

KEY OF KNOWLEDGE LOST BY PHARISEES

Modern Application of Jesus' Words by Pastor Russell.

THE LORD'S BLESSINGS HIDDEN

As the Jewish Expounders of the Law Refused to Instruct the Common People, So Do Our Modern Doctors of Divinity—Failure of the Scribes and Pharisees to Endorse Jesus Barred His Message to the Multitude, Who Trusted the Scriptures.



Brooklyn, N. Y., May 5.—The Academy of Music was crowded today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on "The Lost Key of Knowledge." Taking his text from Luke xi, 52, he said:—

In the New Testament the word lawyer has a very different meaning from our general usage. It applied to those religious teachers of the Jews who made special professions of sanctity of heart and earnest desire to know God's will, as expressed in the Mosaic Law, and to teach the same to the people. The corresponding class of today are designated Doctors of Divinity. Our text, therefore, with this correction reads, "Woe unto you, Doctors of Divinity, for ye have taken away the Key of Knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering ye hindered."

"The Common People Heard Jesus Gladly."

It was the custom amongst the Jews that lessons from the Law and the Prophets should be read every day in their synagogues. The people were thus familiar with the letter of the Divine Law and promises. The majority of them, of course, were illiterate, for educational facilities were not what they are now. As a result only a few claimed to have an understanding of the spiritual part of the Law and the Prophets. These were chiefly of the literary and wealthy classes. To these the common people looked for guidance respecting the Divine will and plan.

As an illustration. When the common people heard Jesus gladly they were unwilling to trust their own judgments, but inquired, "Have any of the Scribes and Pharisees believed on Him?" Have the Doctors of the Law, the Doctors of Divinity, endorsed Him? They have made a study of these things and we would rely more upon their judgment than upon our own. But none of the Scribes and Pharisees endorsed Him, and hence comparatively few of the people believed Him and became His disciples.

The common people were hungry for the Message which Jesus brought. It is recorded that they said of Jesus' teachings, "Never man spake like this Man." The nation would have gone over promptly to Jesus had the Scribes and Pharisees, the Doctors of the Law, set the example and given the word. Moreover, the teachings of Jesus harmonized the message of the Law and the Prophets over which the Scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees had long wrangled and disputed. Had the Doctors of the Law been as hungry for the Truth as were the people, undoubtedly all of their differences of interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures would have speedily been solved in the light of the then present Truth and knowledge of God, which was shining upon the Bible through the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Apostles being Jehovah's mouthpieces.

The Key of Knowledge Buried.

In our text Jesus charged the Jewish Doctors of Divinity with the responsibility of having taken away the Key of Knowledge, refusing to use it themselves to enter into the great appreciation of the blessings then due, and hiding it from the common people who trusted them so implicitly. We charge that the same thing is true today. Not only were the Jewish people typical of spiritual Israel, and their Age typical of this Age, and their Harvest typical of the Harvest or closing time of this Age, but additionally, now as then, "God's people perish for lack of knowledge." (Hosea iv, 6.) Now, as then, the Doctors of Divinity will not use the Key of Knowledge themselves, to enter heartily into the wonderful privileges and blessings now due, and additionally they have buried the Key of Knowledge, hiding it from the people under a mass of forms and ceremonies.

But is Knowledge Necessary?

In our Lord's day the Jewish Doctors of Divinity, or Rabbis, contented themselves with telling the people what they should do and what they should not do, but they did not teach the people—they did not help them to any understanding of the deep meaning of the Law and the Prophets. In our text Jesus said to the "D. D.'s," "ye bind heavy burdens on the people, grievous to be borne," but ye do not attempt to carry those burdens yourselves.

It is so to this day with the Jewish Rabbis, as well as with other Ministers; for instance, a minister stands as a representative and mouthpiece of the church creed, which in round-about terms declares that whoever does not live a saintly life will suffer an eternity of torment. Is not this a grievous

burden to put upon any conscientious soul? Has it not caused untellable anguish to many of God's true people? And has it not repulsed and driven many from God and the Bible, thousands of the most intelligent minds in the world?

As the Jewish Doctors of Divinity carried no such burdens, neither do the Doctors of Divinity of Christendom. In private they acknowledge that they carry no such burdens. In public they give the inference that they do—not so much by positive terms as by implication, tone and inflection of voice, and by the general fact that they stand for and as representatives of the creeds which so teach. It does not excuse these influential teachers for them to claim that in their official capacity they lose their personal responsibility and shift it upon those who made the creeds and those who adopted them. The people are no longer trusting the creeds. They realize that the creeds contain many inconsistencies, and that greater light is today shining from one page of the Bible upon another, than shone in the days when those creeds were formulated.

The common people trust the Bible—Jesus, the Apostles and the Prophets. They know that all of the creeds of Christendom claim to be built upon the Inspired Record. They understand the Scribes and Pharisees of today, the Doctors of Divinity of Christendom, to give assurances that those creeds properly present the teachings of the Bible. The creeds claim to be the word of God and if all the prominent Doctors of Divinity of Christendom came forward and publicly renounced them, as they nearly all do in private conversation.

It is this matter of misleading the people, deceiving them, that constituted the basis of Jesus' charge against the Doctors of Divinity of old, and we believe that His judgment is very similar today respecting the Doctors of Divinity of Christendom—"Ye have taken away [ye have hidden] the Key of Knowledge. Ye have not entered in yourselves, and them that were entering ye hindered."

Christian people today are so disgusted with the creeds which have separated them and their forefathers into six hundred different denominations that they are quite ready to discard them all, and to come together as one Church of the Living God to study the Bible in its own light.

Systematic Key-hiding.

The Scribes and Pharisees of our day are proving themselves to be the antitypes of those addressed by Jesus in our text, and have a substitute for knowledge. Taking away the Key of Knowledge, they say to the common people, Do not bother your head about doctrines; leave doctrines to the clergy; let the clergy endorse all the creeds, however conflicting they be. We do this in order to lull you to sleep. There is nothing so calculated to disturb the Christian's rest as the discussion of the doctrines of Christ. If there be in any congregation those who cannot feel satisfied without some kind of Bible study, let them have it, but get them rather to discussing the geography of Palestine and the habits and customs of the people, etc., rather than the prophecies of old or the interpretations of them, as given by Jesus and the Apostles. We ministers will keep aloof from such Bible study; we will not let on but that we understand these prophecies thoroughly, but we will keep a watch upon the Bible classes, and interfere only if we find some brother therein who is inclined to delve after the doctrines of Christ and the Apostles.

One minister, voicing this opposition to Bible study, especially along the lines of differences where it would be of special value, said, "The Church is like a great Hospital. Everything like doctrinal discussion must be banished and excluded, just as in a hospital all noise is forbidden, that the patients may sleep, or just as in a nursery noise is excluded that children may sleep."

Alas! it is too true that the nominal church of Christ is like a Hospital, many of whose patients are blind and deaf and asleep and mentally confused. But the trouble is: These got into this condition because of a lack of healthful exercise; and keeping them quiet will but turn the present hospital into a Cemetery.

What the churches of all the denominations need is the Word of God—as presented in the words of Jesus and the Apostles: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The sin-sick and lame, the blind and deaf and mentally perplexed need to hear the voice of Truth—"Wonderful Words of Life"—otherwise they will become more sick and will perish as Christians, but to become alive perhaps as "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."

An Episcopal minister in our hearing urged his congregation to simply rest, not to bother themselves about their own future or that of others. The Holy Catholic Church, he said, resembled a ship, in which the members should come as passengers to be carried to the heavenly destination. They need not examine the compass, nor the chart, nor the machinery. All they need to do is to sit down and enjoy the journey, trusting that their baptism and the Holy Spirit have given them a free ticket to a proper destination.

Necessity For Knowledge.

Knowledge of God, the Bible declares, is indispensable for the attainment of the Great Prize of the High Calling. Thus Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they may know Thee, the Only True God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." (John xvii, 3.) We are not to understand this to signify that anyone who has merely been made acquainted with the fact that

there is one Creator, and that Jesus is His Son, is on account of this knowledge to be granted everlasting life. Some think to be able to make void the various Scriptures which tell us of the necessity of making our "calling and election sure," by so running as to obtain the prize. (I Corinthians ix, 24.)

Our Lord's words do not refer to a knowledge about God, but to a knowledge of or personal acquaintance with God and His Son. And such an intimate acquaintance is not obtained merely by an introduction, but by companionship; it signifies an intimacy of acquaintance, a familiarity. Everything in the Divine Word encourages those who accept the Divine invitation to draw near to God, to come into fellowship with Him.

But this knowledge of God which will bring a saintly life to salvation on the highest plane stands related to God's Word—the teachings of the Bible—for thus God exalted His Word, by making it the channel for spiritual refreshment and personal acquaintance with Himself.

Thus Jesus prayed for us. His followers, "Sanctify them through Thy Truth. Thy Word is Truth." Any who neglect the Divine Word will fall of the sanctifying power and thus fall of the ultimate acquaintanceship with God which alone will guarantee everlasting life. The reason why the Lord has thus arranged the matter and made knowledge of the Scriptures essential, doubtless is that thus His faithful people may be benefited; and they alone receive the instruction which will profit them alone, but would more or less injure others. Thus it is written, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

To this class our Lord says today, as He said to His Jewish followers eight centuries ago, "To you it is given to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to all outside these things are spoken in parables and dark sayings, that hearing they might not understand and seeing they might not perceive." To the outsiders—the Doctors of Divinity—is not permitted the Key of Knowledge. "Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight."—Matthew xi, 25, 26.

What Constitutes the Key?

The Key of Knowledge consists of the faithful study of God's Word, with an honest purpose to know the things that are freely given unto us of God. This implies a consecration of heart, for none others would really desire that they might do the Divine will. And this implies also a faith in our Lord's promise that He that doeth "the will of My Father shall know of the doctrine." (John vii, 17.) It is this consecrated, conscientious Bible study that is lacking today—that is being discouraged today by the great teachers and Doctors of Divinity.

Everything calculated to help Bible study, to get rid of the darkness of the creeds and superstitions of the past, is opposed—but not openly. The Doctors of Divinity of our day, like those of Jesus' day, are wise and act as though they do know. But they do not know; they oppose real Bible study—not openly, but secretly, "for fear of the people." (Mark xi, 32; xii, 12.) The great religious leaders of the Jews were marked by our Lord as being less conscientious, less honest, than the masses of the people. Concerning the people we read that "Jesus was moved with compassion when He beheld the multitude, that they were like sheep without a shepherd."

And is it not so today also? Are not many of God's people hungering and thirsting for the Truth, and greatly perplexed and discouraged because, going time after time to the religious leaders, they have received instead of bread "a stone," instead of a fish "a serpent"—a false doctrine, a devilish misrepresentation of the Almighty's character and Plan in respect to humanity? These devilish doctrines of the Dark Ages St. Paul calls "doctrines of demons," because the demons, the fallen angels, evidently have propagated them. They are to be found amongst all of the heathens, but nowhere in any worse form nor as bad as amongst Christians of all denominations. Is there not therefore a great responsibility resting upon every conscientious minister of the Gospel, that he should step out from amongst the mass of the Doctors of Divinity, who are hiding the Key of Knowledge and misleading the Lord's trusting sheep of nominal Christendom?

"Impossible to Deceive the Very Elect."

As we have already shown they cannot keep penned, not keep asleep, nor keep the knowledge from the saintly ones who constitute "the very elect." Our Lord, speaking of this time, said that the deceptions would be such that they would deceive, if possible, "the very elect," but in their case deception will not be possible, for the True Shepherd Himself will help them. But, oh, what weeping of disappointment, and what a chagrin and gnashing of teeth will come shortly to the "false shepherds," to the Key-hiding Doctors of Divinity, when they find that with all their endeavors to bolster up shams and superstitions in which they themselves do not believe, the entire fabric of Churchianity will collapse, as the Scriptures predict!

It is quite unnecessary that I press the lesson of this text; I leave the matter before you—not merely before this congregation of Brooklyn, but before the twelve millions of readers whom the Newspaper Syndicate assure us come in contact with my weekly discourses. God will urge and press the "Pearl of Great Price" upon nobody. It is for sale to those who will give the price—all that they have. God has adopted plans and methods which will demonstrate and prove the class worthy of a share in Messiah's Kingdom.

LOCAL NEWS

From Friday's Daily.

J. H. Becker left for Omaha on the early train today, where he was called on business for a few hours.

Mrs. Bronkow of near Louisville was in the city today interviewing Treasurer Fox regarding her taxes.

Lloyd Gopen and wife drove up from their home this morning in time to board the early train for Omaha for the day.

Miss Bertha Borneimer of Murdock arrived this morning and will be a guest of the August Nottling home for a few days.

Mrs. J. P. Keil, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Schroeder, at Cedar Creek for a short time, returned on No. 4 this morning.

G. H. Lewis of near Murray was a passenger to South Omaha on the morning train today, having driven in from his home early today.

G. P. Meisinger of Cedar Creek came down on No. 4 this morning and looked after matters of business in the county seat between trains.

County Assessor H. M. Soenichsen, W. E. Rosencrans and Ed Donat left for Nebraska City last evening on No. 2 to bring home Mr. Rosencrans' automobile.

W. H. Lyman of Weeping Water came over last evening on the M. P. and was an over night visitor in the city, departing for the metropolis in Mills county, Iowa, on the morning train today.

From Saturday's Daily.

A. B. Fornoff and family of Guilford were in the city today to take in the attraction of Cole Brothers' circus.

Sam Long of South Bend arrived last evening on No. 2 and looked after matters of business in Plattsmouth for a time.

Louis Young of near Nehawka visited the county seat yesterday and looked after important business matters for a few hours.

John Knabe of Nehawka, one of the leading farmers in that vicinity, was in the city yesterday looking after business matters for a few hours.

Hon. William Puls and his father, William Puls, sr., and their families came in from their homes in Mt. Pleasant precinct today to take in the show.

L. B. Stoner, the real estate man, who was here in the interests of the alluvial lands of Louisiana, returned to his home at Lincoln yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. T. S. Handley of Richmond, Virginia, who has been a guest of her mother, Mrs. Handley, of this city, went to Omaha on the morning train today to meet her husband, who will pay a visit to his mother.

Mrs. Catherine Lohnes and Mrs. Henry Lohnes, both of Peoria, Illinois, arrived on No. 15 this morning and will visit Philip Stoehr and other relatives near Cedar Creek for a time.

Park Crisswiser of Dunbar arrived in the city today and will visit his parents, Robert Crisswiser and wife, for a few days. Park has sold out his business at Dunbar and will seek a new location.

J. C. Spangler and sons, Elmer, Clyde and Louis, came down from Louisville on the morning train to see the rhinoceros with Cole Brothers' circus. They called at this office and renewed their subscription to this paper.

From Monday's Daily.

Will Sharp of Omaha was a Plattsmouth visitor between trains today.

J. I. Corley and wife and B. L. Philpot of Weeping Water were Plattsmouth visitors Saturday.

Elmer Root of Lincoln was an over Sunday guest of his grandparents, J. N. Wise and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Larson spent Sunday with their daughter, Mrs. R. E. Foster and family, near Union.

Mrs. John Fight and Mrs. William McCauley were passengers to Omaha on the morning train today.

Adam Shafer of Mt. Pleasant was in the city Saturday, having been called here on business matters of importance.

William Shera of Rock Bluffs was a Plattsmouth visitor Saturday, accompanied by his family, with whom he visited the circus.

George J. Stohlman of Louisville was attending to some business matters in this city today and called at this office and renewed his subscription for another year.

James Terryberry and Charles Hennings, from near Cedar Creek,

were in the city today looking after some business matters. The Journal acknowledges a pleasant call from them.

Mrs. Mills of Wichita, Kansas, who has been a guest of her mother, Mrs. Handley, for a few days, departed for her home this afternoon.

Frank Vallery of Ogallala has been visiting and attending to business matters in this locality for the past few days. He was visiting with county seat friends last Saturday.

J. W. Cutton, councilman from the First ward of Kenosha, was in the city today looking after some items of business. He was accompanied by Mr. Hobson, the saw-mill operator of that village.

Donald Despain and wife of Lincoln were over Sunday visitors with relatives in this city. Mr. Despain is just recovering from a seizure in the hospital, where he underwent an operation.

Joe Peters, the contractor, visited the metropolis this afternoon, but not to interview the weather man this time, as he completed the roof on the M. W. A. building last Saturday.

Rev. Peter VanFleet of Auburn and Rev. A. A. Randall of Nebraska City, former pastors of the Methodist church of this city, arrived this morning and will attend the missionary meeting today.

H. A. Schneider, Tom Walling and Grovener Dovey expected to attend the ball game at Omaha yesterday afternoon. Grovener got as far as Clarkson hospital and fagged out. He was able to return home last evening, however.

Frank Herold of Lincoln came down Saturday afternoon and spent Sunday with relatives and friends here. Frank is now traveling for the J. L. Teeters Jewelry company of Lincoln, and is making a great success as a traveling salesman.

H. F. Newton and wife, nee Miss Imogene Clinton, arrived from Kansas City yesterday and were guests of E. H. Wescott and wife over Sunday. This morning Mr. Newton departed for Sioux City, Chicago and New York on a business trip, while Mrs. Newton remains for a longer visit.

Walt White and Sol. W. S. Askwith and Col. W. H. Young of broken Bow left for Omaha on the morning train today, where they will meet the board of the Masonic Home. Colonel Young has been paying a visit to the Home and found everything looking fine. It is his duty to look after the interests of the Home in different parts of the state, and the greater part of his time is thus occupied.

NOBODY SPARED

Kidney Troubles Attack Plattsmouth Men and Women, Old and Young.

Kidney ills seize young and old. Often come with little warning. Children suffer in their early years—

Can't control the kidney secretions.

Girls are languid, nervous, suffer pain.

Women worry, can't do daily work.

Men have lame and aching backs.

If you have any form of kidney ills

You must reach the cause—the kidneys.

Doan's Kidney Pills are for weak kidneys—

The following testimony proves their worth:

William Gilmour, farmer, four miles south of Plattsmouth, Neb., says: "Doan's Kidney Pills have been used with the best of results in my family. The patient had been suffering intensely from lameness in the back and could get no lasting relief until she began using Doan's Kidney Pills. They did more to check these troubles than anything else that had previously been taken."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Box Paper 22c.

The special price paper offered at the Journal office a few days ago proved a winner and all was sold within a very few days, and now we are going to offer another lot. In this lot we have placed about 100 boxes of high grade paper, just as good as the day it came from the mills, but not like we are now carrying. This entire lot will be sold at 22 cents per box while it lasts. Come in early and get your choice.

NOTED MEN GIVE TRIBUTE TO BUTT

Tears Bring Abrupt Ending to President Taft's Speech.

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD.

Life of Chief Executive Rather Isolated and Bond Between President and Major Was Unusually Close. Brave Soldier Always in Life.

Washington, May 6.—The life of Major Archibald W. Butt as a soldier, newspaper man, aide to president and lodge member, and his heroic death on the Titanic were commemorated by his commander in chief, a president, a secretary of war, a senator of his native state, a contemporary in the newspaper field and the fraternity of Masonry at an impressive memorial service here.

The tribute President Taft paid to his late aide epitomized all that was said: "Everybody knew Archie as Archie. I cannot go in a box at a theater; I cannot turn around in my room—I can't go anywhere without expecting to see his smiling face or to hear his cheerful voice in greeting. The life of the president is rather isolated and those appointed to live with him come much closer to him than any one else. The bond is very close and it is difficult to speak on such an occasion.

"Archie Butt's character was single, simple, straightforward and incapable of intrigue. A clear sense of humanity lightened his life and those about him. Life was not for him a troubled problem. He was a soldier and when he was appointed to serve under another, to that other he rendered implicit loyalty. I never knew a man who had so much self-abnegation, so much self-sacrifice as Archie Butt.

Bravery Not Surprising. "Occurrences like the sinking of the Titanic frequently develop unforeseen traits in men. It makes them heroes when you don't expect it. But with Archie it was just as natural for him to help those about him as it was for him to ask me to permit him to do something for some one or for me.

"He was on the deck of the Titanic exactly what he was everywhere. He leaves a void with those who loved him; but the circumstances of his going are all what we would have had, and while tears fill the eyes and the voice is choked, we are felicitated by the memory of what he was."

President Taft spoke with difficulty and he was forced to an abrupt ending by a failure of voice and a steady flow of tears. Beside Mr. Taft sat Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Butt of Augusta, Ga. Opposite them sat Secretary Wilson, Secretary Meyer and other prominent officials. Senator Bacon sat with the members of the Georgia delegation in congress and throughout the meeting place were statesmen, soldiers and friends of the dead officer. Temple lodge, No. 32, of the Masonic fraternity was seated with the speaker.

MARZ'CK HELD IN CANADA

Kansas Attorney General Makes Out Requisition on British Columbia.

Topeka, May 6.—Charles Marz'ck, suspected of the atrocious murder of the Showman family at Ellsworth, has been captured in British Columbia. An international requisition to bring him back to Kansas was made out by John S. Dawson, attorney general, and forwarded to the secretary of state.

It will go to the governor general of Canada and from there to the governor of the province of British Columbia, where the man believed to be Marz'ck now is in custody.

The five members of the William Showman family were murdered in their home in Ellsworth the night of Oct. 15, 1911. The murderer crushed the head of William Showman, Mrs. Pauline Showman and their three children with a heavy ax.

No one saw anyone enter or leave the home. The police have evidence to show that Marz'ck was in Ellsworth at that time, and from threats he had made at various times against his wife and her sister, it is asserted that there is a strong case against him.

PLAN CHILD LABOR WARFARE

Methodist Conference Appoints Committee to Ask Legislation.

Minneapolis, May 6.—Nineteen thousand ministers will institute a vigorous warfare against the employment of children under sixteen years of age in the factories and textile mills of the United States, it was announced at the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. The employment of children was termed "a parody on civilization" and "one of the greatest of modern evils."

To investigate charges that "in the textile mills alone 100 baby hands are yearly lost as a sacrifice to the greed for wealth," and to formulate an appeal to all churches to fight for national legislation against child labor, a commission of fifteen ministers was ordered appointed.

Snow in South Dakota.

Deadwood, S. D., May 6.—Six inches of snow fell here and in other portions of the Black Hills country. In other parts of western South Dakota rain is reported, being heavy north of Belle Fourche.