

A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

PASTOR RUSSELL AT ROME

Addresses Large Audience, Under Auspices of the International Bible Students' Association, Using the Association's Interpreter—Reverent and Close Attention Given.

Text: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ" (Romans 1:16)

Rome, May 1.—Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York, preached here today to a large and attentive audience. Speaking through an interpreter, he was heard by all his address was delivered under the auspices of the INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

have frequently rejected also the central truth, which that dogma, to a certain degree, misrepresented. Thus we are in the day of the rejection of the creeds by the people of all denominations, Catholic and Protestant, and equally we are in the day of Bible rejection, because it is assumed that the Bible, having been studied by the formulators of these creeds, must be in accord with these, and hence, must be responsible for the unreasonable teachings, and must be rejected when these are rejected.

Some of us run away with the doctrine of "election," thinking it the whole Gospel of Christ; whereas, our fragment was incomplete, unsatisfactory and misrepresented the Gospel, when taken alone. Others grasped the doctrine of "free grace," and ran away with that, claiming that it was the "true Gospel"—ignoring the Scriptures which referred to "election," etc.

Theories of the "Dark Ages." We are not here, my friends, to set forth any sectarian views of the Scriptures, nor to advocate a new theology. By no means; we have already too many theologies; we have already too many sects or divisions of Christ; we want no more! Christendom is awakening to the fact that the various conflicting creeds cast discredit on the Bible. The creeds of Christendom universally discredit each other by their interpretations, and universally discredit the Bible, which would be a very most ridiculous book, if it taught all the various conflicting dogmas.

However, I should not be misunderstood as making an attack upon any creed, or upon the adherents of any creed. Rather, I suggest that we may well look with sympathy upon all the various creeds and sects, realizing that God's people have been in Babylonish confusion for how many centuries! Did not the Apostle tell that a great falling away would come? (2 Thessalonians II, 3.) Should we then be surprised if we find his words have come true, that for fifteen hundred years the Church of Christ has been deeply entangled with errors and superstitions which make void the Gospel of Christ? Let us not then stop to find fault with our forefathers, and to upbraid them; let us rather, so far as possible, assume their honesty, their sincerity. Let us take the Bible standpoint, and realize that the difficulty has been the power of our Adversary, the Devil, and that he has deluded and ensnared not only the heathen world, but to a considerable extent Christendom.

Mark St. Paul's words, "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious light of Divine goodness should shine into their hearts" (1 Corinthians IV, 4). The intention is that our great Adversary, Satan, is interested in deluding mankind, respecting the glorious character of our God, and his wonderful Plan of Salvation through Christ. Satan uses as his tools the very best of humanity that he can bring under his control, and nothing is more evident than that he has completely deluded the heathen world with what the Apostle terms, "doctrines of devils." Not only so, but to the extent that he was able to do so, he has evidently worked mischief with the various reformations and creeds of Christendom. Thank God that he did not gain entire control of any of these! Thank God that there is a center or nucleus of truth in each of these creeds, and around that kernel of truth, germinating power may be felt in every denomination, but the Adversary has wrapped these creeds with hyacinth after hyacinth of misrepresentation and misinterpretation.

In the light of our day, many are able to discern more clearly than did our forefathers, the monstrous and God-dishonoring fallacies of the creeds, and, aroused to disgust, they have rejected the irrational dogmas; but they

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Noting the logical mind of St. Paul, who can doubt that he would be ashamed, as we ourselves are, of the fragmentary presentations of the various creeds which more or less oppose and contradict each other? We may be sure that what the Apostle would endorse, as the "Gospel of Christ," we need not be ashamed of. Hence our determination should be to search the Scriptures, and to find that one reasonable message of the Divine Plan which centers in Jesus our Redeemer.

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Things at Which We Gagged. Men and women do not find it difficult to believe in a wise, just, loving and powerful Creator; just such a God our hearts and heads tell us we should expect; just such a God rational people find no difficulty in worshipping. Indeed, while some of us in the past may have believed in the "total depravity" of the race, may we not realize that notwithstanding the fall, there is still in the human mind and heart something which has "longings infinite," something which cries out for the living God, and which commands our reverence and worship, in proportion as he is recognized?

Just a Story

I am from "Old New England," and not ashamed of the fact, but I am now a citizen of Oregon and am proud to say the Rogue River Valley is my home. And, to make it still better and give a more definite location, it is in the progressive city of Medford that I have "pitched my tent."

George F. Dyer Over Medford, P. C. (Raised in New Sharon, Me.)



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