

Call of The Christ Both Head and Body

"As He Was, So Are We, In This World," Says The Apostle.

God's Work During the Gospel Age
Peculiar—Justification Now Imputed, Not Actual—Purpose of this—Robe of Christ's Righteousness—Begetting to New Nature—New Creatures Tested in Blemished Mortal Bodies—God's Deep Love For the Church—Dear As the Apple of His Eye—High Calling and Restitution Vastly Different—Church's Experiences Like their Lord's—Only a "Little Flock" Walk the Narrow Way—Attune with the Infinite.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 30.—Pastor Russel delivered an able discourse here today, from the text, "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." (1 Peter 2:22) He said in part:

The Call of the Gospel Age has been unique. During this Age there is a different kind of justification from what the world will have during the next Age. The world will eventually have actual perfection of body, mind and morals. But now, in His manifold Wisdom God has a different arrangement, so that from the time when we hear the Lord's Call and accept His conditions, we receive justification by faith—imputed justification, not the real thing; for it does not make us actually perfect. We have the same brain, the same mind, the same body, as before. It is merely a matter of reckoned righteousness.

But why will God reckon us right when we are wrong? He does so because we accept the One whom He has appointed to be our Advocate. "We (the Church) have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous." (1 John 2:1.) By and by the world will have a Mediator; but the Church have an Advocate. We come to the Father through Him. We give ourselves by consecration to God, realizing that His arrangements are all in Christ. When we have done this the merit of Christ is imputed to us and covers all our blemishes. This merit is figuratively called a wedding garment—an allusion to the plain white garment given to each guest at an oldtime Jewish wedding.

The pure white robe of Christ's righteousness is put on by all who become disciples of Jesus. We are not appearing in the filthy rags of our own righteousness, but in the perfect robe of our Lord's furnishing. When we gave up our own wills and God accepted our sacrifice, we received the begetting of the Holy Spirit and became New Creatures in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17.) All things passed away, and all things became new. This robe of Christ's imputed righteousness covers our flesh, which is imperfect. The New Creature needs no covering; for it is begotten of God. It is only because the New Creature has not yet received its body that it needs its old body as a tabernacle and as an instrument of service.—2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

This was not true with us, before we became Christians. It is only since we became New Creatures that we are not at home in the body. God has prepared a Heavenly, spiritual body for every one of us who are His people. This spiritual body He will give us in due time, but not until we develop the necessary character in these old bodies. It is as if He said to us, "Keep this old body for a while, and let Me see how you will make out with it. Let Me see how you will fight against the flesh. Remember, however, that you are not to fight with carnal weapons, but with the weapons of My Spirit."

As Christians, we have the whole armor of God—the helmet of salvation, the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, with which to fight against the Adversary and the imperfections of the flesh. (Ephesians 6:12-18.) The mind is the great battle-ground. Surrounded by the imperfections of the old nature and beset by temptations from without, we find it necessary to wage a continual warfare, to fight a good fight, that we may come off conquerors, yea, "more than conquerors, through Him who loved us," and gave Himself for us.

"The Father Himself loveth you." Meantime God is not looking coldly on and indifferently. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that reverence Him." (Psalm 103:13.) He is deeply interested in those who have become His children and are seeking to walk in the footsteps of His Son. "The Father Himself loveth you," said the Master. (John 16:27.) This is one of the most precious texts in the Bible, and one of the most wonderful as well. We might see

how God could feel an interest in us as His offspring; but to think that God loves us, if we have become members of the "us" class! "God so loved the world (with a sympathetic love) that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) But this love that God has for the Church is a special love, such as He had for His Only Begotten Son. (John 17:26.) They are as dear to Him as the apple of His eye. He sees to it that nothing shall hurt them. When the eye is in trouble, it has the attention of the whole mind. So it is with God's care for the members of His Church. We are very glad to have this special love which has led God to put upon us the robe of Christ's righteousness. Our Father is not now looking upon us as sinners; for our imperfect flesh is covered by the robe. But the flesh is not to be preserved. Our bodies have been presented as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1.) They are to be consumed.

High Calling vs. Restitution.
It is a wrong thought to suppose that God will give us who have consecrated ourselves the best of everything for our mortal body, and will so guard us as to prevent any injury to our body. It is the New Creature that the Father is preparing for glory, not the natural man; and this He is doing by means of His precious promises, which are all made to the New Creature. The old nature is perishing. God will not give us Restitution. That blessing is for the world in the future.

We who have received the High Calling cannot get Restitution. Like the child who went to buy a cake with a penny, and who found that he could not keep the penny and get the cake, we cannot get the glory of the High Calling and at the same time hold on to earthly blessings. We have become heirs of the Heavenly things, having been begotten again as spirit beings, like the Lord Jesus. Therefore let us not think that God is offering us Restitution also. We are to sacrifice our humanity. If you find that you have no sufferings or Christ, you have every reason to question whether God is dealing with you as a son.

God delivered up Jesus freely for us all, and permitted His enemies to smite Him, to spit upon Him, to put a crown of thorns upon His head, to mock and to crucify Him. Jesus truly said, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." (Matthew 8:20.) The Father permitted all this because He was dealing with Jesus as His Son, whom He had begotten to a new nature, and who was demonstrating His worthiness by obedience in the things which He suffered. If we are true to the Lord, it will be so with us, even as it is written: "My son, despite not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him; for whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."—Hebrews 12:5-11.

But Few Find the Narrow Way.
God did not choose angels for this High Calling, but all who have received the begetting of the Holy Spirit, all who have been received to become joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. He must choose every one of them, because of the honorable and exalted position to which He has called them; and every one of them must receive chastening, disciplining, testing. It is a wonderful thing that God wishes to test the loyalty and faithfulness unto death of every one who will be of that glorious company. So then, instead of thinking that you are always such great trials, that you are always in some kind of trouble, that you are peculiar in that respect, you will rather think, "How is it that the Lord lets me have so few of those terrible trials? I should think that He would wish to prove me more thoroughly."

Not many will prove themselves worthy. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom," said the Master. (Luke 12:32.) It is only a "little flock" that the Father is calling out now. He is the Chief Shepherd of this "little flock," who walk the narrow way. "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:14.) The Heavenly Father is the One who has called us. We are following Jesus because God has appointed Him to be the Captain of our salvation, whom the Father made perfect through suffering. Every one who follows Jesus must first be called, then proven and found faithful through sufferings, even unto death. In all this the Father is deeply interested.

The Covenant By Sacrifice.
I remind you, dear friends, you whom God has called, if indeed it be that you have heard His voice, that Jesus did nothing but what He heard from the Father. He said, "My word is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me." So the Message that Jesus gave us is the Message of the great Chief Shepherd, the Father. This Message coming to us from the Father has been for the purpose of calling us now to be His sheep. "Gather My saints together unto Me," said Jehovah, "those that have made a Covenant with Me by sacrifice." (Psalm 50:5.) As the Apostle puts it, "Ye see your Calling, brethren."—1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

This class are called to make a Covenant with Jehovah God by sacrifice. There are those who will come into covenant relationship with God without sacrifice, but not during this Age. But those who come now are called to sacrifice. There are no exceptions. If you are not a sacrificer, then you are not of this class. These have heard the Father's Call, and have presented their bodies to be living sacrifices, holy acceptable unto God. (Romans 12:1.) Jesus, our great High Priest, has made an atonement for our sins, and has made possible our approach to the Father. He has become our Surety, our Advocate, and makes us acceptable as sacrificers.

At the age of thirty, Jesus came to John the Baptist at Jordan. He came as soon as it was possible under the Law. There He presented Himself to the Father. What He did on that occasion we all know. The Prophet, speaking for Jesus and telling what were His heart sentiments, says, "Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God!"—everything written in the book of the Law and the Prophets. Everything that God had caused to be written respecting the Messiah Jesus was ready to do.—Psalm 10:6-8.

There was the serpent which was lifted up in the wilderness by Moses. There was the bullock slain by the high priest, Aaron, on the Day of Atonement, in connection with the Tabernacle service. There was the lamb that was slain every spring at the Passover. All this was "written in the Book" concerning Him, the Lamb of God. It was prophesied, too, that He would be led as a lamb to the slaughter, and that as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He would not open His mouth.—John 8:14; Isaiah 53:7.

When at the time of His consecration Jesus said, "I come to do Thy will, O My God, as in the volume of the Book it is written of Me." He could not then understand all that was written. But nevertheless He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God!"—Whatever Thou hast written in the Book, show it to Me, dear Father. I cannot see it clearly now; but whatever is there, I will delight to do it, no matter how severe or how great the sacrifice. Then Jesus symbolized His consecration unto death by His baptism in the Jordan, thus showing forth both His death and His resurrection.

Consecration Must Be To God Only.
This same figure of baptism in water is for all the consecrated, and it becomes an outward confession that whatever is written in the Book concerning us we will gladly do. We rejoice to do the will of God, and desire that His will may be done in us, even as it was done in our Master. This is the only kind of sacrifice that God will accept. Not all of God's people see this point, however. One says, I have consecrated myself to my church. Another says, I will consecrate myself to God and then will try mission work. Still another says, I will consecrate myself to work for God in the temperance field. But God has not asked them to do these things. He says that we are to consecrate ourselves to Him alone and to put no restrictions whatever around our sacrifice. "Thy will be done in me, whatever may be that will," should be the sentiment of our hearts.

So then we see what God has arranged for us, and how reasonable it all is that we should have been invited to become partakers of Christ's sufferings now in order that we may become sharers in His glory to follow. It has been an invitation, not a command. A command to sacrifice our lives would not have been just. God sets before the Church a great prize. (Philippians 3:13,14.) He has made no threat, used no force. If we do not wish to come without being forced, we cannot come at all. He has merely set forth His Message; and wherever that Message goes, it appeals to certain hearts, and to those only.

Is Your Co-Hearer in Tune?
The Gospel Call is like the message that goes forth from the wireless telegraph instrument. Waves of sound go out from that instrument clear across the Atlantic Ocean. But it is not everybody that can catch the message. The sending instrument is tuned to a certain key. If one has a good co-hearer, or receiving instrument, and yet does not have it properly tuned, he cannot receive the message. Often it is necessary to tune the co-hearer higher and higher before it gets in tune with the receiving instrument.

So you and I must have been in tune with God before we could hear His Message; and we must continue to keep in tune with Him if we would continue to receive messages from Him. God's messages pass over the heads of millions of people, and they do not hear. "Eyes have they, but they see not; ears have they, but they hear not." "Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear." In Jesus' day many had co-hearers that were not properly tuned to receive the Message of the Son of God; and they refused His words. Their thoughts were not attuned. So it is today. God is finding the humble and sincere, those who are in tune with Him.

I trust that we are in tune to receive the Message which our God is sending forth; that we have true co-hearers, and are keeping our instruments in tune with the Infinite One, so that we shall be able to hear the Message more and more fully; that we are continuing in that love

which rejoices to lay down life itself in His service; for God has fore-ordained that all who would be of the Church class in glory must be copies of His dear Son. None others can obtain the prize of the High Calling.—Romans 8:29.

"Change" of the Church At Hand.

Judging from the Word of God, we believe that the Church will soon reach the end of her race course. We certainly are in the time when "men's hearts are failing them for fear." Every financier and every statesman is fearful respecting the future. The things coming upon the earth are causing great perplexity. But the Lord's true people, as they see things beginning to come to pass, are lifting up their heads and rejoicing, knowing that their deliverance draweth nigh.—Luke 21:26-28.



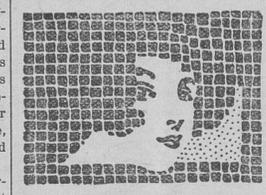
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Found in use in Virginia for the wholesale slaughter of game birds. Since the passage of the federal migratory bird law, of which Senators Weeks and McLean were the joint authors, more than forty State Legislatures have passed laws in conformity with the federal statute. The result has been a tremendous increase in the waterfowl population of the country.

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WHEREAS, The following named person has, in compliance with Chapter 40 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland for the year 1916, as amended by Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1912, being Article 1, and as amended by the Acts of 1908, and of the Acts of 1908, and of the Acts of 1910, Public Local Laws of Allegany County, filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, his Application for License to sell Spirituous and Fermented Liquors at his place of business in Allegany County as below stated:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That all remonstrances against the issuance of Licenses to said Applicants must be filed with the undersigned WITHIN TWENTY DAYS after the filing of the Applications.

LLOYD L. SHAFFER, Clerk.

FILED TUESDAY, JAN. 18, 1916.

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