

Pastor Russell's Sermon

BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND

These Words Apply to Pastor Russell and Others, He Says.

DECEIVING AND RECEIVED.

Ministers Have Deceived the People Respecting the Bible Teachings—But They Were Themselves Deceived, Hence Not Wilfully Guilty—The Duty of the Hour is to Undo the Public and to Remove the Scandal From God's Word and Character—Courage Necessary—Otherwise Many Will Fall Into the Ditch of Unbelief—The Educated Are There Already.



London, August 10.—Pastor Russell addressed the London Tabernacle congregation twice today. We report one of his discourses from the text, "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."—Matthew 18:14. The pastor opened his discourse with the words: How blind we have all been—supremely blind—in respect to our Heavenly Father's words! We have believed human traditions, which we ought not to have believed, and left unbelieved the Bible teachings, which we ought to have believed, until the Church as a whole has become thoroughly puzzled in respect to everything religious. I am not judging any particular person or sect. The matter is so general as not to need specification.

All have sinned, all are out of the way of Truth, lost in the fog of superstition and error, guided thither, as St. Paul foretold, by "doctrines of demons." (1 Timothy 4:1.) There is no time for faultfinding. The duty of the hour is to get right—to get back into harmony with God, and to obtain the true light on His Word that will restore Christian faith, love, devotion.

Blaming nobody except the Arch-Deceiver, Satan, we find, as the Master predicted, that the whole world has been made drunk by the false doctrines which Satan gradually introduced during the Dark Ages—"The inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." (Revelation 17:2.) Some were crazy drunk, to the extent of persecuting others; some were stupidly drunk.

Like drunken people, we mixed up and confused the good and the bad. In one breath we told of the love of God—His mercy, gentleness, patience—and how all of His children must become copies of His Divine character. Then in another breath we painted this God of Love as sitting down, before creating humanity, and deliberately, with fore-knowledge, arranging that thousands of millions should be born in sin, misshapen in iniquity; and that after a few short years, full of trouble, all of them with only rare exceptions, should be turned over to fire-proof deities, to be tortured through all eternity.

When a soberer thought would suggest that the fire would destroy them, that the torture could not last more than a few hours, then a drunken thought inspired by the Devil came—that God delighted in the torture of His creatures, and that all those thousands of millions would have life injected into them by the Almighty Himself, the great Fountain of Life, so as to prevent them from ever ceasing to be, ceasing to suffer—so as to perpetuate a great chamber of horrors such as no human mind could imagine. Dante pictured the Inferno most horribly, that eternal torture chamber, over whose gates were the words, "Who enters here abandons hope."

Satan's Great Success.
The Master styled Satan the father of lies. His first great lie misled our first parents and murdered them, by leading Mother Eve to disobey God's Word. "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17.) Satan contradicted the Almighty, saying, "Ye shall not surely die"—cannot die, ye are immortal, your life is a perpetual one.

Satan has since impressed this falsehood upon the whole world, and has largely succeeded in deceiving all. When in fulfillment of God's Word people die, Satan has brought in the deceptive theory that they really have become more alive than ever. With the theory that nobody can die came the other theory—that when they seem to die they merely go somewhere else to live.

This, contrary to the Scriptures, the whole world has come to believe that at the moment of death the saints go to Heaven and all the remainder, more alive than ever, go either to Hell or Purgatory. The plain, common-sense statement of the Bible that all—both good and bad, old and young—go to Sheol, Hades, to the tomb, is ignored. The Bible teaching, that the redemptive work of Jesus assured all a resurrection from the dead, is made null and void by Satan's declaration that nobody is dead.

Immortality in Christ.
The Bible does indeed hold out for the Church the hope of immortality; but it is only a hope, not already a possession. Man was not created unqualifiedly immortal. The life given

him was only a tentative one. If he would use it in harmony with his Creator's commands, he might enjoy it forever, as indicated in the words, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" with your posterity, and subdue the earth as ye have need of it. As your posterity increases, extend the bounds of Eden, until it will include the whole earth.

But that the life was a tentative one, a conditional one, is indicated by the threat that disobedience would bring death—the cessation of life. Thus, when the sin had been committed, God declared, "Accursed is the ground for thy sake. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, until thou return to the ground; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."—Genesis 3:17, 19.

The whole world knew that it was dying; and not even a suggestion of a reversal of the curse was made up to the time of Abraham. Then, for the first time, God declared His purpose to bless all the families of the earth, which implied the rolling away of the curse. This blessing, the rolling away of the curse, was to come through Abraham's Seed. "In thee and in thy Seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." St. Paul declares that this Seed is The Christ—Jesus the Head, and the Church His Body.—Galatians 3:16, 29.

But the Apostle explains that even this statement to Abraham was more or less indistinct; it did not bring the matter clearly forward and give positive assurance of everlasting life. St. Paul declares that this was accomplished through Jesus, more than 4,000 years after the fall. He declares that Christ brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.—2 Tim. 1:10.

Now we may see that this promise of immortality, deathlessness, death-proof existence, is a very much grander one than we ever supposed. Immortality is a quality of life which thus far is possessed only by Jehovah God and by His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing in the Scriptures indicates that even the angels possess death-proof bodies. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that Satan, one of the very highest angels, is to be destroyed. This shows us that this immortal, death-proof quality is not possessed by the angels. Their everlasting life depends upon the Divine covenant that, so long as they are in harmony with God, He is pleased to perpetuate their lives in a most joyful condition.

The Bible assures us that only the elect Church will ever attain the immortal quality peculiar to the Father and to the Son. This promise of "glory, honor, immortality," is made merely to the saintly Church, and is to be fulfilled in the First Resurrection by those found worthy. "On such the Second Death hath no power."—Revelation 20:6.

But our Lord Jesus not merely brought to light immortality as God's gift to the Church. The Gospel of Jesus brings to light a hope of everlasting life to the non-elect world—to so many of them as, under the light of the knowledge of the glory of God during the coming Millennial Age, will fully respond and be of those who will bow the knee and confess with the tongue the great King, and be uplifted to human perfection by the arrangements of His Kingdom. For these God has the same everlasting life that He has already given to the angelic hosts.

This everlasting life of the future is usually styled immortality; for it will be a deathless life—a life free from the imperfections of the dying condition. But the immortality of the Bible, which is for the Church alone, is separate and distinct, and elsewhere described as "the Divine nature."—2 Peter 1:4.

As We Now Sober Up.
This Bible presentation of the matter—that God's proposition is life or death—we are beginning to see is most reasonable, most logical. Furthermore, His proposition is that when His Plan will have been completed, none shall have life at all who will not have it in perfection. He desires not to have mental, moral and physical cripples and degenerates in His Kingdom. He will give all the fullest opportunity for recovery through the Redeemer and the Messianic Kingdom. All who will not be obedient to the Divine arrangement will be everlastingly destroyed, as thorns and thistles are destroyed, and as uncontrollable wild beasts are destroyed. This is the Divine Word on the subject.—2 Peter 2:12; Isaiah 33:12.

Thus eventually God will have a clean universe in which His Will shall be done on earth even as now it is done in Heaven. Eventually every knee will bow, and no one need any longer say, "Know thou the Lord"; for all shall know Him, and love Him, too. Then the darkness, ignorance, superstition, which has blinded us will be past. Then our great Creator will be seen to be our very best Friend, the Father of Mercies, the God of all Grace. Perhaps, indeed, we shall love righteousness and appreciate our God all the more because of the previous slanders of the Adversary, which for 6,000 years have misrepresented Him.

Undoubtedly the Divine Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power will be more clearly seen by both angels and men as the result of the Divine permission of the reign of Sin and Death. Without this permission of sin we would never realize the absolute justice of God in allowing our race to go down into death and in rescuing us in a wonderful manner—by the sending of His Son to die for us, paying the Redemption-price of Adam's penalty. "Dying, thou shalt die." We never would have seen so clearly the height of Divine Wisdom, nor the depths of Divine Love.

Even the Power of God, manifested in the wonderful display in the heavens every night, is more wonderfully shown by reason of the permission of sin. Even the Wisdom and Power

of God shown forth in the human organism will be added to by reason of the permission of sin. How so, is it asked? We reply that God's great Wisdom and Power will be manifested in the resurrection of the dead. The Church's resurrection from human nature to the Divine nature, from weakness to power, dishonor to glory, from an animal body to a spiritual body, will be a stupendous expression of Divine Power. And the fact that the mental powers—memory, character—will be carried over is beyond our comprehension.

Then comes the resurrection of the world. We are not to think of the resurrection of the bodies that have fallen into dust, as the Bible mentions nothing of the kind, and resurrection involves no such absurdities. But what the Bible does propose for the world, as well as for the Church, is the resurrection of the soul, of the being, of the intelligence. The Apostle explains that God will give to each a body as it pleases Him. The bodies provided for the Church will be of the spirit kind.

"The bodies provided for the world will be of the flesh kind. Wonderful as this is, it is not all; for the human bodies that are to be restored thus by Divine Power will be the exact counterpart of the present bodies, representing the same memory, mind, will. Thus each will know himself, and will know the others with whom he was acquainted in the present life. How wonderful, how stupendous, how unbelievable, except as we are able by faith to grasp the fact of our own littleness and the Divine greatness!"

True, as the Apostle tells us, not all men have this faith—not all men are able to believe what the Bible so clearly sets forth. They stagger at the great proposition. But their staggering and unbelief will not change the facts. God's Wisdom and Power will continue to operate, notwithstanding our incredulities. Those who cannot exercise faith cannot belong to the Church class, called during the present time; for with this class faith is a paramount requirement.

Foolish Incredulity—Wise Faith.
How strange it seems that nearly everybody can be credulous of nonsense, while only a few comparatively, can have faith in the true realities of the Divine promises! For instance, how few seem able to believe in the Power of God as respects a resurrection of the dead. On the contrary, how many can be credulous enough to believe that the dead are not dead—even when they see them to be dead, and their senses demonstrate that fact!

Under the delusion of Satan, mankind have come to imagine bells and purgatories, and to believe in them, although they do not have even a suspicion or a thought as to where these places are! What better proof could we have that the world for 6,000 years has been under the mischievous influence of "the Prince of the Power of the Air, who worketh in the hearts of the children of disobedience"? What better proof could we have that the world has been under the influence of misleading spirits and "doctrines of demons"?—thoroughly believing Satan's false statement, "Ye shall not surely die"—ye are immortal—and thoroughly rejecting God's statement, "Thou shalt surely die." Immortality is a gift of God, and not an inherent quality. "The soul that sinneth it shall die"; "The wages of sin is death"—not eternal torment.

Patience and Sympathy Necessary.
If a number of drunken men have been in each other's company, and a few of them begin sobering up, it would behoove them to be very sympathetic with their companions still in a befuddled condition. This is our attitude. Some of us are more or less awake. Some of us have learned what real Bible study means. Some of us are getting the eyes of our understanding open and are seeing some of the lengths and breadths and heights and depths of the Love of God, which surpasses all human understanding, and which we did not before see. (Ephesians 3:19.) The graces of sympathy and patience are called for under such conditions. Those that have the Truth, that see the Truth, should not only be models of kindness, gentleness, but also models of kindness, gentleness and patience in dealing with the brethren.

God is merely biding His time, letting His will and Word and character be misunderstood by some and misrepresented by others, letting men have an experience with doing their own wills and trying their own plans and theories, that thus the lesson of sin and its tendencies and results may be clearly seen and appreciated both by angels and by men. Then the Lord will arise, and through His Anointed Son will display His Power and make known His will. He will lay righteousness to the line and justice to the plummet, and will sweep away every refuge of lies. His will shall then be done on earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

Thus we see the fallacy of the circle-reasoning of those who would judge the Lord merely by their own weaknesses, and not by His Word. How grand is the view presented in the Scriptures! How wonderful the Divine Character, as presented in the Divine Plan of human salvation!

All men are to be rescued from the Adamic death penalty. All are to have a full opportunity of knowing about the Savior—the Life-giver—and of accepting Him. Then whoever willingly rejects the grace of God, and prefers sin to righteousness, will be esteemed a wicked sinner, unworthy of everlasting life. Such, the Bible says, will die the Second Death. From this there will be no redemption; for "Christ dieth no more." Hence from it there will be no resurrection. But the horrible doctrine of eternal torment is not Biblical. It is a part of the "doctrines of demons."—1 Timothy 4:1.

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REGISTRATION RUSH IS HEAVY AT CLOSE

County Clerk Gehlar today is a busy man. So are his clerks very busy men and women. The reason therefor is that there is a big rush at the last moment to secure the necessary franchise to take part in the next special election in Salem which takes place September 10. The clerk's office is being besieged today by both men and women voters.

The registration books will close at 5 o'clock this evening and those who are not registered on the 1912-1913 books who fail to put in an appearance at the closing hour tonight cannot vote September 10.

By the way applicants for registration are flocking to the court house today the county clerk believes that the thousand new registration mark made since June 3, will be boosted considerably before the books close.

MT. ANGEL MAN IS WOUNDED IN FIGHT

A cutting scrape took place in Mt. Angel last Saturday night, which, for a time, promised to be fatal to Mike Freising, of that city. According to the story told to Deputy Sheriff Needham this morning by a farmer who resides near Mt. Angel, a man by the name of William Yarrel attacked Freising with a knife, and succeeded in inflicting a painful wound in the former's forearm before the quarrel could be settled.

Frantic efforts to advise Sheriff Esch of the trouble were made, following the cutting, but up to the present time no arrests have been made, for the reason no one seems willing to swear out a complaint against Yarrel, and the sheriff, therefore, has no authority to take the man in charge. Just what the row started over cannot be ascertained by the sheriff, notwithstanding that several excited Mt. Angel citizens have been calling him up over the phone and attempting to explain the trouble.

We are told that one good tern deserves another, but when one good turn actually begets another perpetual motion will be an established fact. Also the millennium.

Ananias may have been the champion liar at one time, but later his rivals began to write tombstone inscriptions.

Snap

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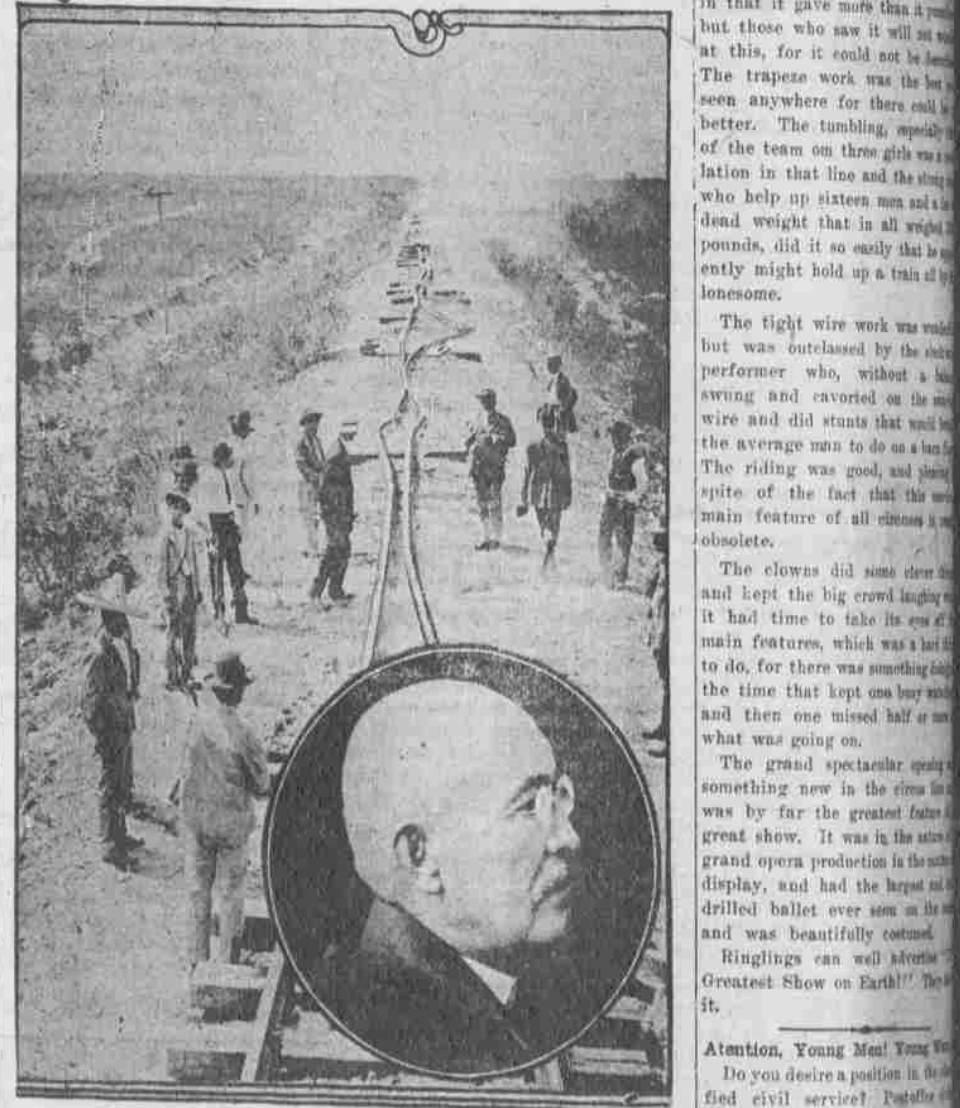
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How the Guerrillas Destroyed Railroads in Fighting Huerta



LIFE is just one revolution after another down in Mexico. Hardly does a president get the mail carriers accustomed to his change of address when trouble breaks out in his back yard and he wonders how soon he must abdicate or be shot. President Huerta began to experience trouble before the slain Madero was buried, and as time went on the troubles increased. Bands of guerrillas, rebels, revolutionists or whatever you choose to call them, appeared in many sections. They attacked towns and then to prevent pursuit destroyed railroads. For months traffic through the northern section of Mexico has been uncertain, and such scenes as that shown in the picture were common. Included in the cut is a recent picture of President Huerta.

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RINGLINGS' SHOW GREAT FROM EVERY STANDPOINT

Ringling Bros' circus has gone, leaving behind it a pleasant memory for all who saw it. It was so in that it gave more than it cost, but those who saw it will not be disappointed at this, for it could not be done. The trapeze work was the best seen anywhere for there could be better. The tumbling, especially of the team on three girls was a revelation in that line and the stunts who help up sixteen men and a dead weight that in all weight pounds, did it so easily that the feat might hold up a train at any moment.

The tight wire work was wonderful but was outclassed by the electric performer who, without a harness and carrying on the wire and did stunts that would be the average man to do on a horse. The riding was good, and plenty of the fact that this was the main feature of all circuses is obsolete.

The clowns did some clever things and kept the big crowd laughing. It had time to take its own set of main features, which was a last thing to do, for there was something else that kept one busy and then one missed half or more what was going on.

The grand spectacular opening something new in the circus line was by far the greatest feature of a great show. It was in the arena grand opera production in the main display, and had the largest and drilled ballet ever seen in the city and was beautifully costumed.

Ringlings can well advertise "Greatest Show on Earth!" They fit.

Attention, Young Men! Young Women!

Do you desire a position in the civil service? Postoffice letter carriers, railway and express messengers, etc., are in demand. Ages 18 to 45. Salary \$150 monthly. Hundreds of openings to fill vacancies, extensive service and parcels post. Mr. H. W. will be at Marion Hotel, in Salem, Wednesday, August 27, inspecting young men and women who qualify for one of these positions. He will be there one day only. Those interested should see him without fail.