

## DEATH OF PASTOR RUSSELL

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The International Bible Students' Association have suffered an irreparable loss in the death of its president and founder, Pastor Charles Taze Russell, who succumbed to an attack of heart failure while travelling to New York after an extended tour, including Texas and the Pacific coast.

It is claimed that he was probably the greatest exponent of the Bible that has ever been. It seems impossible to read his works without loving the writer and pondering the wonderful solution of the mysteries that had troubled us all our lives. He was pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, as well as of the London Tabernacle, editor of "The Watch Tower," and author of a series of six volumes of "Studies in the Scriptures," which have had a wonderful circulation, reaching about 10,000,000 copies.

He was born in Pittsburg, Pa., in the year 1852, of God-fearing parents. While a young man he ardently engaged in mission work, and on one occasion undertook to try and reclaim an infidel friend. By skilful questions which were unanswerable by either minister or layman, from their sectarian standpoint, and by the manœuvring of many seemingly paradoxical Scriptures, the infidel completely upset his faith, and within a few months he became an admitted skeptic. As he desired to know the truth regarding the hereafter, the next few years were spent in the investigation of the leading Oriental religions, all of which he found unworthy of credence. The question here confronted him, "Shall I try longer to find the truth on religion?" or shall I smother the hope of finding it, and strive for fame and fortune in life?" Fortunately he decided to search the Scriptures from a skeptic's standpoint. Amazed at the harmonious testimony proving an unexpected but satisfactory answer, he undertook to make a systematic Bible research, and was brought to a complete confidence in the Bible.

He decided that he would remain outside of any denominations, and has sought to declare what he has believed to be the truth from an independent standpoint, apart from sect or creed. For 40 years or nearly so he has given his life and fortune for the good of others, and he has sought no gain from his propaganda, nor would he permit even a collection being taken at any meeting under his control. Neither has he taken any gain from the production of his studies in the Scriptures.

His life has been one of complete sacrifice in the Lord's service for the good of His cause and His people. Without doubt he will be greatly missed by his readers, but of him it may be truly said, "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord, from henceforth they rest from their labors, but their works follow on."

What is the cross? I questioned.

'Tis bearing every day,

The trials which the Father

Permits along the way.

'Tis sharing the reproaches,

Your Master meekly bore,

While those who claim to love Him,

Revile you more and more.