

# PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by  
**CHARLES T. RUSSELL**  
Pastor Brooklyn  
Tabernacle.

## The Law of Retribution

Sowing and Reaping--Visiting Sins of Parents Upon Their Children--Justice of the Divine Arrangement--Grace So Much More Abounds--Else Were Your Children Unholy.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 12.—Pastor Russell of The Brooklyn Tabernacle preached here twice today to large and attentive audiences. We report his discourse from the text, "The Lord thy God is a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments" (Deuteronomy v, 9, 10). A report of the discourse follows:—

No one of experience can question the fact that our text is corroborated by all our experiences in life. However unjust some may claim it to be that the children should inherit the weaknesses resulting from parental dispositions and violations of the Divine law, the fact remains that however atheism may question the existence of a God or infidelity doubt the inspiration of his Word, no one can question the two facts of this text. (1) that sin and its penalty can be inherited and (2) the fact that God is merciful to such as renounce sin and turn to him and seek to walk according to his direction. However these blessings upon evil doers and their children and these blessings upon well doers and their posterity may be termed natural laws and laws of heredity, it does not alter the fact, because the Almighty is the one who made these laws of heredity.

Under the delusion handed down to us from the "dark ages"—that God had condemned to eternal torment all the children of Adam because of his sin—we are all inclined properly enough to feel rebellious against any such matter and to assert that from the standpoint of human reasoning it would be entirely unjust to torture the posterity of Adam eternally for his transgression—"original sin." But as we get the eyes of our understanding opened to see what is the real penalty for sin, that it is death, extinction, and that our perfect parents, fully informed respecting the divine will, were culpable, worthy of death

Some might ask, Would not any that have been better than the Divine arrangement as we see it operating now, that the whole race should suffer for one man's disobedience? We answer, No! Not according to the testimony of the Scriptures. The Bible shows us that while this law of retribution has worked such terrible havoc in Adam and his race for now six years—while 20,000,000,000 have been born in sin and sorrow and pain and after a few years of trouble have died in sorrow and pain, nevertheless God's due time all of these shall have more favorable opportunities of knowing God's true character and of attaining to a full character development in his likeness during the Millennium Age. This means that probably never will gain eternal life and blessing under the divine arrangement as we have it than we could reasonably expect would have been saved had the Lord not provided this law of heredity and condemnation of all, but on the contrary had permitted each to be born in perfection and to stand his trial between loyalty to God with the reward of eternal life or disobedience punished with death. But we shall see that it means much more than this.

### Condemned in One—Redeemed by One

A great economic law is connected with the divine arrangement: The condemnation of a race in one man's sins because of his transgression made possible the divine arrangement that a Second Man should pay the penalty for the first and redeem both him and all who were in him at the time of his condemnation. This is once a demonstration of Divine Wisdom and of Divine Justice. Suppose for instance, that the law of heredity had not prevailed, had not been instituted by our Lord, but that each individual had come forth perfect and had been personally placed on trial and been personally condemned to death. Would it not have required an individual savior for each one condemned under such an arrangement

Scriptures distinctly teach that the condition of the affairs of our world—sin, retributive punishment, the redemption through Jesus, the call of the Church and their sufferings with their Redeemer and the promises of future blessing and glory both for the Church and for the world—are subjects in which the angels of God are interested. As the Apostle Peter says, "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently. . . . Searching what or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. . . . Which things the angels desire to look into" (1 Peter, 1, 10-12). They wondered when all the sufferings of Jesus and the Church would be completed and when the glory time would come and recovery from sin and death would be attained; when God's purpose would thus ripen and bear fruit in the recovery of those who fell from his favor in Adam's disobedience but were redeemed by the precious blood.

The great lesson of what constitutes disobedience, and how serious a sin it is, and what it would lead to if allowed to take its course, was illustrated in man's experiences; and all the host of angels looked on with amazement and doubt. God's Justice was fully demonstrated in the infliction of the death penalty and the permission of its inroads upon the mental, moral and physical perfection of his creature, bringing many of the race down almost to brutality. God's Love was manifested in the gift of his Son, the arrangement of his plan by which the joy set before him, Jesus might become Adam's Redeemer, and the Bridegroom of the Elect Church, and ultimately the great King of the world, during the Millennium Age, to restore, revive and bless and glorify Adam and all his race.

### Christ and the Church Crucially Tested

We cannot wonder if all the holy angels looked on in amazement as they beheld the Only Begotten Son of God leave the "glory which he had before the world was" and humble himself to take human nature—to be born a man, that he might redeem Adam and his race. It must have seemed wonderful to them not only that the Heavenly Father would arrange such a plan, but wonderful also that the glorious "Only Begotten," "First-Born," should be the one to whom the proposition would be made to show his faith and love to the Father, to do his will to the extent of such a sacrifice, not only to glory, but, eventually, of life. They had yet to see a further operation of the divine law of retribution operating in Jesus for his blessing and honor to the humiliation of the Only Begotten, and

## A RELIC OF THE PAST

Mr. E. M. Ware Has Small Hatchet Made By His Great Grandfather Years Ago.

Mr. E. M. Ware called at the Herald office this morning and showed us a family relic in the form of a small hatchet made by his great grandfather in Mississippi about one hundred years ago. The old gentleman was a blacksmith by trade and this hatchet was the first piece of work turned out by him while serving as an apprentice. The hatchet is a crude looking instrument, and shows signs of having seen hard service. It has been in the family for three generations.

### Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

#### New Schedule For Junior Department Effective Monday.

A new schedule for the junior department of the Y. M. C. A. has just been issued, taking effect Monday. The intermediates, the boys between the ages of twelve and sixteen, will meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between the hours of 9 and 11 for gymnasium work, and at the same hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for library and bowling privileges. The Juniors, those between the ages of 10 and 12 years, will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 o'clock for gymnasium and swimming privileges, and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for library and bowling privileges.

The boys' meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Sunday was good. Mr. Williams spoke to the boys and they listened very closely and attentively. The large Y. M. C. A. pennant won in the recent junior membership campaign was awarded the Whites for winning. They won it by one member. The boys' work committee is planning a number of interesting things for the boys this summer.

The reports from the junior department for last month show that during the month 216 attended Sunday meetings, 189 attended socials, 44 attended Bible classes, 366 baths were taken, 44 new members secured during the campaign. Total membership, 1088. There were 30 gymnasium classes, with 275 attendants, 32 games played, 321 engaging in same.

## Statue



Monroe, Mich. the memory of the statue. The statue America's leading

Hamilton, W. M. & Hamilton, H. V., Jr. Palestine Daily Herald (Palestine, Tex), Vol. 8, No. 267, Ed. 1, Tuesday, June 14, 1910, newspaper, June 14, 1910; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph67421/m1/5/: accessed July 1, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; .