

The Silverton Journal

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"THE WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS"

By Richard F. Tischer

No intelligent person will question that most men, generally speaking, recognize the wilderness of confusion at the present day, even though they may differ in ascribing causes, or, in suggesting methods of escape.

For two thousand years men have professed the Christian faith and name.

For two thousand years the light of the Christian gospel has been at work seeking to convert the old pagan shadows of idolatry, corruption and usurpation.

For two thousand years has Christianity struggled to bring liberty to the captive, which was the noble purpose of its founder.

For two thousand years the Christian church has taught—in His name—principles of love, truth, justice, brotherhood, peace.

With what result? What is the Fruit upon its Tree?

Has ignorance, superstition, idolatry and poverty been overcome?

Has injustice, graft and corruption been overcome in society?

Has selfishness, greed for world, possession and power and brute lust been overcome in man?

Are we today free from the elemental concepts, from the crude notions, from the mythical fetiches of past ages and of primitive races?

If not—then has the hope, the purpose, the mission of Jesus and of Christianity been fulfilled?

If not—what right have we to the Christian name?

For two thousand years men have sought and prayed for the higher realization.

For two thousand years the noblest of earth's children have suffered martyrdom for the faith and hope that in them lie.

Touched and quickened by that same divine spirit of consecrated devotion to truth and the highest ideals and visions of their own souls which inspired the great carpenter-prophet of Nazareth to give himself in life and in death to the service of truth and humanity, these brave heroes have carried the cross of progressive advance up the steep and rugged path by which some time real freedom and real happiness shall be attained.

Century after century men have mingled their hopes, prayers and aspirations in common worship and in man service.

So today. We open our hearts, our minds and souls for spiritual uplift, individually and collectively.

We pray for the light of faith, for the newness and fullness of spirit.

We pray for strength to go forth to proclaim the truth as it may be revealed to us.

We pray for courage of fidelity to our highest and noblest ideals, even though denied and rejected of men; yet always reaching up, always searching deeper for spiritual truth and divine reality, ever seeking to grow into those higher spiritual experiences bring us into conscious time and touch with the Infinite.

While I hope that we shall never cease thus to reach upward seeking after divine reality, let us not become confused in mythical dreaming.

Let us not lose ourselves in aimless metaphysical and theological speculations.

Let us clearly distinguish between poetic moonshine and the clear sunlight of scientific truth.

It is for us to prove all things!

It is for us to reduce vision to fact; faith to works; hope to knowledge.

Religion to be effective—to be helpful—to be real must be attested and verified in conscious experience.

One ounce of verified truth will outweigh all of the theological speculations the world has ever heard of.

Religion, to be of real value, must become a vital working force in human development and a power for progressive unfoldment in society.

Religion means the scientific application of principles of truth to the needs of the ever expanding and rising life of man and of humanity.

Religion is Life! It is the great lifting power of Truth and Love!

It must lift man out of darkness into light! Out of bondage into freedom!

Liberty! Deliverance! Dominion! Mastery! these are the high ideals inspiring real religious devotion.

The chief concern of essential Christianity (truth of Jesus) is Man!

"That men should have Life"—and "have it more abundantly!"

Whatever may be said of other systems of religion, the chief purpose of Jesus is "The Edification and Lib-erating of Man!"

This primary purpose because lost in the various modifications which Christianity suffered by its contact with Paganism.

There is found one of the defective weaknesses in our Christian (?) Ethics.

Here lies one of the causes of church impotence and inefficiency.

Orthodoxy is still more concerned in its gods—in forms of worship—in creeds and traditions—in institutional authority than in the forces and processes which make for Life!

In its learned theologizings about gods it has neglected its first duty toward man and humanity.

In its idolatrous glorification of gods it has lost sight of the true worship of social service—lost sight of man—lost sight of the very purpose of Jesus.

Jesus revealed the eternal Fatherhood of God to help us to find therein the divine Brotherhood of Man!

He reveals the upward path, and, by his teaching helps us make the ascent that we may find and become filled with the pure light—that we may become filled with spiritual power—that we may behold the beauty of the higher spiritual possibilities—that we too may understand and find the real purposes of life!

Does he stop there? Nay! "Ye must be Doers of my truth!" We must learn to apply constructively and wisely truth to life!

No, my friends, Jesus "descended" to the lower plane of struggling humanity!

He "descended" to declare the higher truth!

He "descended" to reflect and to reveal the light of the higher spiritual attainment (abundant life).

Jesus "came down"—to break the "Bread of Heaven" to feed the hungering hearts and starving souls of the poor in the wilderness.

He "descended" into the dark valley of corruption, of priestly idolatry and usurpation that the blessed summit—light of truth might destroy the darkness, which held and paralyzed the very souls of men with superstition's fear.

"Know ye the Truth!" This is the passionate cry of Jesus, for knowledge of Truth is the key to all Power.

What Power? Power to what End and Purpose?

Power of Deliverance! Power to overcome all inherent weakness!

Power to resist all temptation!

Power to correct all undesirable habits!

Power to overcome all delinquencies and destructive tendencies!

The power to overcome lack of self-confidence, narrow prejudice, class bitterness—all false social, national and race distinctions.

The power to pluck out of our own hearts and lives all bigotted self-conceit and pharaseic self-righteousness and selfishness.

The power to sweeten, to beautify and spiritualize our own lives and to cultivate noble man and womanhood and true Christian character, that we may become "Workmen approved—who need not be ashamed."

What is the real purpose in life?

What is the real purpose and object in all spiritual and social endeavor?

What is the purpose of Science—Philosophy—Religion?

The higher spiritual Life! The conscious realization and attaining of life's higher possibilities!

Where? How?

Within our own higher spiritual Selfhood!

Through conscious Self-Realization!

By finding the Divine nature in Man! Now and Here!

Here is the way out of the wilderness!

Through Self-Realization and through Self-Regeneration alone will come constructive Social Reorganization!

Spiritualized humanity is the key to that form of society, which shall be like unto a kingdom of Love, Peace and Happiness

Here is a practical problem upon which the workers of the world must unite.

The Teacher, the Parent, the Child and the W. C. T. U.

By Mrs. T. E. Preston.

When we hear the word teacher we invariably think of two beings, the one of long ago, teaching in the Princeton log school house, wielding the switch, teaching the rule of three and the A, B, C's.

And the one of today in the modern school house with all kinds of appliances for explaining all the subjects that are to build up the child life into a capable, healthy, moral, independent man or woman, fit to enter any walk of life, prepared to fill any business, social or professional position. What a great responsibility for the modern teacher.

The same two visions hold good for the word "parent." Those of long ago strong, stalwart, true, earnest, hospitable men and women who blazed the trail before them and brought up their children to be obedient, respectful, honorable, teaching them the value of an education, helping them to lead honest, moral lives. And then we think of the many frivolous, pleasure seeking society mothers and fathers, who allow the children to rule the homes, and the teachers, seeking pleasure at any cost, allowing the sowing of wild oats, from which not only the children, but the parents reap the full harvest.

Now the child—I see before me two classes of children, and teachers and parents. I think you have seen them too.

The first class are those who are taught to respect their teachers and parents, anxious to learn the right and useful things of life and are always helpful, healthy, happy, seeking the real pleasures, shunning even the appearance of evil.

The other class, who are allowed from the cradle up to have everything and anything they cry for in the way of clothes, toys, pleasures, companions, anything that happens to strike their fancy, flitting from one thing to another, seeking nothing but their own pleasure. Never a thought of how much suffering they cause the over-worked parents or teachers. Never a thought for their health or the building up of a character or reputation for themselves that they and their friends may be proud of. Have we not these two classes with us today?

But when we hear the four letters W. C. T. U. we think of only one thing, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The greatest Woman's Organization in the world, having a membership of over half a million and carrying on over 40 lines of work for the uplift of humanity and the downfall of the saloon and all its accessories. It has broken down all sectarian barriers and women of all denominations are working in unity for a common cause.

This great organization was the means of securing scientific temperance instruction in the public schools of every state, whereby millions of children are taught the true nature of alcohol and its effects on the human system. After seven years of faithful work it secured regular quarterly temperance lessons in the Sunday schools.

It has always been first and foremost in securing reform laws for the protection of children.

Its work against concealed alcohol in fake and patent medicines has resulted in legislation and has saved many a child's life by bringing mothers to the realization of what so-called soothing syrups contained.

The W. C. T. U. established the School Savings Banks. The Portland W. C. T. U. established the first Baby Home in Oregon.

The first Rescue Home, the first Depot Matron, the first County Police Matron was all accomplished by this organization.

The child's welfare work is carried on by more than a dozen different departments of work, each touching child life at some point.

Before any other society had taken up Mothers' Meetings the W. C. T. U. had organized them in 37 states and territories.

The influence of this organization has been strongly felt in the purification of our literature and art and in the suppression of immoral shows, bill boards, pictures and post cards.

It publishes a child's paper, the Young Crusader. It has two branches for the children known as the Young People's Branch and the Loyal Temperance League, where the young can meet together and learn lessons of purity, love and obedience, also the effect of alcohol, tobacco and narcotics.

The W. C. T. U., by its influence and patient, persistent work, has been the means of removing the sight of the saloon and all its accompanying evils from many thousands and millions of children and I am thankful to say that it has been one of the main spokes of the wheel that has at last removed the monster rum from our own beloved state of Oregon and helped to keep our dear little city in the dry list. And our greatest and

highest aim is to remove altogether from the sight and sound of the coming generation the evil influences of old King Alcohol.

The W. C. T. U., as Francis Willard expressed it, is organized Mother Love and that being the case, there is nothing for the good of the child that it has not and is not doing.

Teachers and Parents are you not willing to join hands with this great body of earnest Christian women and help us, and let us help you to lift up and purify the youth of our city, our country, our nation, till it will be said of the American people they are in truth a clean, moral, educated, temperate, Christian nation.

Yes, I know you will. It is hard, earnest work and we must be very watchful, faithful and prayerful not only in our teaching and preaching, but in our living and not only with our voice, but our ballot condemning evil in every form wherever we see it, forgetting policy, politics and the almighty dollar, always ready to uphold the right, whether popular or not. Working together what a wonderful force for the upbuilding of the human race will the combination of the four be: The teacher, the parent, the child and the W. C. T. U. Come, let us reason together, sayeth the Lord, and adopt for our Motto: For God, and Home and Native Land!

DOES GOD TEMPT?

By Chas. F. Randall, Capron, Okla.

The Christians claim the God of the Bible is good, in spite of the fact that it relates several instances of his lying and many other gross immoralities. Prayer could not possibly benefit either the Deity or the petitioner; yet, we are commanded to pray; nothing but a desire for self-aggrandizement would prompt such a demand; and this is incompatible with the humility supposed to be exemplified by Jesus, nor in accord with the good God idea.

Genesis 22, 1, 2 declares that God tempted Abraham by commanding him to slay his son Isaac.

James 1, 13 asserts that "God tempteth no man." Now, if the author of the Bible is a God, or a man, both these declarations cannot be true; and a lie is out.

But James also says, in the same chapter and verse, "God cannot be tempted with evil." But numbers 14, 22, 23 declares he was tempted ten times, and in consequence told a lie.

In Luke 4, 2 it is related that Jesus was "tempted of the devil forty days." Which of these two writers are you going to believe, Christians? Was Luke and James both inspired of God when writing these contradictory statements? If so, then God inspired one of them to write a lie, didn't he?

James, in the 1st chapter, 2d verse, tells the "Brethren" to count it all joy when they "fall into divers temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

Why then the command to pray "Lead us not into temptation," if doing so is for our good?

Christians, do you comprehend how truthful and consistent your Bible and your Bible God is?

CLOSING CHICAGO YARDS BLOW TO CATTLE MARKET

Chicago, November 9.—"The cattle market is bound to be upset at least temporarily by the closing down of the Chicago stock yards," said Professor E. L. Potter, beef specialist in charge of the O. A. C. Animal Husbandry department. "The effect of turning away \$4,000,000 worth of beef cattle during every week that the plants are shut down will be far reaching. Much of the western stuff that has been finding its way to the Chicago yards will be diverted to other packing centers, notably Kansas City and Omaha, where the unusually heavy supply must glut the market. The inevitable effect of a continued quarantine will greatly disturb the normal channels of trade in cattle and meat, producing a surplus in some quarters and a scarcity in others.

"Of course some of the live stock can be held, but much of it will be forced by lack of feed and other causes to find a market somewhere. The extent to which this will force down prices cannot be known, since the Chicago yards have been in continuous operation for almost 50 years and we have no closing precedent to base estimates on. Closing for a few days should not be serious since about one half of the \$4,000,000 receipts are accepted on Mondays. But if the prevalence of the mouth disease forces closing over a period of several weeks the effects must be serious.

"In case cattle prices drop materially there will probably be a cheaper meat supply in the unquarantined production districts, while meat prices will rise in markets normally supplied by the Chicago packers. Thus we are apt to see price fall for producers and at the same time rise for a large body of consumers.

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