, until in Germany, under Martin Luther, the light arose that has shone for four hundred years, and accounts for what we have of the true faith today.

Is the faith of the church, as such, a wreck today? Do we find all sails set and drawing, bound confidently for a distant port? Or do we see that church hesitating, staggering in the midst of changing teachings as to fundamentals like the ship with contrary winds and laboring hard to avoid the rocks on which it may be a total wreck?

Is it not true that some denominations of Christians while still clinging to orthodox creeds have abandoned those creeds in their teachings? Faithful men in some denominations are now crying to their brethren to suppress many of the church publications as they are distinctly infidel in their teachings. Is it not true that many hungry souls go to church and come away hungry because they have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

How about the individual? Not long ago a young man, who was a graduate of one of America's greatest universities and was finishing his second year in an orthodox theological seminary, said to the writer that he had lost his faith, had no confidence in the Bible, did not accept the deity of Jesus Christ, and was thoroughly unhappy. This is an extreme case, but the writer has had many young people of liberal education give substantially the same testimony.

What is the somewhat remote reason for this situation as to religious teaching? We must go to the land of Martin Luther. The work of corrupting the Bible had progressed until nearly all German universities and theological schools had repudiated the faith of Luther, although clinging to his name. Learned men said certain results had been attained and these results discredited the Bible. With amazing rapidity this conclusion took hold in England and Scotland and our own country. Destructive biblical criticism and Darwinian evolution swept over nearly all our great universities and our Bible was in the scrap heap. Those of us who have watched the trend of German theological teaching have observed a tremendous advance since the days of Schleiermacher, Baur and Hoff, on to the days of Koester, Giff and Cornill. It was bad enough with the former, worse with the latter and the final plunge was made by men like Nolde, who utterly ignored the Bible and defied God himself. Is it any wonder that Germany is suffering today, and is it much less wonder that the German world is suffering likewise? When will men learn wisdom?

For the individual, especially respecting young people, the old fashioned religion must come back. The old religious home must be restored. How many philosophically religious homes are religious wrecks?

Back to God! Back to Jesus Christ! To this get back we must get back to the Bible. Though God it is being paid, it is never before and the demand for it is beyond the supply. Thank God for this fact as to the hunger of the people for truth.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS

THE DIAMOND BRAND

THE DIAMOND BRAND

THE DIAMOND BRAND

NEW SQUIRREL POISON

Agricultural Experts Have a Mixture Said to Be Infallible.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The section leader who once observed that the best way to catch a squirrel is to "climb a tree and make a noise like a nut" would qualify for a position in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. For while he was standing around trying to think up another bright equip, Uncle Sam's biologists were burning the midnight oil, seriously endeavoring to find some means of eradicating the pest. And they succeeded, with the result that in Idaho alone some 11,250,000 in crops were saved last year, according to a bulletin just issued. Now they have decided to wage an intensive war upon squirrels in general, and have issued an appeal to farmers throughout the country to cooperate in the campaign.

The biologists found that Mr. Squirrel was immune to many poisons, but finally hit upon a mixture that worked as rapidly through the mouth and cheek pouches, instead of through the stomach, that he became an eligible candidate for the squirrel morose almost immediately after taking it. The tip-off is this: One tablespoonful of glass starch, the first in half a teaspoon of cold water and the combination stirred into a half pint of boiling water to make a thin paste. Then one ounce of powdered strychnine is mixed with one ounce of baking soda and stirred into the paste, in King an appetizing, creamy mixture to suit the fastidious taste of his squirrelship. But to make it even more alluring, a fourth of a pint of heavy corn syrup, a tablespoonful of glycerine and a teaspoonful of saccharine dissolved in water and stirred into it, and the entire mixture spread over twelve quarts of oats. This, according to the bulletin, if spread over the fields, and especially near the animal holes, spells sure destruction.

However, the Department makes very plain one warning: The mixture is not at all repulsive to livestock, and care must be taken lest the farmer awake to find not only all the squirrels but all of his cattle have passed into the Great Beyond.

UNCALLED FOR LETTERS
List of letters remaining uncalled for in the La Grande post office for the week ending February 14th.

Barlow, C. C.
Dare, Cora
Edwards, Jim (2)
Edwards, Orville
Dietrich, H.
Harris, Nella L.
Hoskins, Clara
Koger, B. F.
Lalkey, J. A.
Murren, W. A.
Metzger, L. W.
Newberry, Mr.
Ricks, Henry D. (2)
Ruchenthal, Dwight
Ladies:
Carter, Mrs. Lucinda
Morris, Mrs. Grace
Millard, Mrs. Frank
O'Neil, Mrs. Grace
Smith, F. D.

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on February 28, 1919, if not called for. In calling for the above please say "advertised".
E. E. BAGG, P. M.

Don't Keep Friends Waiting.
Be prompt in keeping social engagements. The man or woman who is invariably late soon becomes unpopular with his friends. No excuse is more common than a friend for having to wait for half an hour after the appointed meeting time. In making appointments allow a little time for possible delays—then appear promptly at the hour set—Laddy Bye.

ARMENIAN RELIEF
All members and friends of the Presbyterian Sunday school are requested to bring with them next Sunday morning, their offering for the 100,000 starving children in the war devastated zone of Europe. The American committee of Armenian and Syrian Relief, arising each one of us to do our utmost in raising as much as possible for this

Turkey Proceeded to Attend to the Armenians

By WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

Now why the need of money for the Armenians? You know their story? Abdul Hamid was the Sultan of Turkey. He was the sweet-scented individual who in 1896 deliberately directed the killing of 100,000 Armenians. Who are the Armenians? They are one of the oldest Christian peoples in the world. They lived in a province that lies north of Mesopotamia, east of Asia Minor, west of Persia and south of the Black Sea. It is a province of mountains and valleys—not only rich but fertile. 1,200,000 Armenians lived in that country, cultivating the valleys and made them "blossom as the rose." The Turks hated them because they were Christians, hated them because they were industrious, and enjoyed the prosperity that comes from industry.

Later when Turkey entered the great European war as the ally of Germany, she invited German officers into her army. Her army was shortly officered by German officers, who directed that army to go into Armenia and deport 1,800,000 Armenians, which they did. 600,000 escaped. The other 1,200,000 were driven by that army to the desert of Mesopotamia and Syria, and in the drive the army deliberately killed men, women and children, by rifle ball, by bayonet, by knife, by driving them over precipices, by driving them into deep running rivers—600,000 men, women and children! Half of them were deported to Asia and half to Mesopotamia. Out of those deported nearly 400,000 died of starvation.

Then Germany turned the Caucasus over to Turkey; Turkey proceeded to attend to the Armenians—in that kindly, fatherly way! That is the story!

A friend of mine who was on the border of Persia told me that he had gone to a German officer and said "For God's sake, can't you stop the butchery of these men, women and children?" and the German officer clicked his heels together and said "Stand back, the time for mercy has passed!"

This is the story of that unfortunate people, the Syrians, Greeks and Jews in Western Asia have suffered the same kind of barbaric treatment. The Armenian and Syrian Relief has been organized for some years to care for these unfortunate, sorely distressed people. It has received and most efficiently expended more than \$12,000,000. Each cent that you give will go for actual relief. Feeble, helpless, starving millions cry for food. I urge you to give generously of your bounty.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

Sunday morning service at 11 a. m. Subject: "Soul."
Sunday school at 10 a. m.
Wednesday evening meeting at 8 o'clock.

The reading room is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 2 to 5 p. m.
All are welcome to attend our services.

Corner First and Washington.

CHRISTIAN

Sunday, February 16th, Sunday school at 10:45 a. m. Let us all be prompt in our attendance. Communion service at 11 a. m. Subject, "And if I Be Lifted Up." Everybody invited. Evening service at 7:30. Subject, "Paul's Great Declaration." We are very thankful for the increased attendance, and we hope to see it improved from time to time. Prayer meeting Thursday, 7:30 p. m. We must pray in order to succeed.
R. H. Coker, minister; W. E. Eastman, superintendent of Sunday school; S. A. Roe, chairman of board.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Services at the Methodist Episcopal church on Sunday, February 16th, as follows:
Sunday school at 10 a. m. It is a pleasure to be on time. It is a pity to be late. Come on time, and come to serve. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Morning subject, "The Story of the Far Country." Evening subject, "The Far Country." Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Miss Minna Cooper, leader. Everyone not otherwise engaged is invited to worship with us.
N. SHERMAN HAWK, Pastor.

BAPTIST

Preaching both morning and evening by S. C. Lapham, of Portland. Bible school at 9:45.
Morning service at 11 o'clock. Subject: "The Fatherhood of God and Man." A sermon for fathers and sons.

In the evening at 7:30, the subject will be: "The Question of Reconstruction, and What We Have to Offer our Returning Soldiers." Midweek devotional service Thursday evening.

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH

The revival here at the M. E. church, south, is progressing with great interest and enthusiasm. The pastor has been greatly assisted this week by Rev. N. S. Hawk, Rev. R. H. Coker and Rev. D. D. Randall. Rev. A. L. Thoroughgood will preach this evening at 7:30 and tomorrow. The meeting will continue through next week, 2:30 and 7:30 p. m. Those who do not come will perhaps never know what they have missed. Those who do not accept Christ in this opportune time will some time see what they have missed, but it may be too late.
"Come" now and let us reason together, with God, though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow.
W. B. SMITH.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Rev. Randall Sealey of Portland will speak at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Special music in the morning by Mrs. A. L. Richardson; in the evening by Leslie Bennett. Young People's meeting at 6:30.

NOW IS THE TIME to think about your car. The Standard Auto Repair shop, corner Adams and Fir, is doing very satisfactory work. ED CYR, Prop. 2-1-1m

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