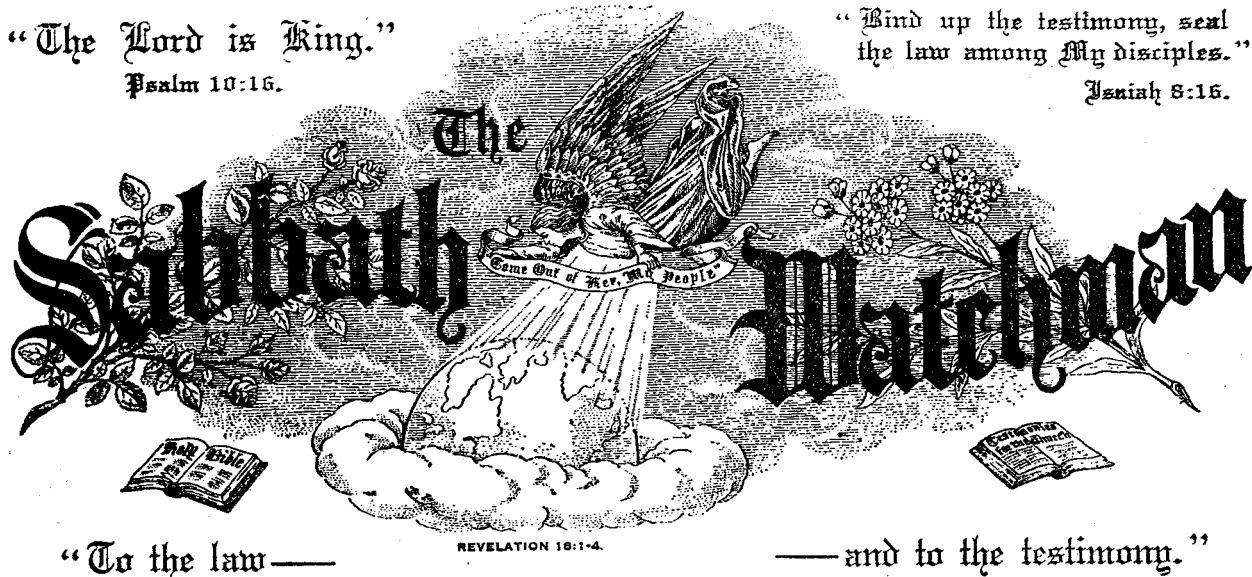


"The Lord is King."

Psalm 10:16.

"Bind up the testimony, seal
the law among My disciples."

Isaiah 8:16.



"To the law —

— and to the testimony."

Vol. 8

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No.'s 4-6

UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:20, 21.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another, according to Christ Jesus; that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 15:5, 6.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil. 2:2.

"Like will attract like. Those who are drinking from the same fountain of blessing will draw nearer together. Truth dwelling in the hearts of believers will lead to blessed and happy assimilation. Thus will be answered the prayer of Christ that His disciples might be one, even as He is one with the Father. For this oneness, every truly converted heart will be striving."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, pp. 100, 101.

"A Union of believers with Christ, will as a natural result lead to a union with one another, which bond of union is the most enduring upon earth. We are one in Christ, as Christ is one with the Father."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 47.

"God designs that His people shall be a unit, that they shall see eye to eye, and be of the same mind and of the same judgment. This cannot be accomplished without a clear, pointed, living testimony in the church."—"Testimonies," Vol. 3, p. 361.

"Truth is mighty, and will prevail. Those who love and support the word of God will more and more decidedly range themselves on the Lord's side, and brethren will stand heart and heart in defence of truth. Those who support error will more decidedly gather themselves against the holy and pure principles plainly revealed in the word of God."—"Review and Herald," June 24, 1890.

"We are to unify, but not on a platform of error."—"Special Testimonies," Series B. 2, p. 47.

"Union with Christ and with one another is our only safety in these last days."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 240.

Attacking The Foundations

The editor of the "Review and Herald" has recently written a series of articles under the above subject. He calls largely attention to the fact, that in years gone by, many have left the church and have attacked the Foundations. This is at present the case with Elder L. R. Conradi, who was a pioneer of the Advent Movement. While it is to be sadly regretted if someone leaves the truth and attacks the Foundations, it is far more regrettable, when a church forsakes the old principles of truth. If we see and realize that such is the case, we need to be alarmed. It is a good thing to be conscious of the terrible condition of an individual who left the truth, but it is far more important to see and realize the condition of the church.

Let us briefly consider in the light of the spirit of prophecy the now prevailing condition of the church. The following statements are right to the point. It is impossible for anyone to say that this is a misapplication of the testimonies. Let us consider them carefully:—

"The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 217.

"We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 137.

"Daily the church is becoming converted to the world."—"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 119.

"I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed Heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 217.

"You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 75, 76.

"I have been shown that, as a people, we are departing from the simplicity of the faith, and from the purity of the gospel."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 18.

The Lord says:—

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou art cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15, 16.

This is the condition of the professed church of God. Truly, we need to be alarmed. Be alarmed, that the church is retreating toward Egypt. Be alarmed, that the church has wandered away from the old landmarks. Be alarmed, that the church is daily becoming converted to the world. Be alarmed, that the course of continual backsliding has separated the church from God. Be alarmed, that the church is repeating that well-known history of ancient Israel. Be alarmed, that the church has departed from the simplicity of the faith.

Be alarmed, that the church is neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm.

Yes, it is true, the very Foundations for which we fought in the early days, have been attacked in the church. Truth is leaving her border, error comes in like a flood. This is the result of a continual course of backsliding from the Lord.

Dear Friend: Truth is a mighty weapon. Truth will ever triumph. Choose truth, and you will be found on the Lord's side.

While the editor of the "Review" makes it appear as if the church is taking a firm stand on the spirit of prophecy, he neglects to present what that firm stand defines. For this reason we like to state what Elder A. G. Daniells had to say on this important subject in the year 1920, at a council meeting in Friedensau, Germany. At that time Elder Daniells was still president of the General Conference, and spoke as a representative of that body. Please note carefully what he had to say.

The question which was presented to him by the delegates of the Reform Movement was: "What is the position of the General Conference toward the testimonies of Sister White, are they of God inspired, or not?" The following answer was given by Elder Daniells:—

"I am glad to say that the General Conference has not changed her position on the testimonies for the last fifty years. When any remarks have been made in committee meetings, so do we still take the same position as before; But I also want to say, that individual persons have somewhat changed their position on this subject. You will understand that the opinion of an individual person may be different as that of the General Conference. We had people among us who had extreme opinions; they were radical on both sides. The General Conference has never taken such a radical position. May I take a few minutes to show how some were radical on both sides? One time: too much in favor of the testimonies. We have brethren among us who believe in a verbal inspiration. They have gone so far as to believe that sister White was an infallible person. I know of some brethren, who, when they read a part of the testimonies, to write it down and consider it equal to the Bible. I know people, which studied her writings, that is personally, to write her answers in a book, and to look upon these words just as they looked upon the Bible. And I know people, who laid these two things—Bible and testimonies—side by side, and consider it alike. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE HAS NEVER DONE THIS, also never taken a resolution which would prove this. She herself (Sister White) has never claimed anything like this. She has also not said that when she spoke or when she wrote her books, that her words were inspired. She has always warned the people not to take her answers as the last decision. Some who have taken such a radical position, have now taken a more moderate stand. I will not stay too long on this subject, but I want to say; the position toward the testimonies remains as it always was."—"Protokoll," Friedensau, Germany, July 21-23, 1920, pp. 47, 48.

The fore-going statement proves clearly the position of the General Conference toward the spirit of prophecy. It is fully evident that the General Conference does not believe that the testimonies of Sister White are inspired. The sad part is, that brother Daniells wants us to believe, that Sister White even **warned** the people for her own writings. We have always believed that, when there is a difference of opinions on Bible truths, the testimonies are given to settle the question. If we can not rely on the testimonies, then it would be better to reject them. If such a stand as presented by Brother Daniells is to mean a firm stand on the testimonies, we want to have no part in it. Truly, it tends to lessen the confidence in the spirit of prophecy.

Let us see what Sister White has to say on this important question, whether the testimonies are inspired of God, or not.

"My work bears the stamp of God, or the stamp of the enemy. There is no half-way work in the matter. The testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 671.

"In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 67.

These two testimonies will suffice to prove that the spirit of prophecy is inspired of God. We believe firmly that God did use Sister White as His mouthpiece to the church. If God's children are obedient to the light given through the testimonies, the pleasure of the Lord will surely rest upon them. May the Lord help us to stand squarely upon the Foundation of the law and the testimonies is our prayer.

W. O. WELP.



TESTIMONY STUDY CLASS



"Gather up the rays of light that have been slighted and rejected. Gather them up with meekness, with trembling and with fear."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 94.

Isaiah 8:20

2 Chronicles 20:20

PERSECUTION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12.

"On every occasion when persecution takes place, those who witness it make decisions either for Christ or against Him. Those who manifest sympathy for the ones wrongly condemned, show their attachment for Christ. Others are offended because the principles of truth cut directly across their practise. Many stumble and fall, apostatizing from the faith they once advocated. Those who apostatize in time of trial, will, to secure their own safety, bear false witness, and betray their brethren. Christ has warned us of this, that we may not be surprised at the unnatural, cruel course of those who reject the light."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 630.

"There is another and more important question that should engage the attention of the churches of to-day. The apostle Paul declares that 'all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.' Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is, that the church has conformed to the world's standards, and therefore awakens no opposition. . . . Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled."—"The Great Controversy," p. 48.

"The early Christians were indeed a peculiar people. Their blameless deportment and

unswerving faith were a continual reproof that disturbed the sinner's peace. Though few in numbers, without wealth, position, or honorary titles, they were a terror to evil-doers wherever their character and doctrines were known. Therefore they were hated by the wicked, even as Abel was hated by the ungodly Cain. For the same reason that Cain slew Abel, did those who sought to throw off the restraint of the Holy Spirit, put to death God's people."—"The Great Controversy," p. 46.

"The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who will be true to God and to duty will be betrayed 'both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends.'"—"Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 231.

"Persecution will spread the light. The servants of Christ will be brought before the great men of the world, who, but for this,

(Concluded on page eight)

BRIEF NEWS OF THE REFORM AND THE REFORMERS

A REPORT FROM OKLAHOMA

"And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God." Neh. 6:16.

It is with a joyful and thankful heart that we write these lines. We have all reason to be of good courage, because the Lord has again made bare His mighty arm in behalf of His people. The Lord recognizes this reform movement as His movement, because it stands squarely upon the foundation of the law of God, and the testimonies of His Spirit. (Isa. 8:20.) Therefore this movement is led by the mighty hand of God. He Himself, and the whole heavenly universe, take a deep interest in the progress and finishing of this cause. Yes, it is dear to the heart of God. The only object of this movement is, to lead souls upon the eternal platform of truth, that they might become partakers of eternal life. This wonderful truth is hidden in Christ. He is the center—or heart—of this cause. His promise is, that the work will be finished gloriously. Every jewel will be gathered. This is daily being fulfilled before our eyes.

In our experiences which we were recently permitted to make, we had the privilege to see once more the mighty hand of God working in behalf of His children. The Lord is doing a wonderful work in these days. O, that we all might realize and consider the Lord's doing. The Holy Spirit is gathering out those who have a longing for truth and righteousness. The believers in Oklahoma who have just taken their stand on the side of reformation, requested us, to write a complete report of their experiences, that others may also be led to follow their example. The Lord is still calling by the voice of His Spirit, "Today if you hear His voice," because "tomorrow" will forever be too late.

In order that the reader may fully understand our present experiences, it will be necessary for us to write briefly about some of our past experiences in Oklahoma. The interest in Sh. Okla. in this cause of reformation, was very good from the beginning. Nearly two years ago a number of faithful believers were ready to take their stand with us. On this occasion a little company was organized. Soon thereafter, our believers entered into some trying experiences. The enemy fought very bitter to oppose this work. It was at this time, when G. W. Schubert hurried to Oklahoma, to destroy the work which had been accomplished. Some were still standing in their decision. No matter what means had to be employed, his only object was, to bring them back to the church. When he saw that these believers stood firm upon the principles which we had presented to them, he took his refuge to false reports. In general, he made the following statements:

- I. He told, that the reform movement is of a Spiritualistic Origin.
- II. He told, that he personally had not in any way taken part in defending the war, as was generally done by the denomination.
- III. He told that he had taken a decided stand against those brethren who had defended the war in documents given to the War department in Germany.
- IV. He told, that the mistake of these brethren had been made good, and the documents had been recalled.

On February 6, 1931, an article, written by G. W. Schubert, appeared in a German publication called "Messenger." In this article he upheld very emphatically the fore-going statements. It is easily understood that such a work had its effect upon the hearts of those standing in their decision. It was upon the presentation of this position, that several families went back to the Adventist church. But let us call the attention to the reader, that nothing is so safely hidden, it will be brought to light by the Sun.

On this occasion, while Brother Schubert was still laboring in Oklahoma, several brethren questioned him, if he would be willing to have a public debate with us, that both sides may be heard. To this he readily agreed. Thereupon we received a Telegram inviting us to this debate. We left the following day for Oklahoma, and when we reached our destination, we were very anxious to know when and where this debate would take place. As an answer from Brother Schubert, we received a letter which informed us, that no debate would be held. This was of course a great disappointment for us, because we had made such a long journey for this very purpose. But then at once, we remembered the Lord's promise: "All things work together for good." (Rom. 8:28.) Through this very act, the hearts of those who had been deceived became unrestful. The Lord began to do His work in His own good way.

Soon thereafter, another article appeared in the "Messenger", entitled: "The apostate movement in Oklahoma conquered." In this article, our movement was attacked in a mocking way. It was stated therein, that our Literature is full of lies and error. Although the writer had in mind to hurt this cause, it really proved to be a blessing. "Nothing can be done against the truth, but for the truth."

Since that time we did not cease to remember those who had been deceived, in our prayer. It was our desire that the Lord might reveal to them where truth and error was. Our faithful believers in Sh. Oklahoma, labored also untiringly for these dear souls. Whenever an opportunity presented itself, they bore a clear testimony for this cause of reformation. Though the outlook was very dark in the beginning, it began to brighten by and by. Their trust in the Lord was firm. Again and again they remembered the Lord's promises, that the truth would have the victory, and every honest jewel would be gathered.

Those who had again taken their stand with the denomination, felt it their solemn duty to uphold the principles of reformation. They realized the sad spiritual condition of Laodicea. Brother K. who last year acted as Elder in the church, did his very best to bring the church upon higher ground. All his efforts were fruitless. The church despised and rejected the message, and brought reproach upon those who bore it. During that time we mailed our Literature to these believers, which they read with a keen interest. The spirit of the Lord convinced them again and again that this was the truth.

According to God's providence it was possible for us to visit Oklahoma again. This time we took our families with us. On our way we visited our believers in St. Louis. We had a wonderful meeting with them, and were all refreshed in the present truth. Though the weather at this time of the year is not best for traveling, we looked in faith to God, that He would bring us safely to our destination. The Lord answered our prayers in this respect. The last day of the journey was very hard, the weather was bad, but we reached our brethren and sisters safely. The joy of meeting us once more was great. The weather began to be wonderful after our arrival, so that it was not necessary to drop one meeting. We praise the Lord for this wonderful blessing.

Our brethren had made good preparations for the meetings to be held. For this purpose the Congrega-

tional church was at our disposal. It is indeed a great blessing that other churches have their doors open for the message of this time, while the doors of the Adventist churches are closed. The interest in these meetings was very encouraging. From near and far they came to hear the Word of God. Our families were also a blessing to these meetings. A special interest was manifested by those of which we already reported. They told us all about their experiences in the past. It had been revealed to them that only by false reports they had been induced to come back to the fallen church. The Sun had brought all things to light.

First the Sun brought to light, that Brother Schubert had taken an active part in defending the War. His name appears under the pamphlet: "A Christian and the War," which speaks very definitely that it is no sin to partake in War, and fight even on the Sabbath-day. His signature was also given to a document which appeared in the "Berliner Lokal Anzeiger," on August 24, 1918, which also sets forth the same principle.

Through the fore-going facts, it was secondly revealed by the Sun, that Brother Schubert had not taken a decided stand against those brethren who had sent the documents to the German War department, but on the other hand, had defended the War himself.

Then the Sun brought to light that the documents had not been recalled as was stated by him, and that the mistake had not been made right. A letter to this effect, written by the "Reichswehrministerium at Berlin," is in possession of our Brother D. D. Ehrlich, in Sh. Oklahoma.

At last the Sun brought to light, that this movement is not of a Spiritistic Origin, but that it was born in the midst of trials and tribulations by the Holy Spirit. It was a great confusion which prevailed among God's professed children in the year 1914. This confusion came about, because the professed church of God trampled upon the principles of God's holy law. At this time, when the Lord was doing a special work to gather out those who had remained faithful, the enemy was also busy. Here and there some arose who claimed to have special light from heaven, while in reality they were advocates of Fanaticism. Through these side-issues, the enemy sought to bring reproach upon the cause of reformation. This has always been the case when the Lord was doing a special work. The following testimony will suffice to prove this fact.

"In the days of the Reformation its enemies charged all the evils of fanaticism upon the very ones who were laboring most earnestly against it. A similar course was pursued by the opposers of the Advent Movement. And not content with misrepresenting and exaggerating the errors of extremists and fanatics, they circulated unfavorable reports that had not the slightest semblance of truth. These persons were actuated by prejudice and hatred. Their peace was disturbed by the proclamation of Christ at the door. They feared it might be true, yet hoped it was not, and this was the secret of their warfare against Adventists and their faith.

The fact that a few fanatics worked their way into the ranks of Adventists is no more reason to decide that the movement was not of God, than was the presence of fanatics and deceivers in the church in Paul's or Luther's day a sufficient excuse for condemning their work. Let the people of God arouse out of sleep, and begin in earnest the work of repentance and reformation; let them search the Scriptures to learn the truth as it is in Jesus; let them make an entire consecration to God, and evidence will not be wanting that Satan is still active and vigilant. With all possible deception he will manifest his power, calling to his aid all the fallen angels of his realm."—"The Great Controversy," pp. 397, 398.

This testimony speaks for itself. It relates in detail the experiences of our day. Satan is still employing

the same means to hinder the cause of truth. For a time his efforts may seem to be successful, but truth will finally triumph.

It was on a beautiful Sabbath day when the call was made if any one was ready to take his stand with God's remnant people. At first a young man came to the front and expressed his desire to be baptized. Then others followed, while prayers of thanks, and tears of joy were flowing. The whole congregation wept before the Lord, because of the mighty manifestation of God's Spirit. We found 10 dear believers willing to join this movement, while 2 were ready for baptism. We praised the Lord for the wonderful victory which He had given to these dear believers. Every one of those who had gone back two years ago, was now once more connected with the faithful few.

The same night a quarterly meeting was held in the Adventist church. Those who had taken their stand with us, went to this meeting to bear an open testimony before the church. While giving their testimony, they were despised and reproached, but they felt happy to suffer for Jesus. Now that peace had again entered their hearts, they praised the Lord with a loud voice. Let us remember them all before the throne of grace, that they may prove faithful to the end.

On Sunday morning we had the baptismal service. It was a solemn act, which again reminded us of the covenant which we have made with the Lord. Though the weather was stormy, and the waves beat high, the courage of those who were to be baptized, was strong. With a joyful heart they went into the water, to come out as a new creature in Christ Jesus. May the Lord lead and bless them on the way to eternal life.

The hour now drew near where we had to separate again. Our last meeting was Tuesday evening. It was a meeting which we shall never forget. The testimonies of all brethren and sisters which went up to the throne of grace, were a blessing to our heart. Again and again we were reminded of the words of David: "This is the Lord's doing." O, what a privilege it is to be called a child of God! How wonderful, to be united with those of like precious faith. Though it is not possible for us to be always together, we know that the day is not far distant when we shall be forever united with the Lord.

From here we went on our way to H. Oklahoma. It was our privilege to spend a few days with our believers there. We found them happy in the present truth, and had some blessed meetings with them. The Holy Spirit dwelt in our midst, and the believers were most happy to learn of our experiences in Sh. In this place we have also several interested ones, and it has always been our desire that the day might come, when they would openly take their stand with us.

On our way home we visited our believers in St. Louis again. Their joy was great when they learned of the wonderful blessings which had attended our work. In St. Louis we have also a very good interest, and we expect to labor there again in the near future.

When we arrived home we found many good reports from the field. The Lord is working through His Spirit to enlighten those who are in darkness. We received also an encouraging letter from H. Oklahoma, wherein the interested ones stated that they had taken a decided stand on the side of reformation. Praise be to God for these dear souls. Yes, the Lord is good. He is gathering His children. How wonderful will it be, when we shall all stand on mount Zion, to sing the new song of Moses and the Lamb. All brethren and sisters which we have visited, send their hearty greetings to all believers throughout the world field. Your brethren in Christ,

A. W. Doerschler, W. O. Welp.

"If you lose Heaven, you lose everything; if you gain Heaven, you gain everything."

"In Such An Hour As Ye Think Not"

One warning left by our Saviour for us who live in these last days, is this: "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

These words are addressed to believers. They are designed to keep us from putting far off, even in our thought, the return of our Lord.

It is not for us to decide when the time is for the close of human probation. But it is for us, for each one of us, to set his own house in order, so that we shall be "like unto men that wait for their Lord, when He shall return from the wedding; that when He cometh and knocketh, they may open unto Him immediately." For "blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching." Luke 12:36, 37.

The writer believes from the very depths of his heart that we are now in that "little time of peace" graciously granted for the finishing of this work, first in our own hearts, and then by giving the message to others. But that need not require a great length of time, for the Lord "will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Rom. 9:28.

We are too prone to feel that we must finish the work; and in a sense this is true; God has chosen to have instruments or agencies through which to work, and it is our privilege to be used by Him in doing His work; but the work is His, not ours, and He uses us; we do not use Him.

Jesus is Coming

"The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message."—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, p. 406.

Jesus is coming; this must be the keynote of every message. Let us proclaim it again and again that He is coming so soon that the majority of people are going to be surprised. Let us say it, repeat it again, accent it, urge it home. Let us bring to remembrance familiar prophecies, both from the Scriptures and from the spirit of prophecy, and set them out, not once, but often. Let us impress the minds of the hearers or readers, not in a hazy, indefinite fashion, but decisively, making them hear Jesus at the door, pointing out that already the cases of the living are under consideration in the sanctuary.

Jesus is coming! Do you believe it? Does it bring a thrill to your heart,—a thrill of joy? If you are a real, true child of God, it will; if you are without oil for your lamp, it will not.

The message for the hour is, Jesus is coming; the "gospel of the kingdom" is, Jesus is coming; and if you believe, really believe, that He is coming, coming right away, as He surely is, you will purify yourself, even as He is pure.

Today there is a call for "a revival and a reformation." God's people are counseled to buy white raiment, and to anoint their eyes. We must prepare ourself in order to meet Him. If we will think of the soon coming of Jesus, if we will write and speak of the soon coming of Jesus, if we will read and hear of the soon coming of Jesus, if we will pray for the soon coming of Jesus, our hearts will open up in anticipation of that glad event. Then when the Spirit of God is shed abroad in our hearts in such a measure that we overflow with the glad tidings, the message will go with lightning rapidity.

"The Lord is coming, let this be
The herald note of jubilee,
And when we meet and when we part
The salutation of each heart."

Brethren and sisters, is there anything that could possibly so quicken the pulse of our spiritual natures, or so give wings to the message committed to us, as a deepening of our own Christian experience, a longing of soul for the speedy coming of our Lord, the prayer rising spontaneously from all our hearts, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly"?

What if it were to-day?

Jesus is coming to earth again,
What if it were to-day?
Coming in power and love to reign,
What if it were to-day?
Coming to claim His chosen Bride,
All the redeemed and purified,
Over this whole earth scattered wide:
What if it were to-day?
Satan's dominon will then be o'er,
Oh, that it were to-day!
Sorrow and sighing shall be no more,
Oh, that it were to-day!
Then shall the dead in Christ arise,
Caught up to meet Him in the skies,
When shall these glories meet our eyes?
What if it were to-day?
Faithful and true would He find us here,
If He should come to-day?
Watching in gladness and not in fear,
If He should come to-day?
Signs of His coming multiply,
Morning light breaks in eastern sky,
Watch for the time is drawing nigh,
What if it were to-day?

May the dear Lord restore to every loyal heart the real old-time advent spirit, together with the joy of conscious readiness, "that when He cometh and knocketh," we "may open unto Him immediately."

A. W. Doerschler.

The Children's Friend

THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM.

Abraham returned from Egypt "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." Lot was still with him, and their flocks and herds became so great that they could not find pasture for them all together.

So Abraham said to Lot, "Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

Abraham was the elder, and the choice should have been his. But he was not selfish, and so gave the choice to the younger man, his nephew.

Lot selfishly chose the plain of Jordan. This was the most beautiful and productive portion of all the land of Canaan. And he "pitched his tent toward Sodom."

But Lot did not stop to consider that Sodom and the other cities of the plain were very wicked. He thought only of his own interests, and was soon living in the city of Sodom itself. His daughters married wicked men of Sodom, and so forgot God. Lot could now see the evil of choosing his home among wicked people.

At last Sodom and some of the other cities near it became so wicked that God would not suffer them to remain. He must destroy them from off the earth. But first the Lord would tell Abraham what He was about to do.

One day when it was very warm, Abraham sat in the door of his tent. Soon he saw three strangers coming toward him. He ran to them and asked them to come and sit under a tree and rest while he prepared some food for them to eat.

After they had eaten, two of the men went toward Sodom, but the third, who was the Lord, or Christ, remained to tell Abraham that He was about to destroy Sodom.

Then Abraham began to plead for Sodom. He made many requests of the Lord, and finally gained the promise that if ten righteous people could be found in Sodom the city would be saved.

In his childlike faith Abraham felt safe when this promise was made. In the household of Lot alone he thought there must be at least ten who were true to God. But the evil surroundings of Sodom had corrupted even the family of Lot.

The two angels who left Abraham came to Lot and told him to take his sons and daughters, and flee from the city. But these young persons, who were married to the people of Sodom, would not heed the warning.

Early the next morning the angels told Lot to take his wife and the two daughters who were with him, and hasten out of the city.

But Lot lingered, for he was sorry to know that some of his children, his friends, the beautiful city, and all his wealth must be destroyed. So the angels took hold of them and hastened them out of Sodom.

Then the angel said to them. "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." And then the angel adds, "For I can not do anything till thou be come thither."

The angel had said, "Look not behind thee." But the treasure of Lot's wife was in Sodom. She did not heed the warning of the angel. She loved her beautiful home and the riches of Sodom more than she loved God. She proved unworthy of the deliverance that the angels of God had brought to them, and she turned and looked back to see if God really meant what he said. That very moment she became a pillar of salt dead and white like a marble statue.

When Lot and his daughters were far away, the Lord rained a horrible tempest of fire and brimstone upon the cities of the plain, and they were utterly destroyed. The very ground where they stood is now covered by the Dead Sea.

Thus God showed His hatred of their awful wickedness. They loved sin, and were not thankful that God had paid the great price of the life of His only Son in order to save them from doing wrong, if they would only ask Him for help to do right. Holding on to sin they perished with it, as many will perish in the last great "lake of fire" "prepared for the devil and his angels." That fire is not being prepared for man; heaven is being fitted up for him. Oh that all would accept it!

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you." Which place are we preparing ourselves for? We are to make the choice.

CHRIST, ONLY CHRIST

Christ, only Christ! For Thee alone I plead,
For Thee, who on the rugged cross didst bleed,
To satisfy my hungry soul's deep need.

All bruised and marred and stained with sin, my soul
Cries out for Thee. Lord Jesus, make me whole;
No longer let the evil one my life control.

Christ, only Christ! And when upon Thy throne
Thou grantest me a place, glad will I own
'Twas Christ who did for all my sins atone.

The Sabbath Watchman

With

The Children's Friend

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PERSECUTION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

(Continued from page three)

might never hear the gospel. The truth has been misrepresented to these men. They have listened to false charges concerning the faith of Christ's disciples. Often their only means of learning its real character is the testimony of those who are brought to trial for their faith."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 354.

"There is a prospect before us of a continual struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony. And there are some who will even urge such a course from the scripture. 'Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. . . . The powers that be are ordained of God.'"—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, p. 712.

"When persecution was kindled against the teachers of the truth, they gave heed to the words of Christ, 'When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.' The light penetrated everywhere. The fugitives would find somewhere a hospitable door opened to them, and there abiding, they would preach Christ, sometimes in the church, or if denied that privilege, in private houses or in the open air. Wherever they could obtain a hearing was a consecrated temple. The truth, proclaimed with such energy and assurance, spread with irresistible power."—"The Great Controversy," p. 196.

"Many were persecuted by their unbelieving brethren. In order to retain their position in the church, some consented to be silent in regard to their hope; but others felt that loyalty to God forbade them thus to hide the truths which He had committed to their trust. Not a few were cut off from the fellowship of the

church for no other reason than expressing their belief in the coming of Christ. Very precious to those who bore this trial of their faith were the words of the prophet, 'Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for My name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but He shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.'"—"The Great Controversy," p. 372.

"The unfaltering servants of God have usually suffered the bitterest persecution from false teachers of religion. But the true prophets will ever prefer to reproach, and even death, rather than unfaithfulness to God. The Infinite Eye is upon the instruments of divine reproof, and they bear a heavy responsibility. But God regards the injury done to them through misrepresentation, falsehood, or abuse as though it were done unto Himself, and will punish accordingly."—"Testimonies," Vol. 4, p. 167.

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 763.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

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