

BATTERING DOWN THE WALLS OF HELL

But Not the Bible Hell, Says
Pastor Russell.

Jesus Promises to Destroy the Bible Hell—Why the Superstitious View of Hell Should Be Battered by All Lovers of Truth—The Bad Effects of the Error—Faith in True God Is Vanishing Because of This Colossal Error, This "Doctrine of Demons" Invention—Not Learning, but Ignorance, Opposes Work of Destroying Error.



Kansas City, Mo., June 1.—Pastor Russell here today addressed large audiences of Bible Students. We report one of his discourses. In this he declares the hell of the Bible a totally different one from the hell of the Dark Ages, which, he said, still casts a gloom over the masses and hinders a proper appreciation of the Divine character vs Love and Justice. He took a combination text: O Sheol [hell], I will be thy destruction" (Hosea 13:14), "O Hades [hell], where is thy victory?" —1 Corinthians 15:55.

My text, said the Pastor, teaches that Jesus will destroy the hell of the Bible—the state of death. He will do this by delivering all mankind from death by the resurrection. Thus ultimately He will gain His great victory over sin and death, and deliver humanity from their power. No one but Jesus can do this. Hence we must wait for the appointed time—the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom. Meantime, it is ours to batter down the hell of torment which for centuries has troubled God's saints, and turned the hearts of many from their Creator.

The Pastor dealt some vigorous blows at the doctrine he condemned. They were not blows of anger nor of sentiment, but of logic and of Scripture. His opponents are comparatively few, he said, and of two classes: Some are good and honest, but ignorant. Others, thoroughly informed, no more believe in a hell of torture than does the Pastor, but dodge the question and give the impression that they believe it, so as to hoodwink the people, and keep them in darkness on a subject of most vital importance to human happiness now and throughout eternity.

The masses of Christian ministers are educated. Preachers in general know well that the Bible does not teach a hell of torture—that the words Sheol, Hades, Gehenna and Tartarus do not signify a place of torture, where all except the saintly will eternally suffer. These ministers do not come forth into the open with me to battle the error, presumably because they do not realize, with us, that this terrible blasphemy against the Divine character lies at the bottom of nearly all the godlessness and the growing unbelief in the Divine Word now prevalent. To me it is evident, said the Pastor, that reverence toward God and faith in the Bible cannot be restored until this great Moloch of false teaching be demolished. This explains my zeal in exposing the errors of the past, and for the revealment of the truth on the subject of future punishment.

The Pastor did not on this occasion attempt explanations of the three or four parables, which, by mistranslations, misunderstandings and interpolations, have been made to support the God-dishonoring doctrine that eternal torture is the wages of sin, in contradiction of the Bible statement, "The wages of sin is death." He contented himself with reminding his hearers that he had already preached on the parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus," of "The Sheep and the Goats," and the Lord's statement, "Where their worm dieth not and their fire is not quenched," and from the Revelation, about the devil, the beast and the false prophet being cast into torment. To those who have neither heard nor read his sermons on these subjects, he offered to send his views in printed form, free upon postcard application.

The God of All Grace.

The God of the Bible, said the Pastor, is such a one as every human heart needs and craves. He is a God of sympathy and love, respecting whom it is declared that He looked down from His holy habitation and beheld, and heard the groaning of the prisoners. (Psalm 102:19, 20.) "Then His own Arm brought salvation." (Isaiah 63:5.) The groaning of the prisoners was not in some far-away furnace, but here on earth—in every home. Our race groans because we are slaves of sin, and sin is paying us the prescribed penalty—death.

Jesus' work at the First Advent was only preparatory. His death was necessary as the corresponding price for the sin of Adam. Only by paying that penalty could He obtain the right to destroy the prison-house of death and deliver the prisoners by a resurrection from the dead. His work was satisfactory. He ascended to the right hand of God, where He awaits the hour when He shall take His great power and reign.

Then the light of the knowledge of God shall fill the earth. All will have fullest opportunity for return to God, and only the willingly disobedient will lie the Second Death.

IF WE DENY HIM HE WILL DENY US

Repudiation of Christ Is a Growing Sin, Says Pastor Russell.

Faith Is Waning—Learned and Rich Already Faithless—The Common People Rapidly Becoming So—The Rich Substitute Pleasures—The Poor Have No Substitute—Together the Ingrating of Hopelessness With Intelligence Means Anarchy—Old Creeds No Longer Endurable—The Gospel of the Kingdom the Only Hope.

Dallas, Texas, June 8.—Pastor C. T. Russell spoke twice here today. We report his discourse to Bible Students. The text was: "If we deny Him, He will deny us." (2 Timothy 2:12.) He said:

Great riches have come to the world within the past sixty years, especially to Europe and America. Instead of the hearts of the prosperous uplifting with gratitude to God, the tendency seems to be away from God, and especially away from His Son and from all thought of a share in His redemptive work, or a need for it. Business activities and prosperity have dwarfed the prospects of Messiah's Kingdom.

But with the growth of wealth have come saner and more reasonable views of Justice. The folly of accumulating money for others to squander has impressed itself. The rich of Europe and America are giving themselves more leisure in the prime of life, leaving opportunity for others to take their places in the commercial world.

None could wish that our great business men become sluggards. Our wish should be that their mature years might be gratuitously devoted to the promotion of philanthropic plans for the aid of the lower classes. Doubtless millions of money would flow into such hands for disbursement along broadly economic lines.

There is room for such benevolences in every land, but especially in countries under British and American control, where commercialism absorbs some of the ablest talent, leaving comparatively little opportunity for the less progressive. All over Great Britain and in nearly every state of the Union there are splendid opportunities for such work. Then there are the teeming millions of India, existing under conditions not fit for a good dog.

These are our brethren of the one blood, as St. Paul declares. None dispute the necessities of the case. The sympathetic are appalled at the money and labor necessary to cope with conditions. Heaven looks with interest to note how our showers of blessings affect our hearts.

The Responsibility of Knowledge and Riches.

Amongst the rich are many noble Christian hearts in perplexity as to what to do with their wealth. The Pastor's suggestions are based upon his observations in all parts of the world. He thinks that the Lord is pouring out wealth upon Christians to test them. From this viewpoint, the world is under Divine inspection, and God seems to be warning the prosperous that their present course is not wise.

Let us make no mistake, said the speaker earnestly. Pleasure-seeking is the trend of the whole world. God is being forgotten by both poor and rich, and the end of the lane is near—"a time of trouble such as never was."

With the awakening of true Christianity has come a substitute—Churchianity. For years Christian faith has been declining, under the attacks of Higher Criticism and Evolution, and the neutralizing influence of love of pleasure. One Bible doctrine after another has been dropped, while Christianity has come forward as a form of godlessness, but destitute of power.

Apparently the modern attempt to ignore doctrine has been a great mistake, which is now bearing its legitimate fruit in that very few Christians know definitely what the Bible teaches. The effect on the rising generation is disastrous. Seeing the doctrines of all denominations discredited, they perceive that the Bible is classed with the creeds. This is the alarming mistake. The sooner we are rid of our creeds, the better. But if we lose the Bible, we are not losing the very foundation of faith and hope beyond the present?

The Loss Is Greater to Some.

The average man needs the Gospel Message of hope in order to make the trials and sorrows of life endurable, in order that these may so operate as to serve as lessons in character-development and produce a desire to be acceptable to his Creator, and to attain everlasting life.

The Pastor trusts that ministers may be encouraged to proclaim the Gospel of Hope beyond the grave—for the saintly a hope of joint-heirship with Christ in His Kingdom, and for the remainder of mankind a hope that they will receive only just punishment for sins proportionate to their wilfulness, and that the Lord's gracious arrangement is to grant all an opportunity of restoration to human perfection in a world-wide Eden—brought about by the Messianic Kingdom, which is even at the door.

THE MOST PRECIOUS TEXT IN THE BIBLE

How Differently It Reads From
What We Once Supposed!
Says Pastor Russell.

Unintentionally We Read Errors Into Our Bibles—Our Eyes Were Dimmed by "Dark Ages" Smoke—The Fog Lifts—God's Glory Begins to Appear. The Bible Shines—Its Truth Is the Balm of Gilead—Poor Discouraged Humanity Needs Just Such a God. Shortly He Will Wipe Away All Tears.

Pasadena, Cal., June 15.—Pastor Russell spoke here this afternoon and evening. His evening sermon we report. His text was, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) He said:

This text by some has been styled "the most precious text in the Bible." To read it is to be filled with the thought of the sin which has marred God's fair creation. Then comes the reviving announcement of mercy, through the Son of God, our Savior, through a work which He alone could accomplish for us, a race of sinners condemned to death.

Forcefully the Pastor pointed out that once Christian people, even Bible students, misunderstood this text, and read it as though it said that God so loved the world as to keep them from perishing, in order that the elect few might look over the battlements of Heaven and see the non-elect writhing in torture—unable to perish—forced to live, that by their sufferings they might entertain the more fortunate, who were guaranteed bliss to the full.

What right did we ever have, said the Pastor, thus to put into the mouth of our Savior, as our creeds have done, words which He never uttered—words which are very untrue—indeed, a blasphemy against our Maker!

Light Shines Through the Fog.

We are not faulting our forefathers, said the Pastor. Had we been in their places, we would have been as confused as they, and we might have indulged in heretic-burning, etc. And had they lived in our wonderful day of great light, knowledge, education, Bibles, etc., doubtless they would have had as noble ideals as ourselves respecting the proprieties of Christian and Divine conduct, and Love and Justice. The Bible tells us that Satan and his fallen angels are responsible for those terrible "doctrines of demons," which have given thinking people such horror and driven so many away from God into unbelief.

Let us rejoice in the light of this better day. Let us become Bible students in the highest sense of the term. Never before has there been such an opportunity for knowing the real teaching of God's Book. We have Bibles, concordances, helps, and general education which permits us to study these. Our forefathers labored against lack of education, time, Bibles and good artificial light. Surely the wonders of our day indicate that the New Day is upon us, that the sunlight of Messiah's Kingdom will soon break forth through every cloud!

What the Word "Perish" Means.

When we think of it, the word "perish" contains not the remotest suggestion of fire or torture. In our ignorance we read that meaning into this and similar texts. Look critically at our text. It corroborates the account in Genesis 3, as explained by St. Paul in Romans 5:12-18. By one man's disobedience sin entered the world, and death as a result of sin, and so death passed upon all men, because all are sinners—by heredity.

This death penalty has been carrying our race to the tomb for six thousand years. The Scriptural declaration is that all these would have perished—would have had no future existence any more than the brute—had it not been for God's compassion, "The great Love wherewith He loved us while we were yet sinners."—Ephesians 2:4, 5.

Other Scriptures tell us that the death of Jesus was a Ransom-price, or price corresponding to the penalty upon Adam and his race. By providing an equivalent price for the sin-penalty against Adam, God can be just in releasing us from the death penalty.

All Saved From Perishing.

The simple proposition of the Bible is that as Adam and all of his race legally perished, so they have all been legally redeemed from that perished condition—Jesus' death being the Satisfaction-price. Because of this redemption the Bible assures us there is to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust.

The Bible further assures us that the resurrection of mankind must wait until the completion of the Church of Christ. Then the Second Coming of Christ will be in order, that He may exalt His Church with Himself as the reigning Power, the Spiritual Seed of Abraham, which God has promised shall be exalted to glory for the very purpose of blessing all the families of the earth—the non-elect—in the glorious Messianic Kingdom.

Woodrow Wilson SAID.....



But then, What's the use telling what he said—Everyone knows!.....
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