

THIS SERMON IS A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

The Glorious Liberty of the Children of God.

"The creature also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans viii, 21)

Brooklyn, July 3.—Pastor Russell of the Brooklyn Tabernacle preached today in Brooklyn's largest Auditorium, the Academy of Music, from the above text, to a crowded and attentive audience. He said:

Tomorrow will be celebrated as "Liberty Day" by Americans in all parts of the world. To some, of course, it means a holiday, a time of recreation, but to others of us it speaks eloquently of "Liberty enlightening the World." Even the enemies of the Republic must concede that an influence has gone forth from these shores to the uttermost bounds of earth—an influence against tyranny, and in a broad, general way in line with the Golden Rule, which respects the liberties of others as it desires its own to be respected. It is difficult to estimate the weight of influence attaching to the numerous letters going from these shores to every country under heaven, to every hamlet and village and city. It is difficult to estimate the influence of the newspapers and magazines which go forth from this land breathing the love of liberty. And yet, dear friends, every day and every year, as our ideas mature, we come to see more and more distinctly what constitutes true "liberty," and to distinguish this from "license," which sometimes steals the liberty of which, to grossly misrepresent it.

It is not surprising that many who come to our shores from lands where personal liberty is almost unknown are inclined to expect more liberty than we can safely accord them. They are obliged to learn gradually the lesson that social liberty signifies, not personal license, but the permission to do only those things which will not interfere with the rights and liberties of others. Indeed, this is the lesson which all must learn in order to be good, useful citizens of this Republic; a lesson therefore to be learned by all who would enjoy true liberty. It is the lesson of self-control; the lesson of minding one's own business; the lesson of speaking evil of no man; the lesson of doing good unto all men as we have opportunity; the lesson of intruding on the proper rights and privileges of no one else. But alas, how few of the world have come to rightly view the liberty of which we boast!

In the School of Christ. It is in the School of Christ that the pupils or disciples of the Lord Jesus may learn of him, the Great Teacher, the important lesson of self-control and the proper exercise of our own liberty, without encroaching upon the rights and liberty of others. Alas, dear friends, we must concede that remarkably few of the Lord's people have learned this lesson and are qualified to graduate along this line! Many followers of Christ continually practice injustice in the little things of life, neglecting to regard the liberties and rights of others. In the Church, in the home, in business, the rights of others are all too frequently ignored or only partially recognized. It is more important that we learn to recognize the rights and liberties of others than to insist upon our own rights. The former course tends to make us Godlike; the latter cultivates selfishness and frequently gets us into difficulty unnecessarily. The Apostle's instruction is that so far as possible, we should live peaceably with all men, which often necessitates the yielding of our own rights for the sake of peace.

This matter of insisting upon rights and liberties is moving the world more and more toward contention and strife, and hastening it toward the great time of trouble which shall engulf the whole social structure. Doubtless the great majority will be claiming their individual rights while almost totally disregarding the rights of others. We urge, therefore, that kind of love of liberty which is willing to sacrifice as respects its own privileges, that it may be helpful to others in maintaining their proper liberties. Nor does this signify that the people of God should ignore their own liberty and fight for the liberty of others. Rather we should stand for the principles of righteousness, and both by word and precept refrain from stirring up violence, or jeopardizing the interests of others. Liberty of conscience we should maintain in ourselves and should encourage in others.

"Liberty of Children of God." St. Paul speaks in our text of the "liberty of the children of God." This, primarily, signifies our desertion from our taskmaster, Sin, and the surrender of our wills to God and righteousness. It means a repudiation of liberty to do wrong and the grasping through Christ, of liberty from bondage to Sin. But, as the Apostle elsewhere explains, we find it impossible to conquer fully the fallen flesh. We will find it impossible as "New Creatures" to attain the full liberty of Sonship under present conditions, because, as St. Paul declares, "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the two are contrary the one to the other" (Galatians v, 17). We have a constant fight to resist the enslaving influences of Sin—to maintain our liberty as sons of God. The victory will not be fully attained until our resur-

rection, when "This corruptible must put on incorruption." Then our new minds will receive new, perfect spirit bodies, through which they can operate perfectly, and exercise, to the full, true liberty, true freedom.

The full liberty of the Children of God, therefore, is not attained in this present life, but will be attained in the resurrection, when we shall be perfected in the Master's likeness. And in this connection it is well to note that this is the liberty of the angels also—liberty of freedom from Sin, from the power and domination of error and superstition and weaknesses through heredity. All the angels were thus created, and father Adam and mother Eve also were thus created, in the full likeness of the children of God. Some lost their liberty by disobedience; they became slaves to Sin and Death, and have been more or less bound by these conditions from then until now. So, then, "The liberty of the children of God" is absolute perfection—the ideal condition for which the Church is striving.

The Groaning Creation.

The Apostle in our text is discussing the condition of the world of mankind in general. He reminds us that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Romans viii, 22). In the nineteenth verse he tells us what they are waiting for, namely, "The earnest expectation of the (human) creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." The world of mankind is now enslaved to Sin and Death; they cannot help themselves; they must wait until God's time for setting them free from this bondage. God's time will come in connection with the glorification of the Church, and her manifestation with her Lord in the glories of his Messianic Kingdom. Then the groaning creation will be set free from the bondage of Sin and Death, under which it now groans and travaileth.

Made Subject to Vanity.

The Apostle reminds us that the slavery of mankind to Sin and Death came upon the world through vanity, or frailty, unwillingly. Our frailties are the result of sin and of the Divine sentence. Father Adam was disobedient and our Creator, in sentencing him to death, made the dying condition such that all of his children would be involved with him, as sinners, through heredity, and thus sharers in his dying condition. But God did not subject our race to this dying condition, this slavery to Sin and Death, with the intention of blasting the hope of humanity to all eternity, much less with the expectation of sending Adam and his race to eternal torture. Rather, we are to understand that when God pronounced the death sentence upon our race, intermingled with it was the hope, the desire, on the part of the Creator, that the result of that death sentence should not be man's absolute and eternal destruction, after the manner of the brute beast. In the Divine purpose there mingles a hope—a desire and intention that all of Adam's race who will learn the lesson of righteousness may ultimately be delivered from the bondage of Sin and Death, into the true liberty of children of God. It was to secure, in God's due time, for Adam and his race, liberty from Sin and Death, that Christ died for our sins.

The Creation to Be Delivered.

Our minds now turn to the liberty which, by God's grace, came to this nation in 1776; and, similarly, some of our nation look to the liberty that was accorded them by the "Emancipation Proclamation." But these emancipations are nothing in comparison with the great Emancipation which God purposes shall come to all the world of mankind through Christ. Enslaved to Sin, through Father Adam's disobedience, "Sold under sin," the purchase of the race by the precious blood of Christ is to be announced by the Great Judge who pronounced the sentence. This is a glorious hope, a glorious prospect, but as yet it is merely a prospect. Only the true Church has as yet been set free; and she waits for perfect freedom through the "First Resurrection." "The whole world lieth in the Wicked One," and still are slaves to Sin and Death conditions in every way.

The arrangement of Divine Providence for this great liberation of the captives of Sin and Death is wonderful! God's Kingdom is to be established and to exercise his reign or rule of righteousness amongst men for a thousand years! Satan is to be bound during that period, that he may not deceive and entrap humanity no more. The knowledge of God and the assistance of Divine power are to be extended to every creature, bond and free, rich and poor, of every tongue and nation. Not only will the living nations enjoy this privilege of release from slavery to Sin and Death, through the great Redeemer, but, additionally, all who are in their graves will have the glorious opportunity of being awakened and of being brought to a knowledge of the Truth, that they may be saved by laying hold thereon—by conforming heart and life to the rules of the Kingdom of God's dear Son, and thus attaining eternal life.

Truly, that will be a glorious epoch, when to the great Deliverer "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, to the glory of God." It will be grand, indeed, to witness during the thousand years of Christ's reign the gradual liberation of the slaves of Sin and Death—their gradual attainment of full mastery over their weaknesses and imperfections by the assistance of the great Emancipator! Many of these poor slaves went down to the tomb in fearful anticipation of a future of eternal torment. How glad they will be when they awake from the sleep of death, realizing it as only a momentary interim! They will be advised of the fact—that the redemption price has been paid by Jesus and that, therefore, he is fully qualified and empowered to set them free in every sense of the word—not only from the condemnation of death, but also from the actual blight of death—the mental, moral and physical weaknesses, which are elements of the death sentence.

True, the Scriptures intimate that all will not appreciate the privilege of emancipation from the dominion of Sin and Death. It is not for us to speculate as to the number who will ultimately be set free. It is sufficient for us to know that all will be brought to a full opportunity of attaining or rejecting the emancipation privileges. All will be free in the sense that none will die the Second Death, except by his own willful, deliberate sympathy with sin and rejection of the righteous and liberal terms of the Great Liberator.

Not Only They but Ourselves.

Pursuing the subject, the Apostle marks the Church of this Gospel Age as separate and distinct from the world. He shows that those who receive the begetting of the holy Spirit now, are already children of God, and already enjoying full freedom, full liberation from the condemnation of Sin and Death. He says, "And not only they (the groaning creation, the world), but ourselves also (the spirit-begotten Church of this age), which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption (deliverance) of our Body"—"the Body of Christ, which is the Church" (Verse 23; 1 Corinthians xii, 27).

The Apostle is here pointing out that while the world is groaning under its share of the Adamic condemnation, believers in Christ also groan—though in a different manner. The world groans and travaileth, waiting for the Church's manifestation—"the manifestation of the Sons of God." The Church groans, not outwardly, but inwardly, while waiting for something different. The world is waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God, because "Now are we the Sons of God" (1 John iii, 2). Our salvation will come, therefore, before this manifestation of the Sons of God, which will bring release to the world. The elect Church is waiting for the adoption, the deliverance of the Body in the First Resurrection. Our Heavenly Father has already granted us the spirit of adoption whereby we can cry, "Abba, Father," but our adoption is not yet accomplished, completed. We are already set free in our minds from the Law of Sin and Death, but will not be entirely free until our adoption shall be completed by our resurrection change. The adoption of the Church by the Father will be her full entrance into the liberty of the Sons of God, her full entrance into perfection, "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. xv, 52).

The Apostle continues the same thought, pointing out that the salvation of the Church at the present time is not her actual or complete salvation, but a hope-salvation or a faith-salvation. He points out that what we hope for is to be brought unto us at the revelation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at his second advent. He points out that, in the meantime, if we have this hope as an anchor to our souls, it will lead us to be patient in waiting for the glorious things of the Divine arrangement. It will lead us to wait patiently for the Lord's time for our own blessing and further opportunity for service in bestowing God's blessings upon the world. We are to wait for our deliverance, with patience, and in this we shall be exercising and developing one of the graces of the holy Spirit necessary for our perfecting. It is not sufficient that we learn to love liberty; we must learn full submission to the Divine will and to receive our liberty, in kind and in time, according to the good pleasure of the Father.

The expression, "The redemption of our Body," does not refer to the Lord's people, individually, for each of us will have a separate body in the resurrection. The Apostle's thought is that of the Scriptures in general, namely, that there is one Body, which is the Church; and that, so far as our complete adoption by the Father is concerned, this must be done in unison; he will not receive the Church separately, member by member, but altogether, at the close of this age. Then so many as shall have fought the good fight of faith and finished their course, so many as shall be found worthy a place with our Lord in his throne will be "changed" in the "First Resurrection." These will be presented together as one glorious Body, or "Church of the living God, whose names are written in heaven."

So far, then, as the world is concerned, let us think less of assisting them to individual and personal liberty than to freedom from the yoke of Sin. Let us rejoice in the privilege and opportunity which, if faithful, we will have by and by with the Master, of delivering or setting at liberty from sin and death the entire groaning creation. Let us remember that to attain this we must become members of the glorified Kingdom, which will extend this blessing to all the families of earth.

32 BILLS WILL GO BEFORE PEOPLE

Direct Legislation Measures Under the Initiative for the November Election Are All Petitioned For—Will Be Heavy Ballot.

SALEM, Or., July 9.—Thirty-two initiative petitions had been filed with the secretary of state when the hour for closing the filing arrived last evening, and that number will be on the ballot for approval or rejection by the voters on election day in November. Many of the counties have some local legislation and several bills are of statewide interest, among them one to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicants in the state, sixteen of the measures are amendments to the constitution. Six petitions were filed yesterday just before the time for acceptance of petitions by the secretary of state came to a close. The 32 bills to be voted on by the people are:

- A constitutional amendment providing for restricting the creation of new counties.
- A bill to provide for proportional representation in the legislature.
- A bill to extend the primary elections.
- A bill for the inspection of public offices and the publication of an official gazette.
- A constitutional amendment providing that three-fourths of a jury may find a verdict in a civil case and modifying the state's system of legal procedure.
- A constitutional amendment providing for the raising of funds for improvement of highways.
- Woman's taxpaying suffrage amendment granting to all taxpayers the right of suffrage.
- A bill for the establishment of an eastern Oregon branch of the state insane asylum.
- A bill to elect delegates to a constitutional convention the second Monday in October, 1911.
- A constitutional amendment to provide a separate district for the election of each state senator and each state representative.
- A constitutional amendment to cause taxes to be collected for public purposes only and providing the power of taxation shall never be surrendered, suspended or contracted away.
- An amendment providing for state railroad building.

- An amendment directing a uniform rule of taxation.
- An act to increase the salary of the judge of the Eighth judicial district.
- An act to create the county of Nesmith.
- A bill to provide for the maintenance of the normal school at Monmouth.
- A bill to create the county of Otis.
- A bill to annex a portion of Clackamas county to Multnomah.
- A bill to create the county of Williams.
- An amendment providing for people of each county to regulate taxation and exemptions.
- An amendment giving cities and towns control over sale of liquor.
- A bill for liability of employers.
- A bill to create the county of Orchard.
- A bill to create the county of Clark.
- A bill for the support and maintenance of the normal school at Weston.
- A petition for the annexation of a portion of Washington county to Multnomah county.
- A petition to establish and maintain a normal school at Ashland.
- An amendment to section 35, article 1, of the constitution to prohibit the sale of liquor.
- A petition to create an "employees' indemnity commission."

A bill to protect fish on Rogue river. A bill to create the county of Deschutes.

# MALLEABLE RANGES

Every woman who attended our last demonstration and saw the perfect manner in which our ranges baked learned the many superior points of their construction and how impossible it was to injure them, knows that we offer a first-class range. If you don't know about the range we handle, you are invited to call and allow us to explain. You can be the judge. We guarantee every range to be as near perfection as any manufactured.

## Nicholson Hardware Co.

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY CANAL COMPANY

FRED N. CUMMINGS, Mgr

Our peaches from the Fish Lake Ranch, raised in the heart of the desert, and exhibited in the window of the Baker-Hutchason company on Central avenue, near the postoffice, have caused no end of favorable comment.

Those who knew the great possibilities of irrigation, and in the past years have boosted for irrigation in the valley congratulated us upon the splendid showing, and those who had doubted were convinced.

The Rogue River Valley has everything a little more favorable for the raising of fruit than any district in the country, but the rainfall is not sufficient for the best results. A little more water when it is needed is the certain assurance for bountiful crops and irrigation furnishes this assurance.

The Rogue River Valley Canal Company's system is the largest system of irrigation in the Rogue River Valley and when completed will irrigate 55,000 acres of orchards and undeveloped orchard lands through 389 miles of main canals and laterals.

The water storage of the system is located at the foot of Mt. McLaughlin where the waters of Fish Lake and Four Mile Lake are impounded by huge dams that will conserve the pure mountain water from the melting snows, and deliver it through the system of canals to serve the orchardists, and raise the bumper crops that will make the Rogue River Valley the best and most famous fruit district in the world.

ROGUELANDS INCORPORATED

offers for sale

Irrigated Orchard Tracts

6500 acres of orchard land, seven miles north of Medford, every acre carries with it a perpetual water right from the

Rogue River Valley Canal Company

Orchard tracts are sold in 5, 10, 20 or 40 acres, plowed, leveled, planted to trees and fenced. Undeveloped tracts for sale with irrigation. Orchards planted and cared for by Orchard Experts for a period of five years on Orchard Development Contracts.

ROGUELANDS Inc.

FRED N. CUMMINGS, MANAGER.

Medford National Bank Building, MEDFORD, OREGON

Bibles

We are determined to acquaint you with the fact that our new stock of Bibles is the most complete and contains most everything that one could wish for. All sizes—the most durable bindings—with or without helps—reasonable prices.

The Merrivold Shop

134 West Main Street.

Robert F Maguire

Late special agent U. S. General Land Office, announces that he has opened law offices in the Medford National Bank Building, for general practice before state and federal courts and the Department of the Interior.

Mills College

The Only Woman's College on the Pacific Coast Exclusively for Young Women. Located among the beautiful hills near Oakland, California, close to San Francisco and the great Universities of the West. Full collegiate course leading to degree. Entrance and graduation requirements equivalent to those of Stanford and University of California. Training fits students for teaching regular lines of academic work, and offers special advantages for music, art, library study and home economics. Well equipped laboratories for science. Special attention to health of students. Modern gymnasium thoroughly equipped. Outdoor life and amusements in the ideal California climate. Alumnae in every city on the Pacific Coast. FOR CATALOGUE ADDRESS PRESIDENT LUELLA CLAY GARRISON, LL. D. MILLS COLLEGE P. O., CALIFORNIA