

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by
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"BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD"

Text, "You that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" (Colossians 1, 21).

Sunday, July 10.—**Pastor Russell** of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York, preached today from the above text. He said in part:—

In order to use a telescope to advantage we need first to obtain a proper focus on the object to be examined. And so it is with the Divine Plan and Purpose. Looking at it with the eye of faith through the Telescope of God's Word, adjustment of the focus is necessary. This focusing of the Word, Christian people in the past have very generally overlooked. As a result the Divine Plan has a blurred and indistinct appearance to our sight. The various word-pictures, symbols, types, allegories and plain statements of the Scriptures without this focusing together, make a very unsatisfactory and nondescript matter of the Gospel of Christ, one that is unsatisfactory to everybody, one that the learned of our day have repudiated entirely—an ambiguous collation that is a source of vexation to millions of God's consecrated people. The difficulty is that the Telescope was tampered with during the dark ages and the proper focus was lost. Since then Christian people have feared to readjust it: They have gloried in the fact that they never changed the focus. However, they have overlooked the fact that some one else did change it for them long ago and that the unsatisfactory view we have gotten is the result of this and is entirely out of accord with the clear and beautiful vision of God's Grace and Truth and Mercy and Love and Wisdom and Power as seen by the Apostles in the early Church.

International Bible Students' Association.

Some of us, dear friends, instead of throwing away the Telescope of the Word of God, are taking pleasure in cleaning the lenses of the dust of the dark ages and adjusting the focus

a knowledge of the Truth that they may be saved.

If the knowledge of God's grace has proven to be a grand, glorious, inspiring message to the sanctified in Christ Jesus, the Church of this Gospel Age, called to the heavenly calling, will not the message of reconciliation to the world, in due time, likewise bring to the world comfort, joy, blessing as they shall be invited to the earthly portion—to full restitution to human perfection—to all that was lost by Adam and that is to be recovered by the sacrifice of Jesus. No wonder the Scriptures assure us that the night of weeping is nearly over and the morning of joy already dawning: "No wonder the Apostle declares that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together," and that they are "waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God" (Rom. viii, 22, 19).

The work of this Gospel Age has been the calling, the testing, the proving, the fitting, the polishing of these sons of God for the glorious heavenly state to which they have been called. The Apostle urges that however humble the position of God's saints in the present life, "We know that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." When he shall appear in his glory we also shall appear with him. When he shall reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords, when to him every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, the elect Church, his Bride, will be with him in his Throne, sharers of his glory and participants in his work—the work of blessing and uplifting the world—reconciling the world to God.

Calvin and Knox—Wesley and Whitfield.

Calvin, Knox and others of the reformers, we may then see, were quite right in their insistence that none at the present time are in a reconciled condition toward God except the comparatively few of our race—the saints. These turn from sin to righteousness,

of the poor groaning creation, the Divine program shines resplendently showing us that the Redeemer and his Church will for a thousand years be engaged in a missionary work of the sublimest and most gigantic character—a work not only for a living remnant of the race, but one which will include in its blessing all the thousands of millions of humanity under the Divine sentence, "The wages of sin is death." Truly the Scriptures declare, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than man's ways and God's plans loftier than man's conceptions."

Notice next the context. St. Paul, after mentioning Christ as the Head of the Body, the Church, who is the first-begotten, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence, adds, "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell," and that (after) having made peace through the blood of his cross by him to reconcile all things unto himself—both the things in earth and things in heaven" (Colossians 1, 18-20). The Apostle indicates the great scope of Christ's work as it shall be eventually when finished. He is appointed of the Father to establish peace and righteousness throughout the Universe. But he has not yet accomplished all of this. He has only begun. He has died for the sins of the world, as well as for the sins of the Church. But he has not yet offered to Justice the satisfaction for the world's sins: He first appears before God as the great Advocate for the elect Church, "called" of God in advance to be "the Bride, the Lamb's Wife." Note how the Apostle expresses this thought in our text, verse 21.

The Church First Reconciled.

"And you, that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprobable in his (the Father's) sight, if ye continue in the faith," etc.

Who are these and why are they reconciled in advance of the remainder of the world—brought in advance into fellowship with the Father by the Redeemer as his Bride? These were by nature "children of wrath even as others." By nature they were alienated and enemies in their mind by wicked works. They were unlike the Redeemer, who was "holy, harmless and undefiled and separate from sinners." Why then did God's grace specially come to this class—to us who are of the Church of Christ, "accepted in the Beloved" one? What did we do or could we do to contribute to this

A FEW WORDS

To the People Who Will Visit Our Store on the 14th.

We are emphasizing the fact during this great event to the people of Anderson county of an opportunity to buy a class of merchandise which during your entire career as a buyer of wearing apparel this is one of the opportunities that never has happened before, and which perhaps may not happen again within the business career of Palestine and her merchants. I am specially speaking of the stock of ladies' and children's ready-to-wear that was bought of Mr. Spielberger, and known as The Model. Within this stock of goods we find suits that sold for \$100.00, and we will sell them for \$35.00 and make a profit. We find evening waists worth \$15.00, and we will sell them for \$5.00. We find the Alexander Kid Glove, 16 buttons, worth \$5.00, and we will sell them for \$2.00. Silk Skirts, Purses, Redfern and Warner's Corsets, Cloaks for young and old, gold-headed Umbrellas, leather Shopping Bags, Combs, Neck Novelties, Hosiery, \$2000.00 worth of Ladies' Suits and Cloaks. We are going to sell winter goods in the summer; in fact, we will not put away the good things, but the entire stock will be on our counters in our store marked and ready to sell Thursday morning, the 14th, at 9 a. m., and the prices will be marked precisely down one-half, as we bought the stock at 50c on the dollar, and the people get the benefit of the sale.

Yours truly,
H. Horwitz.

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Hamilton, W. M. & Hamilton, H. V., Jr. Palestine Daily Herald (Palestine, Tex), Vol. 8, No. 291, Ed. 1, Wednesday, July 13, 1910, newspaper, July 13, 1910; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph67446/m1/8/: accessed July 1, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; .