

PEOPLE'S



Sermon by
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Tabernacle.

PULPIT...

ALL IN ADAM Even so ALL IN CHRIST

Text:—"Since by man came death, by man also comes the resurrection of the dead; for as all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ's during his presence" (1 Corinthians xv, 21, 23, R. V.).

July 24.—Once we considered most unkind, unjust, the Bible declaration that our Creator condemned all of Adam's race with him on account of Adam's "Original Sin." But now, in the light of the clearer unfolding of God's Word, we are privileged to see differently. Now we perceive, not only that God did no injustice to Adam's children, but, contrariwise, that in this very particular, he did them a kindness—that it was in the interest of humanity in general. We are aware that this statement appears paradoxical to those who have not yet gotten the proper focus upon the Divine Plan. The key which unlocks the difficulty is the proper appreciation of the penalty imposed upon Adam and his race.

The erroneous, unscriptural view of this penalty which came down to us from the "dark ages" teaches that God damned father Adam, mother Eve, and every child born to them to an eternity of torture at the hands of devils. It is this unscriptural and irrational view of the wage of Original Sin which caused all our difficulty. Indeed, it is safe to say that no other false doctrine held by God's people ever drove away from God, from the Bible and from the fellowship of the Church so many intelligent minds. Thousands of bright, honest minds, after seeing this teaching of the Christian creeds formulated in the dark ages, have quietly withdrawn from them in heart, if not outwardly, saying to themselves, Evidently my reasoning faculties are of a different kind from those of many others prominent in the Church: Without disputing the point, I simply conclude that I must think for myself and that, in so doing, I am forced out of sympathy with the majority of fellow-Christians on this basic doctrine.

Where Lies the Difficulty?

The difficulty is that while the majority of Christian people heartily repudiate these misrepresentations of God and his Word, nevertheless the subject is not clear to them and they fear that to repudiate this doctrine would be to repudiate the Bible and to become open infidels. And just here is their mistake. The majority of them are not Bible students. Even amongst ministers of the Gospel comparatively few have any degree of knowledge of God's Word. They know what they think about the Bible; what they believe that it teaches; what they have been told that it teaches; what the catechisms say it teaches; but they have never made critical investigations of the Bible themselves to ascertain its teachings. It is a part of our endeavor to arouse Christian people everywhere to search and study the Scriptures and to assist them with Bible study helps, Bible keys, etc. And, thank God, there are thousands in Spiritual Israel who are not bowing their knees to Baal, but who are anxious to know, to rightly understand, the Word of God. "Classes in Bible study are springing up all over the world. These have recently adopted the name of "International Bible Students Association." God is blessing them, not only with the opening of their own eyes more and more widely, but also in using them to bring others "out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter ii, 9).

The Scriptures speak of a "famine, not for bread nor for water, but for hearing of the Word of the Lord." This famine is upon us now. Not only are Christian people hungry and thirsty for the bread of life and the water of life, but many of the worldly are feeling a longing for something better than the husks which they have. We do not know that all Church members, nor all of any one Church membership, are thus hungering and thirsting for Truth. But we do know that everywhere in all the various Churches of all denominations there is a hungry class which cannot be satisfied to dishonestly misrepresent itself as in harmony with the creeds. These bewildered sheep are, of late years, finding the green pastures and still waters of Divine Truth and grace—near to them—in the Word of God—hidden under the rubbish of ignorance and superstition, mistranslation and misinterpretation.

But as for the masses of all denominations: Alas, they are falling into unbelief! The popular form of infidelity known as Higher Criticism has already swallowed up more than one-half of the ministry and of the most intelligent part of the laity. The only hope for any of these is in leaving the chaff and husks of medieval misinterpretations of God's Word and in finding its true meaning, in which is refreshment, strength and new life.

"The Wages of Sin is Death."

However we read our Bibles in the past we read into them from the creeds of a darker time the mischievous error that when the Bible declares a death penalty for sin it really means the reverse of this—life—eternal life in eternal torture. Who had the right to twist the inspired words in such a devilish fashion? Who had the right to add to the Word of God and to make void its true meaning in this manner? Hear the words of the Apostle, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans vi, 23).

Christ our Lord" (Romans vi, 23). What statement could be more simple? The wicked will not be granted life at all, either in pleasure or in pain. They are under sentence of death—destruction. Eternal life is a gift. And it will be given only to those to whom it will be a blessing—to those who will accept it through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us turn to Genesis and note the statements made to our first parents respecting sin and its penalty. Let us note that, without the twistings of theology, we should have no difficulty in understanding the Divine sentence, as our first parents evidently had no difficulty. The sentence upon Father Adam for disobedience was, "Dying thou shalt die"; "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return"; "Cursed is the ground for thy sake"; "Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee until thou return unto the ground from which thou wast taken" (Genesis iii, 2, 3, 17-19, 24).

Thus we see that the penalty for sin upon Adam and his race was that they should return to the dust. As we read again, "Thou turnest man to destruction" (Psalm xc, 3). And this penalty is sufficiently awful when we think of what it means to die, to lose mental, moral and physical perfection and gradually go into the tomb—into the Bible hell (*sheol*), throughout the Old Testament). And this *sheol*, the grave, the tomb, to which the Bible says all go, good and bad, rich and poor, holy and unholy, was the only hell known amongst any of the people of God for the more than four thousand years, represented by the teachings of the Old Testament. Then came the New Testament times and the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles to the same effect. In the New Testament the Greek word *hades*, representing the tomb, the death state, takes the place of the Old Testament *sheol* in every passage translated from the Old Testament into the New Testament.

It was nearly three hundred years after Jesus and the Apostles, after the doctrine of Purgatory was invented. And for this reason neither the word Purgatory nor the Purgatory thought is expressed in the Scriptures. But Bibles were few, and the people could not have read them even if they had possessed them; hence for long centuries the teachings of the clergy were accepted without Bible proofs, and the doctrine of Purgatory spread all over Christendom. All of our forefathers believed in it. It became the teaching of Christians everywhere that the mere handful of saints, instead of dying when they seemed to die, went to heaven and that the great mass of humanity, instead of dying when they seemed to die, went in some mysterious manner to a mysterious place called Purgatory, of which nobody knew anything except what they were taught. The teaching is that practically all of humanity go to Purgatory there to be roasted and otherwise tortured for centuries—ultimately to gain release from the torture, when fitted for heaven. Upon this doctrine in turn sprang the doctrine of saying "masses for the dead," who were believed not to be dead but intensely alive. The fear of Purgatory drew the people very close to the priests as the supposed counsellors of the Almighty and the mass money drew the priests very close to the people. They were all honestly intentioned, but all deceived by the great deceiver—Satan.

A Bad Matter Made Worse.

By and by a priest, a Catholic theologian and teacher in one of their colleges, by name Martin Luther, accidentally ran across a copy of the New Testament in the Latin language. Being an educated man he was able to read it; for there was not one copy in the German language anywhere. Luther tells us of his perplexity in not finding Purgatory in the New Testament. He tried to interest the Pope in Bible study, but failed, and instead was branded a heretic. He protested, and others protested; hence came the name Protestants!

These Protestants were undoubtedly as sincere before their protest as they were afterward; hence their protest was against the very doctrines which once they had proclaimed as the Truth. Their minds were full of the thought that a good person is not dead but more alive than before he died, and that some of these at death went to heaven while the great majority went to Purgatory. They did not see the teaching of the Bible, that "the wages of sin is death"—that all go into death, good and bad, and that this death state is the *sheol* and *hades* of the Bible. Instead of getting this true light upon God's Word, they went from darkness into greater darkness on this point. Here we wish to emphasize the thought that all these noble men, Catholics and Protestants, in their day, like all true people today, held a measure of Truth in combination with error. It is the measure of Truth possessed and enjoyed that has given any power and force to our various Christian systems, and that, to

WEeping WATER.

(Republican).
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Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sperry departed last Thursday for an extended trip visiting relatives and friends in Seattle and Cashmere, Wash., Portland, Ore., Tacoma and San Francisco.

Principal C. E. Corbin and wife went to Crete Tuesday to visit a couple of weeks before packing up their goods to leave for Huron, S. D. Mr. Corbin's father and mother also departed Tuesday, going to their home in Utica, Ill.

S. J. Marshall has moved into the J. C. Wade house which he recently purchased. Mr. Wade has not decided just what he will do but his wife expects to go east on an extended visit with relatives and they will decide where they will locate later.

J. M. Teegarden recently sold his residence to George Leach. They do not have to give possession for a number of months. Mr. and Mrs. Leach will move to town some time in the future, and Mr. Teegarden will either buy or build a home closer to his business.

On Thursday, July 14, occurred a very pretty wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ambler, when their niece, Genevieve Megrew was married to William G. Knox of Sublet, Wyo. About 40 guests witnessed the ceremony which took place at 9 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Anderson officiating.

Mrs. T. S. Shanklin has something over 100 chickens stolen and some old hens. This Wednesday morning Henry O'Brien sold to J. W. Swindle a coop full of young fryers. Mrs. Shanklin was brought over to the meat market and says she can identify many of them as hers. Mr. O'Brien says he bought them of Harry Coflizer. Just what action will be taken will be determined when Mr. Shanklin comes in.

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UNION.

(Ledger).
John R. Pierson, another victim of the automobile accident, is doing well and is able to come down town, but says he has seen the time he felt better.

Charles Grimes of Plattsmouth, the wide awake city editor of the Plattsmouth Journal, was down last Sunday for a visit with Claude Everett and wife east of town.

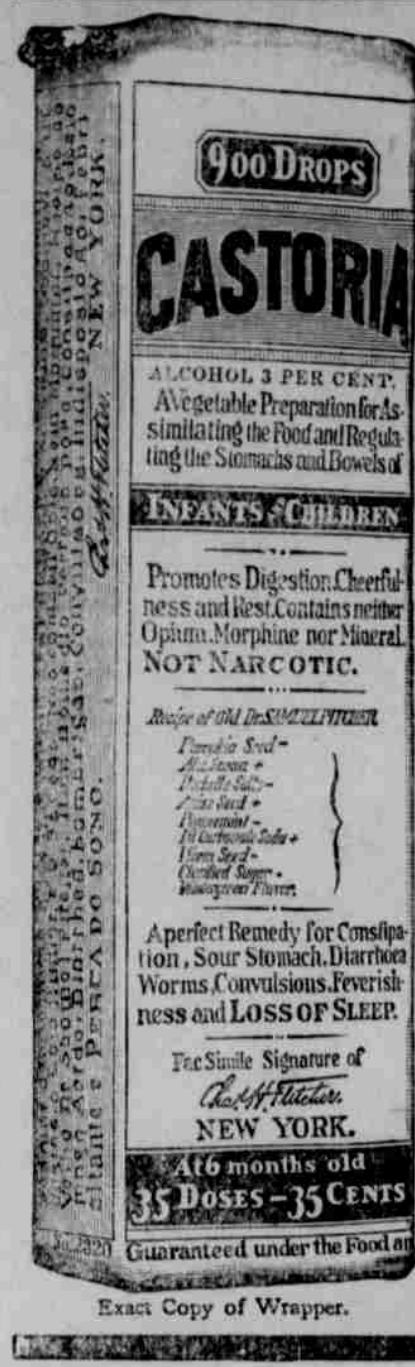
G. W. Cheney went to Auburn on the forenoon train to oversee the work of repairing his automobile, which was injured in the auto accident a few weeks ago.

H. Swenk of Lincoln, accompanied by his genial force of bricklayers, came down from Lincoln Tuesday and commenced the brick work on the new bank building.

Word comes from Wadestown, West Virginia, that Earl Upton and wife are the parents of a daughter, born July 10. We extend congratulations to the young lady and parents.

The news was received here last week by relatives announcing the marriage of Miss Maude Childester, daughter of A. H. Childester of this village, to Mr. Stewart of Walthill. We extend congratulations to the young people.

J. W. Tillman and family came down from Fort Crook last Saturday



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to make a short visit with their Union relatives and friends, and departed for home Monday evening. Mr. Tillman and family are now located at Orzalla, and were called to Omaha by the death of Mr. Tillman's mother, who passed away at the St. Joseph hospital shortly after an operation.

A bunch of ball players came up from Nebraska City on the evening train last Sunday and after a great deal of hustling the Union boys secured a few pick-ups and the game commenced about 5:30. The Union boys played ball from the word go, and secured a good lead, but they "let up" a little bit, and then the city boys had their turn, and when the final count was taken it stood, Union 15, Nebraska City 14.

Senator Burkett announced this morning that Plattsmouth has a good chance to obtain a free mail delivery service. Officials of the postoffice there have submitted to the department at Washington a certificate showing that the business of the office during the last year has amounted to over \$10,000.

Senator Burkett said he had obtained from the department the services of an inspector to go to Plattsmouth and investigate the conditions of the office there. If the other requisites can be met the free delivery State Journal.

Christian Wohlfarth is spending today in Omaha, being a passenger this morning for that city.

Rev. George R. Murray in Town.
Rev. George R. Murray of Thomas, Pa., who is to preach tomorrow at Murray, passed through the city this morning en route to that place. Rev. Murray has the distinction of being the father of the town of Murray in this county, it having been named in his honor and he can be justly proud of his namesake. Years ago he was a resident of this county, being located upon the site of what is now the flourishing and prosperous town of the same name. He has a great many good friends and admirers among the early settlers and they all were very glad to have him come west and pay them a visit. During his visit in the east recently, A. M. Holmes, the well known citizen of Murray, made a visit with Rev. Murray and had a most delightful time. It was due to his urgings that Rev. Murray came west on his first trip to this locality for twenty years. Rev. Murray preached at the site of Murray for eleven years and during that long period Cass county boasted no more popular and able minister of the gospel.

Joseph Koubek and daughter, Miss Frances, who were in Omaha yesterday consulting with Dr. Gifford concerning his eyes, were again in Omaha today. An examination of his eyes disclosed that they were in bad shape and an operation will have to be performed upon one of them. This operation will probably take place today as that was the intention when they went there this morning.

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Hart, Schaffner & Marx Clothes
Manhattan Shirts
Stetson Hats
Falter & Thieroff
MAKING SUIT CLOTHES
We'll show you new things for Fall if you will come in.