



Pastor Russell spoke in Lancaster, Pa. The text for the occasion was: "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching that our text declares is of Divine arrangement. The many topics of interest and profit to humanity all have their time and place. But the preaching of the gospel has an exclusive right of way in the church of Christ. If some claim that the people will no longer attend divine service to hear gospel preaching, we reply that there are three reasons for this.

(1) The church lost the real gospel during the dark ages and few Christian people have yet recovered it. The word gospel, as all agree, signifies good tidings, a message of joy; but the message handed down to humanity from the dark ages has been the reverse of this—bad tidings of great misery for nearly all of our race. Is it any wonder that the great majority are disgusted with the horrible misrepresentations of the creeds? Mankind have trials and difficulties enough in the present life, and need encouragement to hope for better things in the life to come.

(2) Responding to the growing sentiment of intelligence, the ministers of the various denominations of Christendom have ceased to preach bad tidings of great misery for all but "the very elect." Nearly all ministers, graduated within the last 20 years, lost all their faith in the Bible as the inspired word of God, in the theological seminaries, where they were taught unbelief, under the name of higher criticism; where they also were taught to consider it honorable to scuttle their manhood by accepting ordination and salary for serving a denomination whose published creed they disown and despise. In the same seminaries they acquired the thought that it is right and honorable to receive title, honor and salary from the church, ostensibly as a Christian minister and Bible exponent, and then to use the opportunity to undermine the faith of the church and to destroy confidence in the Bible as the inspired word of God.

Under these conditions, what shall these ministers preach instead of the gospel of Christ, when they no longer believe? Is it any wonder that they preach those things that they ought not to preach, and leave unpreached those things they ought to preach? Not many of their hearers care for scientific disquisitions; nor many of them care to hear commonplace essays on good morals. So how can such ministers avoid foolish preaching?

(3) Not content with undermining the faith of the people who trust and honor and obey them, these ministers mix their higher critical views and evolutionary views with diluted morality, and serve this as instead of the gospel of Christ. He who thinks that such a message will convert a mind from sin to righteousness, from unbelief to faith in God, deceives himself. He who thinks that such messages will have a sanctifying power in the hearts of God's people, equally deceives himself.

No Gospel Without Redemption.

The essence of the gospel of Christ is that He died for sinners, the just for the unjust, that He might bring mankind back to God. But the false gospels deny that man ever fell from the likeness of God, and equally deny therefore that he needed a Redeemer and that he has a Redeemer. Such spurious gospels, which leave out the

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