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THE SPECIAL CALL OF THE GOSPEL AGE

Whoever Hears This Call May Respond to It.

The Church of Christ—Jesus the Head. The Church the Body—Anointed to Be Kings and Priests—Special Training For Office—Who May Qualify For Election—Terms and Conditions to Be Met—Patient Continuance in Well-Doing—Character-Likeness to Christ the Necessary Qualification. Suffering With Christ—Three Classes That Enter the Race For the Prize. Only One Will Be Successful.

May 3.—Pastor Russell, whose free PHOTO-DRAMA OF CREATION is being produced daily in many cities, preached today from the text, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me."—Matthew 16:24.

First the Pastor showed that God had foreseen the entrance of sin and death into the world, and had purposed in Himself before the creation of the world a great Plan for man's recovery from sin and death conditions, to be accomplished through a Kingdom. This great Kingdom will differ from all others in that its monarch will be a King and a Priest. For this reason Christ is said to be "a Priest after the Order of Melchizedek," who was a reigning priest.

The Pastor then explained that God had foreordained that whoever would be appointed to this office of King and Priest must first demonstrate his worthiness by manifesting obedience to the Heavenly Father, even unto death. The first to be given opportunity thus to qualify for this great honor was Jesus, who offered Himself at His baptism. For three and a half years He was thoroughly tested to demonstrate His loyalty to His consecration vow. When on Calvary He cried, "It is finished." He referred to His sacrifice of Himself. His demonstration of obedience to the Father's will, even to the death of the cross.

The Gospel Call.

Continuing his argument, the Pastor demonstrated that although more than eighteen centuries have passed since God raised Jesus from the dead to be a Prince and a Savior, yet the world is still unsaved. Meantime, he declared, God has been calling out a special class for a special purpose. Those who hear this Gospel call are privileged to become, upon certain conditions, members of this class which God is selecting—this "Body of Christ, which is the Church." Not until this Body, of which Jesus is Head, is completed will God's Plan for the world's salvation be carried out.

The Pastor then stated the terms and conditions of eligibility to membership in this Body of Christ. God extends the invitation, and nominates those who accept it; but each must elect himself by compliance with the terms of the call. This call is a desire to come to God. Some have it from birth; others get it at their mother's knee, or through a hymn, a sermon, etc. Whatever points to Christ as the way to God constitutes an invitation.

Walking in the Narrow Way.

To those who turn away from sin and accept Christ as their Redeemer, the Savior says, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." The Pastor explained that to deny one's self is to give over one's self-sufficiency, one's desire to do one's own will, and to accept instead the Divine will. Whoever does this dies to earthly ambitions, hopes and desires, and in their stead receives Heavenly ones.

The Pastor then showed that to take up the cross is not always understood by the one starting in the narrow way. Gradually he perceives that it is the crossing of self-will with the Divine will. But if his consecration is genuine, the child of God will learn to rejoice in every trial. The Heavenly Father will cause the way to open before him, and with every trial provide the way of escape.

To follow Christ signifies patient continuance in cross-bearing. Each one in the narrow way must thus demonstrate his loyalty to God and to the principles of righteousness. This does not mean that the flesh must be perfected, but the New Creature—the new will. The unintentional weaknesses of the flesh are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness. Therefore the New Creature is privileged to grow in Christlikeness.

The Church, Which is Christ's Body.

Whoever takes these steps comes into the spirit-begotten Body of Christ, the Church, declared the Pastor. This spirit-begotten took place at the moment when, having persecuted their bodies living sacrifices, they were accepted of God. Then they became members of the Body, all of whom have the same anointing as had their Head. This anointing came upon Jesus at His baptism. On Pentecost it flowed down to the Body, the Apostles being the first members. Since then, each one coming into the Body comes under this anointing. Those who press on "faithfully unto death" will become members of the Body of Christ in glory.

FASHION AND MISERY.

A Pitiful Tragedy That Revealed an Incongruous Combination.

One of the standing subjects of humorous remarks among New York theatergoers is the weekly article on men's fashions, published on the nom de plume of Beau Brummel, in the programs of the theaters of the better class.

Some people think Beau Brummel is a woman, while others believe him to be merely a haberdasher with a drug habit. However that may be, it is a reasonable supposition that no one wears any of the clothes that Beau Brummel writes about. It couldn't be done. If any man ever arrayed himself in one week's output of the Beau Brummel fashions and started down Broadway he'd land in jail or the psychiatric ward at Bellevue.

The case of Beau Brummel is merely funny. But here is a grim and pitiful little tragedy which is in a way related to it. In a small tenement, at the eastern and poverty stricken end of Fifty-sixth street, the police found John Conwell and his old mother, dead from gas. The man was past middle age and unmarried. They lived alone, and he idolized the woman—a poor, old drunkard. The neighbors said he used to cry hysterically when she would stagger home, stupefied with drink. At last he turned on the gas while she slept and died with her.

He wore cotton overalls at the time of his death, and the few articles of his wearing apparel found in the apartment were worn and ragged. Yet the letters and papers which the police took possession of proved that he earned a livelihood for himself and his mother by writing articles on the latest fashions in men's dress.—New York Letter in Cincinnati Times-Star.

OLD FORT MARION.

America's Only Medieval Castle a Landmark in St. Augustine.

For more than 200 years St. Augustine was the Spanish capital of Florida, and the Florida of those days extended from the Chesapeake bay to the Pacific ocean. It was an impregnable stronghold all of those years.

Old Fort Marion, begun in 1592 and finished in 1756, is the only medieval castle in America. It cost an enormous sum of money. Repeated heavy drafts of the builders caused the king of Spain to inquire if they were building Fort Marion of gold dollars. The castle stands today in perfect condition, guarded by the United States government. The keeper conducts visitors through the castle, down into the dungeons and shows you rings in the walls where victims of Spanish oppression were chained to die. Report, fairly well authenticated, has it that when the castle fell into the hands of the British two skeletons were found in one of these dungeons chained to the wall. One was of a man, the other a woman. There is something uncanny about these dungeons that cannot be described by word of mouth.

While there has been great improvement in old St. Augustine, the ancient landmarks have been preserved. The old city gate is intact; the Spanish monuments hundreds of years old attract the lover of antiquities. Narrow streets characterized all Spanish towns of medieval times. There are streets in St. Augustine not more than ten or a dozen feet wide, each side lined with the same type of buildings that were the custom three or four centuries ago.

Wanted to Be Safe.

Tom Jackson had participated in a narrow escape from death, due to an accident which happened while he was crossing to Liverpool. It was, therefore, with much fear and hesitancy that he decided to return home.

Approaching the porter hurriedly at the last minute, he was told that he was too late for a stateroom. "The last one was just taken," announced that worthy.

"Stateroom?" queried the frightened passenger. "Who wants a stateroom? Give me a reserved seat in a lifeboat."—Buffalo Express.

A Painful Process.

Little Prescott had been leaning out of an upstairs window.

"Come away from the window, son," his father said sternly. "You might fall out and get a hump on your back—like the camels you saw yesterday."

The little boy was silent for a few minutes. Then he asked, "Father, do all the little camels have to fall out the window to get their humps?"—New York Post.

Argued Too Long.

"Why did you permit yourself to be drawn into a long argument with your assailant?" asked the policeman.

"A long dispute was just what I was trying to avoid when I called him a liar," explained the man on the hospital cot.—Buffalo Express.

Too Soon and Too Late.

"What became of that play you wrote five years ago?"

"The managers decided it was too faring to produce."

"Send it on again."

"I did. They say it's too tame now."—Pittsburgh Post.

What a Fright!

His Wife—But, dear, tell me why you want my photograph taken in this costume? Her Hubby—So that in three years you will look at it and say what I would like to say right now.—Judge.

Weakening.

"So you think there is yet a chance of selling Mr. Nuskans an auto?"

"Sure! He used to say he wished he had one; now he's arguing he can't afford it."—Puck.

HUSBAND RESCUED DESPAIRING WIFE

After Four Years of Discouraging Conditions, Mrs. Bullock Gave Up in Despair. Husband Came to Rescue.

Patron, Ky.—In an interesting letter from this place, Mrs. Bettie Bullock writes as follows: "I suffered for four years, with womanly troubles, and during this time, I could only sit up for a little while, and could not walk anywhere at all. At times, I would have severe pains in my left side.

The doctor was called in, and his treatment relieved me for a while, but I was soon confined to my bed again. After that, nothing seemed to do me any good.

I had gotten so weak I could not stand, and I gave up in despair.

At last, my husband got me a bottle of Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I commenced taking it. From the very first dose, I could tell it was helping me. I can now walk two miles without its tiring me, and am doing all my work."

If you are all run down from womanly troubles, don't give up in despair. Try Cardui, the woman's tonic. It has helped more than a million women, in its 50 years of continuous success, and should surely help you, too. Your druggist has sold Cardui for years. He knows what it will do. Ask him. He will recommend it. Begin taking Cardui today.

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