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FIRST WARD NEWS

Personals. Mr. Alabough of East Park avenue, is quite sick. His son, Frank, is very ill of rheumatism. Mrs. R. E. Kerns of Diamond street, who has been quite sick, is improving. Mrs. Hannah Jones has returned from Ohio where she visited her daughter, Mrs. O. S. Nichols. Gilbert Rex of Guffey street, is quite ill.

Full Attendance Desired. All members of Mrs. Jenkins class of the First M. P. Sunday school are requested to be present Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Will go to Florida. Mr. and Mrs. A. Door Hutchinson and daughter, Doris, left today for Petersburg, Fla., to spend several months. Mrs. Herbert Rager entertained at six o'clock dinner last evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson.

Mashed Foot. Mr. Lester Satterfield who is employed at the B. & O. freight depot, had the misfortune to mash his foot yesterday while at work. He is at the home of his sister, Mrs. Harry Summers, on Satterfield street.

C. G. Club. Miss Dana Jacobs entertained the C. G. Club yesterday afternoon at her home on Guffey street. Miss Gertrude Criss will entertain the club next week.

Palatine Baptist Church. George Edward Spruill, pastor. W. A. Husted, supt. of Sunday school. 9:30, Sunday school; 10:45 worship. Subject: "God's Standard—an echo of the Lyon meeting; 6:30 B. Y. P. U.; 7:30, worship. Subject: "The Complete Surrender"—an echo of the Lyon meeting. All are invited and will be welcomed to these services.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

NOT UPHOLD BY THE BIBLE

STATEMENTS BY PASTOR RUSSELL ANALYZED AND SHOWN TO BE ERRONEOUS.

SINNER WILL NOT HAVE THOUSAND YEARS IN WHICH HE CAN REPENT.

To the Editor of the West Virginian: After listening attentively to the lecture delivered by Pastor Russell last Sunday afternoon, and carefully weighing the position taken by the speaker relative to the subject of the hour, the writer would be pleased to submit the following article for the consideration of your readers.

The lecture delivered by Pastor Russell was from many points of view, an able discourse, and one that those acquainted with history, especially church can find no fault. Also the earnest spirit and manner of the speaker was commendable; and Pastor Russell in taking the position he does, is seeking to give the truth to the best of his ability.

The teaching of Pastor Russell concerning the thousand years during which the wicked will have a more favorable opportunity in which to repent, the writer cannot harmonize with the Bible. We are sorry to say that the Bible does not uphold this teaching. Pastor Russell in using the verse that speaks of the resurrection and the thousand years, took it from its particular setting, and placed upon it an interpretation that is not warranted by the verses that precede and follow it; and when read in connection with these verses, shows an entirely different meaning than that given by the speaker. Another thing that was very noticeable is the fact that he did not use scarcely any scripture in speaking of the second coming of Christ. The reason is apparent. The events connected with the second coming of Christ completely demolish the theory of a thousand years of repentance, in which men can turn away from their evil ways.

It is a serious question that is advanced by this teaching, and one that is well calculated to set the world at ease concerning their eternal welfare; and one that will no doubt involve the salvation of many souls. What more do men want than the hope of another opportunity beyond the grave during the "glad millennial age," when the church led by Christ Himself shall work for the salvation of the world? This glowing picture of the "millennial age" when Satan will be found and no longer allowed to tempt man, and all evil influences shall be removed will lull many souls into a sense of security. The thought also that only the "elect" will be saved in this world is deceptive, and will lead many to think that they are not now really responsible as to the acceptance of Christ. They will turn a deaf ear to the entreaties of God's people; despise the pleadings of the Holy Spirit, and thus lose their only opportunity of salvation.

It is looking at the question from this standpoint, realizing that salvation of souls is at stake, that has led the writer to carefully and prayerfully give this subject as it appears in the Bible. Not that the Bible teaches two ways of interpreting this subject, but taking more Scriptures, and placing this verse (Rev. 20:5) which speaks of the thousand years, in its true setting. I wish every one who reads this article to take his Bible and read carefully the references used, also the context.

Let us notice carefully the verse that speak of the thousand years, Rev. 20:4-6. It will be found that the fourth verse is speaking of the righteous, (in order to save people all of it will not be quoted here) and the latter part of the verse says, "and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." In these verses there is nothing said of a thousand years of peace upon this earth as it is popularly taught, but merely speaks of the thousand years. The word peace has been added by man. There are two classes brought to view in these verses, and also two resurrections. The one class who come forth in the first resurrection are called "blessed" and holy, and must therefore include all the righteous who have lived upon this earth. "But the rest of the dead" live not again until the thousand years were finished. This class can not be any other than the wicked who have lived upon this earth, as Pastor Russell himself says. It will also be noticed that the first resurrection marks the beginning of the thousand years, and that the second resurrection marks the close of this period. It may seem strange to some that there is to be a thousand years between the two resurrections. It is generally taught that the righteous and wicked come forth in one great general resurrection, but we see that there is to be a thousand years between them. When the Bible is carefully studied upon this subject, it becomes clear and plain. It is because the subject of the millennium has not been clearly taught, by the church, that there is some confusion, and it is to give an explanation

to some extent that in harmony with the popular teaching of a reign of peace on the earth that has led Pastor Russell to take the position that he has. Let us now enter upon a study of the Millennium, and the events connected with it.

As already noticed, the resurrection of the righteous marks the beginning of the millennium, but there is something else that transpires just before the righteous are brought forth, i. e., the second coming of Christ. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1. Thes. 4:16-17. See also 1. Cor. 15:49-55. This reference speaks of the resurrection of the righteous and show it to be directly connected with the coming of Christ. Why did not the speaker deal more with the second coming of Christ, and why did he use only part of the Scripture that refers to this event? The reason is obvious, as will be shown farther on.

Let us notice the nature of the second coming of Christ. Will it be a literal coming? One that both righteous and wicked will see? A personal coming? "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another;" Job 19:25-27. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be? Matt. 24:27-30. See also Acts 1:9-11. Every eye shall see him. Rev. 1:7. These scriptures prove that the coming of Christ will be visible to all, both righteous and wicked.

The references given above showing that the coming of Christ will be personal, and visible to the eye of all, let us now see what happens to both righteous and wicked. As already noticed, the righteous are brought forth from their dusty beds, "then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1. Thes. 4:17.

This is one thing that this text completely overthrows of Pastor Russell's views, i. e., the fact that the righteous are taken to heaven, and do not spend the thousand years upon this earth. All the references given speaking of Christ's return to this earth show him to come in the clouds, where this text shows that the righteous meet him. The next scene of them is before the throne of God in heaven. Read inclusively from the 14th verse of the fourteenth chapter to the third verse of the fifteenth chapter of Revelation.

Now concerning the wicked, what becomes of them at Christ's second coming? Are they given another opportunity as Pastor Russell declares? The question revolves around the statement in Revelation 20:5. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." What constitutes the death that is mentioned here? Does it mean the literal death such as men die now? Or has it a symbolic meaning, "dead in trespasses and sins?" Pastor Russell evidently thinks it means the latter, and not a literal death at all, and that it is the work of the church during the thousand years, to raise the human family, step by step to the standing of Adam mentally, morally and spiritually. Those dead in trespasses and sins cannot be said to be alive until they have reached this standard. Let the Bible answer this question as to the nature of this death.

At the second coming of Christ the wicked are destroyed by the brightness and glory of his presence, as the following references will show. "And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." 2. Thes. 2:8. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." 2. Thes. 1:7-9. "And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be as dung upon the ground." Jer. 25:33. These statements show plainly that instead of the wicked being given another opportunity they are destroyed by the coming of Christ, and will lie as dung upon the earth, neither buried nor lamented. This proves conclusively that there will be no "glad Millennial Age" as pictured upon this earth; for the righteous have been taken to heaven, the wicked destroyed, leaving this earth uninhabited during the thousand years.

Another thing that proves that upon this earth there will not be scenes of peace and plenty, is the fact that the earth is completely broken down at coming of Christ, and rendered uninhabitable. The sun, moon and stars are blotted out, wrapping the earth in total darkness. "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman,

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and every frog man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains. And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:14-17. "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not give her light to shine." Isaiah 13:6-13. (Only two verses are quoted here.) "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly." Isaiah 24:1-7. "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens become black; because I have spoken it, and I will not repent, neither will I turn back from it." Jeremiah 4:23-28. This reference shows plainly the condition the earth will be reduced to at the coming of Christ. The cities are broken down; the earth is torn and rent; reduced once more to the condition it was in at creation. "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Gen. 1:2.

the same word that is called "deep" in Genesis 1:2. It means a desolate wilderness, an uninhabitable place, such as the earth was in the beginning and will be again after the coming of Christ. Darkness will once more cover the earth. The righteous have been taken to heaven, the wicked are slain by the presence of Christ. Not a living soul is left alive upon the earth for Satan to tempt, thus he is bound to this earth for the thousand years by a chain of circumstances.

the thousand years. He gathers them together to make one last attempt to against God in trying to take the New Jerusalem. "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that

(Continued on Page Five.)

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