

WILL PUNISHMENT BE EVERLASTING?

All Wifful Sins Must Pay Penalty, Says Pastor Russell.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES.

All Transgression of the Divine Law is Sin, and All Sin is Punishable With Death—But by God's Grace the Sins of Ignorance Will Be Forgiven—Illogical Interpretation of the Bible by the Creeds of the Dark Ages Has Misled Bible Students—Enlightened Study Makes God's Word Clear.



PASTOR RUSSELL

Worcester, Mass., January 26.—Pastor Russell had a large audience here today. He spoke twice. We report his discourse from the text: "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."—Matthew 25:46.

The speaker approached his subject reverently, declaring that all mankind recognize two great facts: (1) that all are sinners, imperfect, willingly or unwillingly; and (2) that all realize the propriety of a just penalty for sins in proportion to their wilfulness, knowledge being a prime factor. All this can be admitted by even those who deny that we have in the Bible an inspired message telling us the origin of sin, its penalty and the conditions governing the Divine judgment of sinners.

He would not indulge in speculations, but he would stand by the Word of God. If we have a message from the Creator on the subject of sin and its punishment, none should either take from nor add to that testimony. He believed, however, that our forefathers had added to the Word of God without realizing it.

Many held that in bygone days Christian people, in their anxiety to frighten their fellow-men into church membership, so exaggerated God's Word that they folled their very purpose of helping the ungodly. Many upright people, nauseated at the distorted misrepresentations of Divine Justice, have thrown away the Bible as well as the creeds and are hearkening to Higher Criticism, Evolution, New Thought, Spiritism, etc. Hence the usual small congregations at the churches—and a minority of these thinking men and women. Many are church attendants, not because of belief in denominational creeds, but because they desire to exercise a moral influence upon the "lower classes." These they burden with horrible doctrines of Divine Injustice which they themselves have long since discarded—inwardly, if not outwardly.

The Baptist "Underworld."

Our Baptist friends, in bringing forward a new translation of the Bible, have sought to reconcile matters by the use of the term "underworld" instead of *hell*, as the translation of the Hebrew word *Sheol* and of the corresponding Greek word *Hades*. This is a step in the right direction, but too conservative. All educated people know that *Sheol* and *Hades* signify the tomb, the death state. *Sheol* is translated *grave* and *pit* in our Common Version Bible more frequently than it is translated *hell*. Why should Christian ministers spend years in colleges and seminaries to learn these things, and then fear to tell the people the facts? Do they realize that the misunderstanding of this subject of *hell* is emptying their churches and stumbling thinking people into Higher Criticism, Infidelity, etc., leading on to atheism and anarchy?

What the Bible Does Teach.

The Bible declares that all transgression of the Divine Law is sin, and that all sin is punishable with the same penalty—death. Thus Adam's disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit brought upon him the sentence of death, which by the laws of heredity he has transmitted to all mankind. All our sin and sickness, sorrow and death, therefore, come as the penalty of Adam's sin. St. Paul specifically says that by one man's disobedience sin entered into the world and death as the result of sin; thus death has passed upon all men, because all are sinners. (Romans 5:12, 19.) Although men may multiply the transgressions, they cannot increase the penalty, because the Divine Law has only one penalty for sin—the death penalty—extinction.

But Divine Mercy has arranged for man's redemption by providing that Jesus should pay the penalty for Adam's sin. This He did when He offered Himself and died, "the just for the unjust." The life of Jesus, as a corresponding price for the forfeited life of Adam, guaranteed the cancellation of Adam's sin; and this means an opportunity for Adam to return to the Father's house as a son, in due time, under the assistance of Messiah's Kingdom. Or, neglecting these privileges when they shall come to him, Adam would be counted as refusing the grace of God and would die the Second Death, from which there will be no redemption and no resurrection.

But before Adam can refuse God's grace, he must be made intelligently aware of it. He could not know of it during the nine hundred thirty years of his dying under the curse, because it

was not yet accomplished. Christ had not yet died. Adam could not be aware of God's grace in Christ since Jesus died, because Adam has been asleep in death, wholly unconscious waiting for the morning of the New Dispensation and the awakening and the knowledge which will reach him then.

What is thus true respecting Adam will be true, also respecting every member of his posterity. They all lost God's favor and came under the curse of death, by heredity, through Adam; and the redemption of Adam, will mean the redemption of all humanity, the payment of the penalty of original sin for every member of Adam's race. The setting up of Messiah's Kingdom will not be for the purpose of further punishing them, for under the reign of sin and death they were already under punishment.

Having purchased mankind with His own sacrifice, our Lord will inaugurate the Messianic Kingdom for the very purpose of helping mankind up out of sin and degradation, back to the perfect image and likeness to God originally bestowed upon Adam. The Millennium Age is spoken of as a thousand-year Day of Judgment, but this does not signify a judgment for Adam's sin. That sentence was pronounced six thousand years ago.

During Christ's Millennial Kingdom, mankind will go on trial for judgment to ascertain whether or not, after attaining full knowledge of God, they will avail themselves of Messiah's assistance to come back into harmony with the Creator. The willing and obedient will be perfected again in the flesh, and the remainder will be destroyed in the Second Death as followers of Satan.

The Church will be associated with her Lord in that great work of dealing with the world. In order to prepare her for that great glory and honor, her calling and election must take place in advance of the coming of the King, her Bridegroom. It must take place, therefore, before the end of this Gospel Age.

The Scriptures clearly teach that some will during the Messianic reign, receive stripes, or chastisements, for their development in righteousness and that the fullest penalty, Second Death, will come only to wilful evil-doers. And here we may note the Divine arrangement in respect to all wilful sins of the present life. Each wilful sin makes its mark—makes the conscience more calloused, and the heart the more stony. In this manner evil-doers treasure up for themselves wrath against the Day of Wrath—the Day of Judgment, the Day of Just Retribution.

As the doing of righteousness produces a good character, the doing of unrighteousness wilfully, produces an evil character, and will necessitate the more stripes, which, if unheeded, will bring upon the evil-doer the Second Death. In this connection we can remember St. Paul's words: "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment [the penalty], while others they follow after." (1 Timothy 5:24.) Not merely the Church receives tribulation in the present time, but justice sometimes overtakes evil-doers and works a measure of reformation in the present life, leaving proportionately fewer steps to be retraced in the life to come.

God's Law of Forgiveness.

God has made provision for the forgiveness and reconciliation of Adam and all of his children. Some during the Gospel Age are privileged to come to God through Jesus as their Advocate and by becoming His true disciples to have full forgiveness of sins and full reconciliation to the Father. For the remainder of mankind God's provision is different. Divine Justice will forgive the world *en masse* at the instance of the great Mediator, and will turn the world over to Him, that He may restore them to perfection and make it possible for them to be reconciled back again into God's family.

Thus we see that God's forgiveness is directed by principles of justice. But He commands His people that, being imperfect themselves and recipients of His Mercy, they shall not attempt to deal with their fellows wholly on the basis of justice, but shall forgive one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven them. Divine Mercy purposes to embrace every member of Adam's race in the glorious provision through Christ.

Punishment in Our Text.

Our text is the summing up of the parable of The Sheep and the Goats. Only Bible students, apparently, have noticed that this parable does not belong to the present Age; but is a description of conditions which will prevail during Messiah's Kingdom. This is indicated by the setting. We read: "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the Throne of His glory; and before Him shall be gathered all peoples; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." (Matthew 25:31, 32.) Another Scripture assures us that when the Redeemer shall appear in glory, His Church will appear with Him, for the accomplishment of the blessed things foretold respecting that glorious Kingdom and its work of blessing all the families of the earth.

The Lord's sheep of the Millennial Age will be the willing and obedient, who rejoice to be in harmony with God. These will be gathered to the right hand of the King—the place of favor. The goats, correspondingly, are placed on the left hand—Messiah's disfavor, because of their persistence in waywardness so well illustrated by the goat's wayward disposition.

At the close of that thousand-year Day of blessed opportunities the whole world of mankind will be found in either one class or the other. Then will come the final settlement. The Day of Christ is Divinely appointed for the

putting down of sin in its every form, and the death, destruction of all who love or sympathize with sin—Satan and all other wayward ones.

Jesus said to some in His day: "Ye are of your father, the Devil, for his work ye do." The goats will be of Satan's company, because, like him, they choose the way of sin and opposition to God, Truth and righteousness. Our text might be more literally rendered: These [Satan and his followers, including the "goats" of the parable] shall go away into everlasting cutting-off [from life], but the righteous [the "sheep" of the parable], shall be ushered into life everlasting.

The Lord does not say that either Satan or the goats will be sent to everlasting torment, but into everlasting punishment—everlasting death—a death from which there will be no resurrection. They shall perish like natural brute beasts.—2 Peter 2:12.

The Greek word here rendered punishment is *kolasin*, which means pruning, as a husbandman prunes the dead wood from his orchard or vineyard. So Satan and all his hosts will be cut off finally from God's blessings, and be destroyed in the Second Death. Another use of the word *kolasin* in classic Greek is to *restrain*; as, "The chariot-reins restrain [kolasin] their fiery steeds." So God, through Christ, declares that the Second Death shall everlastingly restrain Satan and all who have his goat-like, wayward disposition, after having had full knowledge and opportunity to develop opposite disposition.

In a previous verse the same parable puts the results of the trial of the nations for life or death, during the Messiah's Kingdom, in different language. It declares that the reward to the sheep will be, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." This is the kingdom which was originally given to Adam, but lost through disobedience.

This is the kingdom which Jesus by obedience to the Law had a right to claim for Himself, but which He sacrificed for the benefit of humanity. The Father gave it to Him and to the Church, His Bride, a Heavenly Kingdom, not founded when the earth was founded, but "from before the foundation of the world." Messiah, during the Millennial Age, will prove who of mankind are worthy of everlasting human life at the end of His thousand-year reign. The Lord will deliver to God the dominion, or the Kingdom of earth. Mankind will thenceforth be responsible directly to the Heavenly Father, as we read in 1 Corinthians 15:24.

The fate of the goats is described in these words: "Then shall He say to them on His left hand [the goats], Depart from Me, ye cursed [unfit], into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels." The fact that this is a parable forces the conclusion that the fire is as symbolical as are the sheep and the goats. Fire here, as everywhere in the Bible, is used as a symbol of destruction. Everything evil and unfit, including Satan and all who follow his perverse ways, are to be destroyed "in the lake of fire, which is [symbolizes] the Second Death."—Revelation 20:14.

Cutting Off Right Hand or Foot.

On another occasion Jesus, describing how much the future life should be appreciated, declared that a man had better cut off his right hand or his right foot or pluck out his right eye, rather than otherwise be cast into the fire that shall never be quenched and where the worm dieth not. (Mark 9:45, 47, 48.) The Master did not mean His words to be taken literally, and no Christian would be justified in maiming himself.

What the Master meant, evidently, was that the pleasures and appetites of the present, though precious to us as are our most useful members, should be sacrificed rather than that maintaining present blessings we should fall to attain the promised Kingdom. So, likewise, we must interpret His words respecting the worm dying not and the fire not being quenched. The disciples knew of only one place where these words could be applicable. That place was "the valley of Hinnom"—Gehenna—where the refuse of Jerusalem was thrown as into a garbage furnace for destruction. Fires of brimstone were kept burning in the bottom to destroy the germs of disease, and so one extinguished those fires. Rather, they were perpetuated. And if, perchance, some carcass fell outside the fire line, the worms devoured it. No one wished to destroy the worms and preserve the carcass.

Gehenna thus became a type, or figure, of the utter destruction awaiting the finally rebellious, who must perish "as natural brute beasts"; that the earth may be cleansed. Our Lord's references to the worms and to the fire were doubtless appreciated by those who heard. It would signify to them that, as the offal was destroyed, so the wicked would be classed as the offal of humanity and be finally destroyed in the Second Death.

On previous occasions we have shown that our Lord's reference to weeping and gnashing of teeth do not refer to experiences either in the grave or in the future life. They refer to the sad experiences of some in the end of this Age, in the great time of trouble with which it will close. Some will be greatly disappointed because after they have preached in Christ's name and in His name cast out demons, He shall declare them unworthy of His recognition.

We also remind our hearers that the parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus is now clearly understood and seen to be full of beauty and important instruction, given in symbolic language. We have pleasure in offering a treatise on this topic in print, free of cost, in response to a postcard request sent to the Brooklyn Tabernacle, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Local News

J. F. Wehrlein and wife were in town Saturday shopping and visiting with their friends.

J. W. Barwick departed this morning for Lincoln, where he will visit for a short time with friends.

Mrs. M. E. Barstow returned to her home in Omaha this morning, after a visit here over Sunday with friends.

Henry Urish of near Murray was in the city Saturday attending to business matters for a few hours.

James Gruber and wife of near Mynard were in the city Saturday doing some trading with the merchants.

Fritz Fricke was a visitor in Omaha yesterday, visiting for a few hours with relatives and friends.

E. O. Steime returned this morning to his home at Lincoln, after a visit here over Sunday with friends.

Miss Barbara Gering departed this morning for Omaha, where she will visit with her brother, Henry, for the day.

Miss Bernice Skinner returned to her home at Lincoln this morning, after a visit here over Sunday with relatives.

Governor Knapp was a passenger this morning for Omaha to look after some business matters for a few hours.

Park Crisswiser was a passenger this morning for Omaha, where he will look after business matters for a few hours.

V. Zucker was a passenger this morning on No. 15 for Omaha, where he will look after business matters for a few hours.

Charles Hula and Earl Geis were passengers on No. 15 this morning for Omaha, where they will visit friends for the day.

F. G. Egenberger was a passenger this morning for Omaha, where he will look after business matters for a few hours.

J. E. Wiles drove in from his farm Saturday and attended to some matters of business for several hours among the merchants.

Sam Shoemaker was a passenger this morning on No. 15 for Omaha, where he was called to look after business matters for a few hours.

John Piel, Frank Piel and Archie Piel of Blue Hill, Neb., who have been here visiting at the home of Walter Cotner and wife, departed this morning for Lincoln, en route to their home.

Mrs. Fred Ebinger of Plainview, Neb., who has been here for a few days visiting with her mother, Mrs. G. P. Weidman and family, departed this morning on No. 15 for her home.

Mrs. Louise Kline came in Saturday evening on No. 2 and visited at the home of her mother, Mrs. B. Hemple, over Sunday, returning to her home in Omaha on No. 23 yesterday.

County Treasurer W. K. Fox and wife departed yesterday for Lincoln, where they will visit relatives and Mr. Fox attend the meeting of the County Treasurer's association that meets there this week.

Havelock Post: Ben Hempel, foreman of the tool room, has thoroughly overhauled and redesigned a large wheel lathe, and was testing the machine Wednesday. When it is in perfect condition the lathe will be sent to the Plattsmouth shops.

William Heil and two daughters, Anna and Helen, of the vicinity of Cedar Creek, drove to this city Saturday to attend to some business matters and visit friends. Mr. Heil called at this office and had his Semi-Weekly Journal subscription discontinued and enrolled his name on our Daily list.

Havelock Post: Paul Budig, manager of the Budig Cigar company, returned from a business trip to Plattsmouth Saturday. Mr. Budig started business here several months ago with one man, and now employs five cigar-makers and three strippers. It seems that every smoker uses Havelock made cigars.

William Heinrichsen departed this morning for Omaha, after spending Sunday here with his family.

Arthur Anderson returned to the metropolis this morning, after visiting here with his wife over Sunday.

E. H. Schulhof was a passenger this morning for Glenwood to look after business matters for a short time.

L. H. Puts and wife of near Murray were in the city Saturday evening attending the play at the Parmele theater.

Francis Whelan came down from Omaha Saturday evening to visit over Sunday with his parents, Mike Whelan and wife.

Guy Gould, wife and little daughter returned last evening from Omaha, where they spent Sunday with relatives.

W. F. Gillespie came up from his home at Mynard Saturday and visited for several hours with his many friends in this city.

Charles Ulrich was in Omaha Sunday visiting his wife, who is recovering from an operation at one of the local hospitals.

A. Hendengren, master carpenter of the Omaha division, was in the city today looking after some business for the Burlington.

Misses Emma Bauer and Buelah Sands were visitors in Omaha yesterday, going up to spend the day with relatives and friends.

A. Piestrup and wife were passengers yesterday morning on No. 15 for Omaha, where they visited with relatives for the day.

France Ballance came over from Glenwood Saturday afternoon and visited over Sunday with his parents in this city.

Henry Herold departed this morning on the early Missouri Pacific for Omaha, from where he will take up his work on the road.

Henry B. Miller returned yesterday from Mexico, Missouri, where he had been for several days looking after business matters.

R. E. Foster came up from Union Saturday evening to attend the play at the Parmele theater, returning home on the midnight train.

C. E. Metzger came in from his farm Saturday afternoon and visited around among his friends, as well as attended to matters of business.

George P. Heil of the vicinity of Cedar Creek was a visitor in this city Saturday, and took time to call at this office and renew his subscription.

Mrs. Clara Mapes of Hancock, Iowa, who has been here for a few days visiting with Miss Margaret Mapes, returned this morning to her home.

Mrs. Henry Weidman came down from Omaha Saturday evening on No. 2 and spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. George P. Weidman and family.

Will Rummell came in from his farm in Plattsmouth precinct Saturday afternoon and spent several hours here attending to business matters.

The Ladies of Saint John's Altar society will give a coffee at the home of Mrs. Plak, on Sixth street, Thursday afternoon, January 30. Everybody invited.

Glenn Hewitt of Greenleaf, Kansas, came in Saturday evening on No. 2 and spent Sunday with his grandmother, Mrs. B. Hemple, and aunt, Miss Teresa Hemple.

John Chalfant, one of the pioneer citizens of near Murray, and James Tigner of the same section, were in the city today looking after business at the court house.

Mrs. Thomas Salmon and little son, Tommie, who have been here for several weeks visiting at the home of Mrs. Salmon's parents, W. K. Fox and wife, departed Saturday afternoon on No. 2 for their home.

John R. Kearney, who has been here for several weeks visiting his sister, Miss Kearney, departed this morning on No. 6 for Glenwood to visit relatives for a short time before returning to his home in Washington.

Joe McCarthy departed Saturday afternoon on No. 2 for Dayton, Ohio, where he will visit for a short time with relatives and friends.

T. M. Carter returned Saturday afternoon from Blair, Neb., where he had been for about a week looking after some business interests in that city.

Editor Charles L. Graves of the Union Ledger took a few hours off from his duties Saturday evening and came up to see "Mutt and Jeff" at the Parmele.

John McNurlin was a passenger this afternoon for Omaha, where he will attend the big meeting of the Red Men that is being held in that city.

Glenn Perry and wife came up this morning from their farm and were passengers on the early Burlington train for Omaha to look after some business matters.

Mrs. L. B. Egenberger and son, Stuart, departed this afternoon for Iowa City, Iowa, in response to a telegram announcing the serious illness of her mother, Mrs. Marcella Ward.

J. E. Johnson, wife and son, Edgar, and daughter, Miss Josephine, and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Chapman visited yesterday in this city at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson.

Mrs. Frank Schille and two children, of Omaha, were here yesterday visiting at the home of Mrs. Schille's parents, William Weber and wife, returning home on the Missouri Pacific at 5 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Heil of the vicinity of Mynard were doing their week-end shopping in this city Saturday, and while here Mr. Heil called at this office for the purpose of renewing his subscription.

Henry Jess was a passenger this morning on No. 15 for Omaha, where he will look after the interests of his bottling works and place several orders of the celebrated Plattsmouth made goods.

Glen Rawls was a passenger yesterday for Omaha, where he visited his wife at the Presbyterian hospital for the day. Mrs. Rawls is getting along nicely and the prospects for her speedy recovery are very bright.

F. E. Doty came up from Weeping Water last evening for a visit with friends and to attend to some business matters. He called at this office and renewed the subscription of the paper going to his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Doty; also for the paper going to J. B. Dawson, both of Weeping Water. From here Mr. Doty expects to go to Omaha for a two or three days' visit.

REX YOUNG, Auctioneer, Murray, Neb. Public Sale a specialty, and care taken to get the high dollar for your goods and stock. Your business solicited. Telephone 5-N.

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Plattsmouth a Good Town. Plattsmouth is a mighty good town, worthy of the best of everything. That's why we have joined the American Drug and Press Association and will offer to our people the Meritol line of preparations, made by the Association and sold only through its members. There is nothing like these goods, guaranteed in every way, without an equal, made by experts. We want Plattsmouth people to have the best there is, so we offer you this line. Ask to see Meritol goods. Weyrich & Hadraba.

DENTAL WORK. Dr. Thomsen, Dentist, of Plattsmouth, will be in Murray on Thursday's, Nebraska, and on Friday's, and Union on Saturday's of each week, where he will be pleased to meet all parties desiring dental work done.