

Pastor Russell's Sermon

INFANTS SAVED FROM TORTURE

Thirty Thousand Daily Saved From Damnation.

LET THE GOOD WORK GO ON.

Pastor Russell Says Presbyterians Lead in Theological Progress—Will Not Other Denominations Co-operate? What Can Be Done For the Non-Elect and Non-Regenerate Infants of the Past?—Pastor Russell Not Able to Agree, Although Sympathetic—His View of It as Outlined in the Bible.



PASTOR RUSSELL

London, August 3.—A Bible Students Convention has been in progress here several days in the London Tabernacle, Lancaster Gate.

W. Pastor Russell delivered two addresses today. We report one of them, from the text, "Else were your children un-

holy, but now are they holy."—1 Corinthians 7:14.

The Pastor declared that his text, which differentiated between holy and not holy infants, was probably the basis for much of the confusion which has prevailed in all denominations on the subject of infant salvation and infant damnation. Before discussing his text, he wished to call the attention of his hearers to the fact that about two months ago the Presbyterian General Assembly in the United States had taken a very advanced theological step on this subject. According to telegraphic dispatches, it has altered the Presbyterian Confession of Faith so as to save the non-elect infants as well as the elect ones.

The thought that God had arranged a Plan by which some infants would go to Heaven at death, and other infants would go to eternal torture, has for centuries greatly troubled the minds of all Christian people—Catholic and Protestant. Some said that the elect infants would be saved and the non-elect infants would be tortured. Others had it that any infant by baptism would be brought into the Church and be saved, while infants not thus baptized or sprinkled would go to eternal torture. Others had it that none could be saved without regeneration, and these were perplexed to know how infants could be said to be regenerated. Therefore how could they hope that any infants would be saved? The hearts and heads of all good people have suffered terribly for many centuries because of these confused ideas.

It is gratifying, the Pastor declared, to see that with the Presbyterians, at least, love and sympathy have triumphed; and that, so far as they are concerned, thirty thousand infants daily go to Heaven, instead of going to Hell. Certainly this is a missionary project of no mean proportions! At this rate they no doubt believe that Heaven will soon begin to have reasonable proportions, as compared with Hell. We regret that the brethren did not take any measures looking toward the relief of the non-elect infants of the past who now must number thousands of millions. It is worthy of consideration, and we trust will have their attention.

And since the matter is so easily adjusted, why would it not be the proper thing for all Christian denominations to follow the lead and example of the Presbyterians? We fear that not many of the other denominations will join the Presbyterians in their generous work of helping the infants. They might reason that if all infants dying in infancy are saved, it might be the safest thing that parents could do for their children to insure their eternal salvation by killing them in infancy. Then baby incubators and various devices—medicines, foods, etc.—intended for the preservation of infants' lives might come to be considered detrimental to the eternal interests of the children!

But how foolish all such theories seem! How beautiful by contrast is the simple teaching of the Bible, that the salvation for all—old and young, of heathen lands as well as of Christian lands—is through the resurrection power of Messiah's Kingdom—through its enlightening and uplifting, or resurrecting influences! Why should we longer trouble with the errors of the Dark Ages when God's Message, the Bible, is now opening up for His people, shining as an electric lamp, in contrast with the tallow-candle darkness of the creeds?

Unable to Agree.

Pastor Russell declared that he felt great sympathy for the move made by the Presbyterian brethren, but, nevertheless, he was unable to agree with their conclusions, believing that the Bible teaches otherwise. He realized that the Presbyterian view of Election made it difficult for them to deal with the non-elect, both adults and infants. He found the Scriptures declaring that God is selecting, or electing, the Church from amongst the world. He conceded that those not elected would be properly termed non-elect. But he found nothing in the Bible to indicate, that non-election to joint-ship in Messiah's Kingdom would mean pre-destination to an eternity of torture.

The Pastor realized, too, that the

Presbyterian friends must feel considerable embarrassment in trying to adjust themselves to their changed creed. For if there are no non-elect infants, then all infants are elect; and if elect when infants, how could their predestination change with advancing years? His sympathetic advice to Presbyterian brethren is, that the entire creed be recast; or, better still, that it and all other creeds be abandoned, and the Bible as a whole be accepted. Then, he argued, all Bible students could come together without prejudice for mutual assistance and untrammeled growth in grace along Bible lines.

While the Pastor mentioned Presbyterians, his thought included all Christians. For surely many others than Presbyterians have been consigning ad its infants to the number of at least 90,000 every day, or 32,000,000 every year, to eternal torture. If not because non-elect, then because unregenerate, or unbaptized. Surely all intelligent people are out of accord with such a proposition. Surely all must agree that some great mistake has been made during the Dark Ages, and that under the influence of that mistake, as expressed in our creeds, our God has been slandered. Surely today every thinking person will concede that a human being planning such atrocities would be a thousand times more devilish than any one known in history. And surely our great God, our Creator, could not be worse than the worst and most depraved of all His creatures.

On the contrary, God must of necessity be the very personification of all the graces—Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power. Evidently the God who foreknew and determined to send these 32,000,000 human beings per year to an eternity of torture would not only not be a God at all, but would be the most terrible devil that the human mind could conceive!

Bible Students are realizing that a great mistake has occurred, and that the Bible teaches nothing of the kind we had supposed. More and more, as the eyes of their understanding open to proper interpretations of God's Word, they are appreciating the Divine character, and the Bible as never before.

The Pastor declared that a week from now he will consider some of the Master's dark sayings, and show how they have been misinterpreted and misapplied. Today he must content himself with the subject in hand. He must discuss God's relationship to the heathen and to infants.

He Still Sees Difficulties.

As we understand it, said the Pastor, our Presbyterian friends have changed the statement of the creed, which formerly read, "Elect infants dying in infancy are saved"—taking out the word "elect," and letting it read, "Infants dying in infancy are saved." But is this true? Do our Presbyterian friends believe this?

Come, let us reason together. Are not the children as well as the more mature members of Adam's family born in sin and misshapen in iniquity? Are not all of these by nature "children of wrath"? Did not every member of Adam's family come under his sentence and participate in the penalty, or curse, of his sin—"Dying, thou shalt die"? Is not this the reason that infants die at all? Will not all concede that had there been no sin there would have been no death in the human family? Does not St. Paul distinctly state this, saying, "By one man's disobedience sin entered the world, and death as the result of sin, and thus death passed upon all men because all are sinners"?—Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5.

All Condemned Need Redemption.

Surely all Christian people, Presbyterians especially, will agree with me that the sentence of death, passed upon Father Adam and inherited by his race, must needs be settled, cancelled, before any of his posterity, old or young, could be released from the penalty. True, we all agree that the death of the Lord Jesus Christ is the redemption-price and that He provided it more than eighteen centuries ago. But do we not also agree that Jesus' death, of itself, saves nobody; that His merit becomes applicable merely to us of the Church at such time as we believe in it and accept it, appropriating it to ourselves?

Is not this the proclamation of the Gospel Age—Believe! Believe! Do we not remember the Bible declaration that we are justified by faith, not by being infants? And do we not all agree that faith cannot be exercised except by a more or less developed mind? Hence all should agree that the Scriptural proposition is, that all infants shared in Adam's sentence of death, and have provision also in the redemptive work of Jesus. Nevertheless, they can be saved only by coming to a knowledge of God and of Jesus, and by then exercising faith and obedience to the extent of ability. We believe this to be an undebatable proposition.

every one of them—for all those who lived before His crucifixion, and for all born since—for white and black, old and young—of every nation. Because of this general redemption, coextensive with the curse, or sentence of death, there is to be a recovery from the curse of death. All mankind are thus to be made amenable to a release from the death penalty—to have the opportunity of a resurrection out of sin and death conditions back to perfect life conditions. Only those who wilfully and intelligently reject this grace of God will die the Second Death—he blotted out as though they had never been—perish like natural brute beasts.—2 Peter 2:12.

From this standpoint we see that nobody is saved yet. All—both infants and adults, heathen and Christians—go to Sheol, Hades, the tomb, the state of death. All are said to sleep in Sheol, Hades, the tomb, until the glorious Morning of the New Dispensation, Messiah's Kingdom of glory. Then the Church will constitute the First Resurrection class, to Heavenly glories and honors and Divine nature. Following this, the Church with her Lord will reign as kings and priests, for the blessing of the entire human family, of all ages, nationalities and colors.

In other words, according to the Bible none have gone to Heaven. As Jesus said, "No man hath ascended into Heaven." (John 3:13) Hence there are no infants in Heaven. All infants who have died have gone to the Bible hell, the tomb, and "know not anything." They merely await the time when the Kingdom shall be in power, and the awakening processes shall begin to operate; and they shall come forth from death—such in his own band, or company.—1 Corinthians 15:23; John 5:28, 29.

Hope For All Children.

There is another theological theory, which has no Scriptural foundation, but which claims that every infant is immortal, and that the present life, long or short, favorable or unfavorable, constitutes the only opportunity ever to be enjoyed for reforming character and becoming fit for a happy eternity. Hence, according to this unscriptural theory, the children of unbelievers—conceived and born in sin and depravity as are all mankind, more or less—are unprepared for an eternity of bliss, and consequently must spend that eternity in pain and horror.

But let us rid the mind of this false theory, and go by Scripture alone. As the Word of God declares, "God only hath immortality." Therefore no infants are immortal. When God said "The soul that sinneth it shall die." He meant it. When He declared, "All the wicked will I destroy," He meant it. The penalty upon Adam and his race is death; and therefore children and all others die because of Adam's sin. The worst that can befall the children of unbelievers would be death.

What, then, is the Scriptural hope for the children of unbelievers? It is exactly the same as for the children of saints; namely, that Christ Jesus our Lord tasted death for every man when He tasted death for Adam; for all are under Adam's sentence of condemnation to death. One man's sin brought the death penalty upon all; therefore the one man's Ransom was the Ransom for all. The children of unbelievers were redeemed in the most absolute sense from the entire condemnation of death. Indeed, none but sinners were redeemed. "Christ died for the ungodly." All are ungodly; all are sinners. Hence, all die; and all need to be redeemed, else they would have no hope of a resurrection.

In the Messianic Kingdom, the Resurrection Age, children of believers will have a little advantage over the children of unbelievers, in that they will have less depraved organisms when awakened. But under the grand resurrection processes then at work, such disadvantages will soon be overcome. All who are willing and obedient shall be brought to a full knowledge of the Truth and full opportunity for complete restitution, back to all that was lost in Adam, for himself and his posterity. In that day it will no more be said, "The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge." "Every one shall die for his own iniquity." "The soul that sinneth it shall die."—Jeremiah 31:29, 30; Ezekiel 18:2-4.

How reasonable are the ways of God! How plainly are they stated in the Word! Those who have the eye and the ear of faith, who are hearkening to the Word of the living God rather than to the dead creeds of the Dark Ages have a joy and peace of mind which is a source of strength unknown to others.

According to the Divine arrangement, parents are responsible in respect to their children. The conscientious parent has a wonderful opportunity to train his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The Christian parent should earnestly seek for the wisdom from above, that he may be able to rightly discharge his duties under all circumstances, even the most trying.

Notice Our Text Again.

LIND NOT ALWAYS AS COOL AS HE MIGHT BE

President's Envoy to Mexico Once Attacked General Manager of St. Paul Newspaper.

RESENTED BEING JIBED AS "ROUNDHEAD" BY DISPATCH

Hurried From Capitol When He Quit Governorship and Slugged Black Vigorously.

Former Minnesotans of Salem recall that John Lind, President Wilson's envoy to Mexico, did not always show that coolness with which he is credited by the press generally at this time. When Lind was governor he was bitterly assailed by the St. Paul Dispatch and what especially got his goat was the fact that in cartoons the Dispatch depicted him as a gentleman possessing an absolutely round head. Lind considered this a slam at his nationality, the evident intent of the newspaper being to deride him as a "roundhead," a term often used to start a fight.

Rushes From Capitol.

When Lind's successor relieved him from the duties of office at the state capitol in St. Paul, Lind hurried into one down to the Dispatch office and slugged General Manager Black. He explained that he did not want to do it when he was governor, but as a private citizen he felt at liberty to resent the style of criticism resorted to by the Dispatch. Black was sitting down when Lind attacked him, and failed to defend himself. Lind left the office after the trouble, and the Dispatch got some satisfaction that evening in denouncing him for "resorting to the tactics of a low thug" in settling his grievances.

The fact that Lind held off until he was out of office before attacking Black, leads to the belief that in case he feels like going to the mat with Huerta, the Mexican dictator, he will wait until after he is relieved of responsibility as representative of the United States.

DEMOCRATS BACK FOR BILL CAUCUS

Return From Vacation Participate in Discussion of Currency Measure of President.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Washington, Aug. 11.—The house Democratic currency caucus began today. The program is for the adoption of the Glass bill, as approved by the house committee on banking and currency. Scores of Democrats have returned from their vacations to take part in the caucus.

Efforts to open the caucus to the public and members of the press participated the first dispute today. The Democratic leaders opposed this plan.

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HIS LAST LOVE BEST OF ALL, SAYS GOODWIN

Comedian Declares He Is Settled for Life Now, Although He Would Bow to Old Wives.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]

Boston, Mass., Aug. 11.—"The present Mrs. Goodwin is the right one at last," said Nat Goodwin, "love pirate," here today when, for the twentieth time, he took the public into his confidence on his marital ventures. "I'm settled for life now," Nat said. "Mrs. Goodwin saved my life twice. I love her most of them all. "Of course," he added, with fine generosity, "if I happened to meet any of my former wives I'd bow to them. But so far as reviving old associations go, I'm through with them all for good."

ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO PROBE DEPORTATION

Attorney-General Crawford goes to Marshfield Thursday to investigate the matter of the deporting of Dr. Bailey K. Leach from that place a short time ago. Mr. Crawford will go to Drain, thence by auto to Allegheny, the head of navigation on Coos river, thence by boat to Marshfield. He makes this investigation at the request of the governor and what action will be taken in the matter, if any, will depend upon the attorney-general's report of his findings. Marshfield people, or at least the Marshfield paper, the Times, is very bitter against Governor West, resenting his interference in the matter.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN JACHIRA STATE

Venezuelan Government Claims Rebels Will Be Defeated and Uprising Will Soon Be Ended.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Caracas, Aug. 11.—Fighting continued today in the state of Jachira between government forces and rebel troops. Although no definite word of the progress of the battle has been received, government officials are certain that the revolution will be of short duration.

President Gomez is leading the government forces, having arrived at Maracay last Friday with a federal army. Official dispatches received here today say that Generals Coregas and Bustamante have captured General Torres Castro, a relative of former President Castro.

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