

**Bible Not Understood.**

—For the TORCH OF REASON.

The Rev. Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist, in a sermon recently delivered, said that the bible is understood by very few who read it, and that he was glad of it, for if it was understood as it reads, he feared that it would have a tendency to weaken rather than strengthen the faith of the believer. But let us see what it says.

Turn to Luke XIV:26 and there Jesus is made to say: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters, he cannot be my disciple." Is it any wonder that Brother Moody says that he is glad of it? Again we read, "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." (Exodus XX:5). Now we wish to ask, is there any honest man in this enlightened age that honestly believes that any god ever inspired or taught such a doctrine as that? Why should he be a jealous god? Is he afraid that some people or nation will get the better of him and frustrate his plans and designs? It looks to be so at least, otherwise why should he wish to come down to the third and fourth generations with his punishments? Again it says that God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie that they all might be damned who believe not the truth. (II Thess. II: 11-12).

Now does any sensible, honest, unprejudiced, thinking man believe that any god of love and kindness ever sent strong delusions upon his children on purpose to make them believe lies, that he might have the fun of damning them? How does that look for a god who says that he "will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim. II-4).

Now in respect to the Sabbath day, it says: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." (Exodus XX:8). It then turns right around and says, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat or drink, or in respect of a new moon or of the Sabbath days." (Col. II: 16). Now in all candor and respect for those who believe the bible, we ask wherein are we to be benefitted by such teaching as that? Which declaration are we to believe if either? Did God inspire both of them? We are told that he is a god that changeth not, but if there is not a change in the above saying then we don't know the meaning of words. Again Jesus is reported as saying, "If any man hear my words and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. (John XII:47). Then if

there is any truth in that saying Jesus is not the judge of this world, neither of any man's belief or teaching. We honestly believe that Brother Moody told the truth when he said that the bible is understood by very few of those who read it. We do not believe that Brother Moody himself understands and believes the bible just as it reads, because if he did, what would he do with the following when he came to it? "Think not that I came to send peace on earth, I came not to send peace but to send a sword," "a man's foes shall be those of his own household." (Matt. X: 34-36). Has Brother Moody got all his household as his enemies?

Again Jesus is made to say, "Suppose ye that I came to give peace on earth. I tell you nay, but rather division." (Luke XII:51). Now admitting this book called the bible to be the inspired word of God, and true in every chapter, verse and word, what, we ask, shall we do with this? "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his own shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Councillor. The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah IX:6). This certainly cannot refer to Jesus, but Brother Moody will tell you that it does. Jesus declares that he is not the "Prince of Peace," that he did not come to give peace, that he came to make divisions in the family and so set one against the other. He even wonders at their ignorance in supposing him to be a peace-maker. Then with all the bible facts and sayings staring them in the face, why do our ministers get up in the pulpit and preach Jesus the Prince of Peace to us? Do they understand the bible or do they not? Again the Lord says that he makes all the peace and creates all the evil there is in this world. "I make peace and create evil. I the Lord do all these things." (Isa XLV:7).

We were taught to believe that the person called the Devil is the author of all the evil there is, but these passages say not. Then the term "Mighty God," can have no more reference to Jesus than it has to any other man, because if there is a Mighty God, he has existed from time immemorial, which Jesus has not, then to make a god out of Jesus would be making one too many, for one god is all that this world will hold at one time; if there were two there would be danger of them getting mixed up in business transactions. The "Everlasting Father" cannot refer to Jesus, for he is not reported as being the father of anyone, not even having a family of his own. He was born into the world the same as any other man. His mother tells us who his father was, but ministers and bible believers don't want to

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