

MOST PRECIOUS TEXT IN BIBLE

How Differently It Reads From
What We Once Supposed!

LIGHT THROUGH THE FOG.

Pastor Russell Says Unintentionally
We Read Error Into Our Bibles—Our
Eyes Were Dimmed by "Dark Ages"
Smoke—The Fog Lifts—God's Glory
Begins to Appear—The Bible Shines.
Its Truth Is the Balm of Gilead.
Poor Discouraged Humanity Needs
Just Such a God—Shortly He Will
Wipe Away All Tears.



Pasadena, Cal., June 15.—Pasadena is favored. Pastor Russell was to have spoken today in Los Angeles, but the best auditoriums were unavailable. Instead, he spoke this forenoon at Santa Ana, this afternoon and evening here, giving Friday and Saturday to San Diego and Los Angeles. Pastor Russell addressed a thoroughly representative audience. His afternoon topic was, "Beyond the Grave." His evening topic we report.

His text was, "God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

Forcefully the Pastor pointed out that once Christian people, even Bible students, misunderstood this text and read into it a conflicting thought, dishonoring to God—read it as though it said that God so loved the world as to keep them from perishing, in order that the few, the saintly elect, might attain to glory and look over the battlements of Heaven and see all the remainder—Jews, heathen and the masses of Christendom—writhing in torment to all eternity—unable to perish—forced to live, in order that they might, by their sufferings, entertain the more fortunate, who were guaranteed bliss to the full.

What right did we ever have, said the Pastor, to thus put into the mouth of our Savior, as our creeds have done, words which He never uttered—words which are very untrue—indeed, a blasphemy against our Maker!

Light Shines Through the Fog.

We are not faulting our forefathers. Had we been in their place, doubtless we would have been as confused as were they, and we might have indulged in heretic burning, etc. And had they lived in our wonderful day of great light, knowledge, privilege, opportunity, education, Bibles, etc., doubtless they would have had as noble ideas as ourselves respecting the prophecies of Christian conduct and Divine conduct and Love and Justice. The Bible tells us that Satan and his fallen angels are responsible for those terrible "doctrines of demons" which have given thinking people such horrible nightmares, and driven so many of them away from God and the Bible into unbelief, agnosticism, and even atheism. Let us rejoice in the light of the better day which has dawned. Let us become Bible students in the highest sense of the term. Never before has there been such an opportunity for knowing the real teaching of God's Book—what it does contain and what it does not contain. We have the Bible, concordances and helps, and we have the general education which permits us to study them. Our forefathers labored against lack of education, time, lack of Bibles, and lack of good artificial light.

What the Word Perish Means.

When we come to think of it, the word perish contains not the remotest suggestion of fire or torture. In our ignorance we read all that into the text and into other texts of similar import; for instance, the statement that God is not willing that any should perish, but would that all should come unto Him and live; and the statement of St. Peter that the wilfully ignorant shall perish like brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed; and the statement through the Psalmist, "All the wicked will God destroy." How lurid these simple words became before our inflamed and perverted imaginations! How some of us rang the changes on these Bible terms in a vain attempt to drive men toward God through fear, when God declares that He does not want such to come and has no pleasure whatever in their worship or service!

Did not Jesus tell us that the Father seeketh such to worship Him as worship Him in spirit and in truth? (John 4:23.) And our perversions of the Divine Word and Plan only helped men away from God to such misapprehension of Him that they could not worship Him in spirit and in truth, and, at most, could worship only in form and ceremony.

The Pastor told of an experience he had in India. Some of the higher caste Hindus, wholly unapproachable by the missionaries, heard that he was preaching a more reasonable message. They came, entreating him for further meetings, declaring their respect for the intelligence of Christians, but that they could not believe the doctrines usually preached. They could not be-

lieve in a God so unjust, so unmerciful, so wicked that He would torment them and their forefathers through all eternity because they did not believe on Jesus, when they had not so much as heard of Him. They said that their gods were not so unjust; for they forbade men to torture even dumb brutes. They preferred to hold on to the reasonable gods of their fathers rather than to believe in the unjust one preached by the missionaries.

Can we blame them? asked the Pastor. On the contrary, he admitted that in the past himself and other Christians had seriously misinterpreted the Bible. He urged his hearers to study the Bible itself and to ignore the unreasonable teachings which are driving men away from the Bible and the God which it presents.

Pastor Russell found that the heathen do not really worship the idols, but through the idols seek to worship an unseen deity. At first he wondered that they could bow before such hideous, awkward, vicious-looking images. Then the thought came to him, that these poor heathen had formulated their gods of clay, stone, bronze, etc., but that we Christians had formulated ours differently—instead of using material substances we merely constructed ideas and described them, and that from this viewpoint, the creedal pictures of the God of Love are farther astray than the images of stone, wood, etc.

Import of the Text.

Look critically at our text. Exercise the gray matter of your brains. What does it really say? It corroborates the account in Genesis 2, as explained by St. Paul in Romans 8:12-14. By one man's disobedience sin entered into the world and death as the result of sin, and death passed upon all men, because all men are sinners—by heredity. This death penalty has been carrying down our race to the tomb for six thousand years. The present death rate is about ninety thousand per day. The declaration of the Bible is that these all would have perished—would have had no more future existence than a brute—had it not been for God's compassionate mercy. "The great Love with which He loved us" while we were yet sinners—Ephesians 2:4, 5.

Our text comes in here, and assures us that this salvation of mankind from perishing comes only through God's Love and Mercy, operating through our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask, What did our Lord Jesus do for the race? The Bible promptly answers, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures"; "Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man"; "He poured out His soul unto death"; He made "His soul an offering for sin."—1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 2:9; Isaiah 53:10, 12.

Let us note carefully that as perishing does not mean eternal torture, so the Redemption price which Jesus gave is not eternal torture nor purgatorial suffering, but—death. "Christ died for the ungodly." Other Scriptures tell us that the death of Jesus was a ransom-price, or price corresponding to the penalty that was upon Father Adam and inherited by his race. The Bible thus explains that God, by providing an equivalent price for the sin-penalty against Adam can be just in releasing us from the death penalty.

All Saved From Perishing.

The simple proposition of the Bible is that as Adam and all of his race legally perished, so they have all been legally redeemed from that perished condition—the death of Jesus being the Satisfaction price. It is because of this redemption that the Bible assures us that there is to be "a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust," because all were redeemed—redeemed from the perished condition. Hence the Bible lays great stress upon the resurrection of the dead, and, further, it assures us that the resurrection of mankind must wait until the completion of the Church. Then the Second Coming of Christ will be in order, that He may exalt His Church with Himself as the reigning Power, the Spiritual Seed of Abraham, which God for four thousand years has promised shall be exalted to glory for the very purpose of blessing all the families of the earth—the non-elect.

"Them That Sleep in Jesus."

Surely no Bible student worthy of the name has overlooked the fact that the Bible everywhere speaks of the dead as asleep—nowhere does it tell about their being in Heavenly glory or purgatorial suffering, or in a hell of torment. Neglect of the Word of God has confused our poor, imperfect judgments. We lost our way in the fogs of the Dark Ages, conjured up by Satan in support of his lie, "Ye shall not surely die," and in contradiction of the Lord's Word, "The soul that sinneth it shall die."—Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

Now we remember that Jesus plainly said, "No man hath ascended up to Heaven." Now we remember that neither Lazarus nor any awakened from death had any tales to tell respecting the things seen or heard when dead. Now we remember the particular declaration of God's Word, "The dead know not anything." Now we remember that the Scriptures teach that the dead are asleep—our own unconsciousness every night being an illustration to us, if we had only heeded the Word of God instead of the word of men. Now we see that the death state is called a sleep, because of God's intention to have a great awakening, or resurrection of the dead. It will come in the morning of the New Dispensation.

The One who died for man's sin is to be the great Restorer who will awaken all the sleeping ones. Did He not illustrate this at His First Advent and thus show forth the glories of His coming Kingdom? Did He not declare that Lazarus' daughter was asleep, and awaken her? And did He not say, "Lazarus sleepeth," and awaken him?

He did not resurrect any of these. They were merely awakened—and before the time for the general awakening. Hence they fell asleep again. A great awakening Day, however, is near at hand, the Pastor declared.

He carried his hearers back to the remote past. He reminded them of the record respecting Abraham, that he slept with his fathers. He asked who the fathers were and where they slept, and replied that they were heathen. He asked whether they could sleep in Heaven, or whether they could sleep in so warm a place as Purgatory is supposed to be, or in the still more unreasonable hell. He took it for granted, apparently, that his hearers agreed with him that sleep under such conditions would be impossible, and that the only conclusion must be that they slept in death.

The Pastor reminded them that similar expressions were used in respect to the good and bad kings and judges and prophets. They were gathered to their fathers, they slept with their fathers. Similarly, when St. Stephen was stoned to death, we read that "he fell on sleep." He cited St. Paul as teaching that all the Church will sleep, except those who are alive at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." He quoted Jesus' words, "All that are in the graves shall hear His [Jesus'] voice and shall come forth"—the faithful, the saintly, to a resurrection of life—perfection, honor; the remainder of mankind unto a resurrection of trial, testing.—1 Corinthians 15:51.

Without the death of Jesus, said the Pastor, all of the race would be perished, and only in the resurrection have we any ground whatever for believing in a salvation from death. Only because Christ died is there an opportunity for the Church during this Gospel Age to respond to a "high calling" to the Divine nature. Likewise only through the merit of Christ's death will the world of mankind be saved from perishing and have an opportunity during Messiah's Kingdom to be recovered from sin and death conditions, from ignorance, superstition, etc.—from the tomb.

Gradually they will be raised up, up, up, in the image and likeness of God in the flesh, ultimately to enjoy Him forever in a world-wide Paradise, from which will be cut off in the Second Death all willful evil-doers, all who prefer sin to righteousness, when the Truth shall be made clear to them and when the opportunity will be fully within their grasp. Incidentally, the Pastor mentioned a gross misstatement of the inspired Word in John 5:29, namely, "resurrection of damnation." The Greek word here, he said, is *krisis*, and has not in it the slightest suggestion of fire or torture or suffering. The Revised Version renders this verse properly—"a resurrection of judgment."

Only "He That Believeth."

I am not forgetting, said the speaker, that our text professes Divine blessings only to believers. Neither am I forgetting that only a few are believers in the Scriptural sense now. Statistics mention four hundred millions of Christians; but, as we all know, this includes practically everybody in Europe and America, with a few in Asia and Africa. It includes many in prisons and insane asylums, penitentiaries, etc. And that leaves three times as many whom we call heathen, who have no knowledge of Christ whatever—twelve hundred millions. Surely none of these are believers in the sense defined by Jesus and the Apostles.

Jesus implies that if any one really believes His Message, his faith will transform his whole life—he would see so great a blessing promised to the faithful follower of Jesus that he would count all other aims and ambitions as loss and dross—and run with patience the race set before him. Only those are believers, and they are comparatively few. They are a fine company. They will get the prize, the "pearl of great price," the Kingdom joint-heirship with the Redeemer in His glory, honor and immortality.

But are no others to be blessed? If not, why did Jesus taste death for every man? Does not that expression imply that every man will have some opportunity of profiting by Jesus' death? It surely does! Those who now hear, appreciate, believe, in the Bible sense, alone will have an opportunity for sharing the First Resurrection of the blessed and holy. But the remainder, we are assured, will all come forth from the tomb—to be granted an opportunity then for hearing and believing and gaining an inferior blessing. The blessing now is a spiritual one only; but the blessing to be offered under Messiah's Kingdom will be an earthly one—Restitution, human perfection in an earthly Paradise everlasting.

The Bible tells all this, says Pastor Russell. It declares that the god of this world, Satan, is now blinding the minds of all except believers. It equally tells that in God's due time, during Messiah's reign, all the blind eyes will be opened, and all the deaf ears unstopped. (Isaiah 35:5.) Then the whole world will be granted an opportunity of enlightenment respecting the God of Love, and His wise, just and loving terms of reconciliation, and will be blessed by the great Mediator of the New Covenant. Note how this is explained by the Apostle: God wills to have all men come to a knowledge of the Truth, that they may be saved. To this end He has provided that Jesus shall be the Mediator between Himself and mankind. To harmony with the Father's Plan, Jesus is now selecting the Church class, to be a Royal Priesthood, a Bride class, to share with Him in His Kingdom glory and Mediatorial work for the world. It was to this end that He gave Himself a ransom for all—to be testified in due time.—1 Timothy 2:4-6.

THE MEETINGS AT THE LARGE TENT

Notwithstanding the Threatening

Weather There was a Very
Large Attendance.

The cyclone which visited Omaha and other places at East-ertide has left its impression on the minds of the people to that extent that they shy at a cloud and a refreshing breeze. Last evening at the tent, during the very interesting discourse of Rev. Smith, when the breeze which everyone had been desiring, arrived, the congregation became affrighted like a timid child and skurried home, probably to put the windows down; anyway, the meeting was brought abruptly to a close.

During the evening until that time the meeting had been a very good one in all its features; the music and singing had been an especial treat and had consisted in the chorus and congregation singing, besides a chorus sung by a number of little girls, which sounded very beautiful. Miss Mathilda Valley rendered a very pleasing number, which was enjoyed by all present, as well as was the one by Mr. Klinger, the "Ninety and Nine." Another feature of the singing was the male quartet, which was strong in its pleasing features.

The subject of the evening was "The Backslider," and it was handled in an admirable manner until the wind frightened the audience away. Tonight the subject will be "The Love of God," and will be the musical evening of the week. Among other good features will be a solo by Mrs. E. H. Westcott and another will be one of the favorites by the male quartet.

At the tent yesterday afternoon was held the men's meeting, and there were gathered a large number of men, who were very much entertained and interested by the story of the rescue of "Win" McClure, the engineer on the Iowa Central railway. There was much fine music during the afternoon meeting and it was well attended, notwithstanding the heat.

The women's meeting, which was held at the Christian church at the same time that the men's meeting was being conducted in the tent was well attended and much interest was manifested.

At the tent last night there were nearly five hundred present, notwithstanding the excessive heat during the earlier portion of the evening. The tent was very comfortable, as a slight draft crept under the canvass and in a measure made the heat seem less stifling than it had been outside during the day.

Tomorrow evening the afternoon meeting will be held at 7:15 instead of at 3:30, as heretofore. This will be just before the evening service, which will be at 8 o'clock, and the subject will be "Profit and Loss," and will be a Christian business discourse. The other afternoon meetings will be at 3:30 as heretofore.

ANOTHER PIONEER LADY PASSES TO THE BEYOND

Yesterday morning at 8:15 Mrs. Jennie R. Wells passed away at the home of her son, W. E. Wells, in Red Oak, Iowa, after an illness covering about a year from heart trouble. Mrs. Wells was a resident of this city and county for many years, the family having resided in South Bend and this city, and was a lady beloved and highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her, and in her death the sympathy of the entire community will go out to the bereaved family in their hour of grief. The body of the deceased was brought to this city tomorrow afternoon at 3:20 and be taken to the St. Luke's church, where services will be held and the interment made in Oak Hill cemetery beside her husband, who preceded her in death some years ago.

LOST—Between Plattsmouth and Louisville a Presto-o-lite Tank. Finder please leave same at this or the Louisville Courier office and receive reward.

Farm for Sale.

Anyone wanting to buy a farm would do well to see W. R. Bryan, county assessor.

Correct Statement of Accident.

In the article in regard to the injury to Frank Slavacek, which occurred at the shops Friday, the statement was made he was injured on the air compressor, when the accident occurred on a pneumatic air machine operated from the air compressor. Mr. Slavacek has been working on this machine for some time, being selected on account of his long and careful service for the shops, for the job of running this machine, which requires a great deal of skill, and the accident was due to pulling the lever controlling the machine in the wrong direction.

"THE TEMPERANCE APOSTLE" AT THE T. J. SOKOL HALL SUNDAY NIGHT

There was a large crowd present last evening at the T. J. Sokol hall, in the west portion of the city, to witness the presentation of "The Temperance Apostle," a three-act farce comedy given by the members of the dramatic club of South Omaha, and it was pronounced by all who witnessed it as one of the best dramatic offerings ever given in this city in the Bohemian language, and the clever work of the excellent company of actors met with the warm approval of the audience. During the progress of the play several pleasing vocal numbers were given by different members of the company, the accompaniment being played by the Holly orchestra of this city, who also gave several excellent numbers between the acts of the play. There was a large number here from South Omaha, driving down in cars, and a number arrived on the Missouri Pacific at 12:10 yesterday noon and spent a delightful day at the cool and comfortable park of the society. After the play the visitors were entertained at a social dance for several hours, and although many were kept away by the threatening weather, still the occasion was most enjoyable for all who attended.

CHAPTER F., P. E. O. ENTERTAINS CHAPTER M., OF SOUTH OMAHA

Saturday, June 14, was a gala day in the annals of the P. E. O. Sisterhood of Plattsmouth, when they entertained Chapter M. of South Omaha. The visiting ladies were met at the noon Missouri Pacific train and taken by auto to the home of Mrs. Fannie Dickson, where an appetizing four-course luncheon awaited them. The house bore a most festive appearance, with the chapter colors, yellow and white, entering into the decorations, and the chapter flower, the Marguerite, was everywhere in evidence. In honor of Flag day the spacious porches were converted into a veritable bower of red, white and blue.

A musical and literary program followed the luncheon, after which "getting acquainted" was the order of the hour. Chapter F. of our city has had many delightful occasions, but none more thoroughly enjoyed than the one with their sister chapter last Saturday. A mutual feeling of regret prevailed when train-time drew near and departure was inevitable. A number of the local chapter accompanied their guests to the Missouri Pacific station and a hearty "come again" resounded as the train pulled out.

Take Plenty of Time to Eat.

There is a saying that "rapid eating is slow suicide." If you have formed the habit of eating too rapidly you are most likely suffering from indigestion or constipation, which will result eventually in serious illness unless corrected. Digestion begins in the mouth. Food should be thoroughly masticated and insalivated. Then when you have a fullness of the stomach or feel dull and stupid after eating, take one of Chamberlain's Tablets. Many severe cases of stomach trouble and constipation have been cured by the use of these tablets. They are easy to take and most agreeable in effect. Sold by all dealers.

Mrs. C. M. Parker was a passenger this morning on the early Burlington train for Omaha, where she will visit for the day with her sister, Mrs. L. L. Longworth, who is just recovering from the effects of an operation.

MRS. PETER A. WELCH SUB- MITS TO SURGICAL OPERATION

Mrs. Peter A. Welch of Omaha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Bach, sr., of this city, submitted to a surgical operation Saturday morning for gall stones, and while the operation was quite serious, the patient is getting along nicely up to the present time. The operation was performed at the St. Katherine hospital, and Mr. and Mrs. Bach were with their daughter at the time, returning home Saturday evening. Mrs. Welch had been suffering for some time, and the operation was postponed upon the surviving of each attack until the condition of the patient became quite serious, and over forty stones were removed. The many friends of Mrs. Welch in this city hope that her recovery may be rapid and permanent.

REPORT OF SERIOUS TROUBLE OVER AT CEDAR CREEK

This morning about 10:30 Sheriff Quinton received a telephone message from Cedar Creek announcing that a man had been shot at that place about 9:30 and the sheriff at once started for Cedar Creek in an automobile to look into the matter. As far as can be learned the wounded man was seated with some companions near the river, when the report of a shot was heard and parties hastening to the scene of the shooting discovered one of the men to be suffering from a wound inflicted from a weapon which it is reported the men were handling, and the circumstances as far as heard in this city point to the shooting as accidental. Dr. Wortman of Louisville was summoned to Cedar Creek to attend to the case.

MURDOCK.

Rev. C. Cole was in Lincoln one day last week.

Mrs. Edna Jones was a Omaha visitor Monday.

Lewis Hornbeck was shopping in Omaha Thursday.

George Skyries was shopping in Elmwood last Friday.

F. O. Beal was a Omaha business visitor Monday.

Mrs. Green of South Bend was on our streets last Friday.

Master Utt is entertaining Master Lish of South Bend this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taylor of Louisville were in town one day last week.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. John Schurin, a 10-pound baby girl, last Sunday.

George Williamson and Id Hornbeck were in Syracuse last Tuesday.

Do you want a car ride? If so, ask George Williamson; he has a new Ford car.

From recent reports we hear that Murdock is to have a "band" again. Aren't you glad?

Nellie Rush left Sunday evening for Lincoln, where she intends to go to summer school.

The Murdock R. N. A. attended a banquet given by the Omaha R. N. A. last Wednesday evening.

Miss Cora E. Smith and her niece, Fawn Camera, were visiting with friends Saturday and Sunday.

The M. E. church is preparing for Children's day next Sunday, June 15. Everybody come and see what old and young can do.

Miss Neva Elliott of Havelock, who has been visiting her friend, Miss Edna Johanson, the past week, has now returned home.

Mrs. J. W. Hughes, who has been seriously ill in the hospital at Omaha, is now home again and is feeling as well as can be expected.

Wild strawberries are now ripe. Get your baskets and pails and go to the country for berries before the other fellow beats you there.

Buys Ralph Mullis Home.

Dr. O. K. Bachmann has just concluded the purchase of the home of Ralph Mullis, on North Sixth street. This is a commodious and comfortable house of eight rooms, with two full lots and an abundance of shade trees, and with the improvements the doctor contemplates will make him a beautiful home. The sale was effected through G. F. S. Burton.

The Journal for Calling Cards.