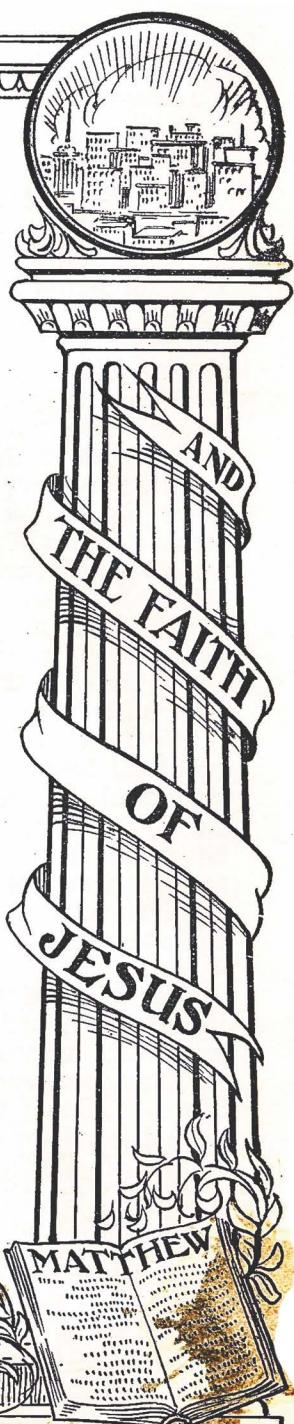


The Reformer

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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MY VISIT TO THE BRUNSWICK CHURCH

I left New York on January 15th for Brunswick, Ga. On my arrival at Brunswick I found all the believers well and very courageous and strong in the faith. Brother Trapp, our faithful leader there, with the assistance of the other faithful ones there, are still holding the fort. The same night I arrived there we began a series of gospel meetings which lasted three weeks.

The interest was very good throughout the meetings. The music was rendered by Miss Lillie Mae Williams and proved very satisfactory.

The first week was spent in practical lessons on Bible doctrine and the authority of The Book in the world and the church. The second week we took up the prophetic portion of the Scriptures to show, according to history, where we are now living.

A number of people who never heard the Word of God in this way were very anxious to hear it. They came each night to learn more of God's way of dealing with the nations of earth. The truth of God's Word was so beautiful to them every time they came, that many of them stood and glorified the Lord in a clear voice to the congregation.

While in Brunswick I stopped in the home of Brother and Sister Trapp, and I am happy to say that they did everything possible to make me comfortable. Sister

Trapp made herself a real missionary in bringing strangers to the services each night. Many members of other churches in the city gave their support in keeping up the interest of the meetings.

It is true that the love of God will melt away prejudice and destroys denominational lines in the heart of those who will surrender fully to its powerful influence. Both North, South, East and West, God is the same, for He is the only true and living God.

It will be remembered that Bro. Trapp is the brother who has the reputation as having the "bulldog hold on the Word of God and work in Brunswick."

I left this field with the hope of returning soon to continue the grand work which has been started there. During the meetings many questions were answered. Among them were two very important ones, as follows:

1. What is false doctrine?

Answer: "To the law and to the Testimonies if they speak not according to this Word it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20. "For I gave you good doctrine; forsake not my law." Prov. 4:2. All other doctrine is false.

2. Can we be saved if we keep Sunday?

Answer: The Scripture says, "But the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shall not do any work." Ex. 20:10. It is therefore a sin to work on that day. It will cause death. Ex. 31:14. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23. Sunday is the first day of the week and God says nothing about keeping it holy in all His Word. After we have been instructed and then reject keeping the Sabbath of the Lord, He says, "I will also reject thee." Hosea 4:6. "He that heareth these words of Mine and doeth them not shall be liken to a foolish man." Math. 7:25. The only reason any of us will be lost is because of unbelief. Heb. 4:3-5; 3:19.

M. L. IVORY.

HOW SATAN CONTROLS THE SOUL AND BODY

There are five avenues through which you may reach a man's soul. Through the soul Satan

controls the body. These avenues are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feeling. The eye and ear are the broad ways; and it was through the eye and ear that sin entered this world. As the woman stood idly gazing at the tree of knowledge of good and evil," Satan contemptuously said, "Ah! What hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any of the trees of the garden?" (Spurrell.) He has now entered the two broad ways to the soul, and so captivated the mind, that he can contradict God's testimony to the woman; and then smooth it over by saying what he meant. "Ye shall not surely die," said Satan, "for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." If she had not first stopped to look at the tree which God had told her not to taste or touch, Satan could not have had control over her. But when she turned aside to see, the devil, watching the opportunity, at once entered the ear, contradicted God, and then softened it by his explanation. This is an old trick of the devil. It captured the woman, controlled her mind, then her seeing, feeling, and tasting were perverted. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit," etc. The tree was neither good for food or desirable to make one wise, only in sin. If it had been good for food, God would have given it to them. If it had been desirable for the eyes, or to make one wise, then she would have had it for that purpose from her Creator. But Satan so controlled her mind that he perverted her taste, her seeing, and her feelings. Through her intellect, Satan controlled her physically.

Here is the strong fort of the devil. When the judgment is perverted men see evil for good, and good for evil. When the devil has erected this fort in the human soul, disease and death is the result,—both spiritual, intellectual, and physical,—for when the foundation is removed, what can the righteous do. As soon as Satan can get the control of the mind, he takes his seat in the

heart, erects his telegraph office, sends his dispatches to every member of the body. The appetite craves food that is not good; the feelings rule the judgment, man yields, and sickness and death is the result. A wife and children are left to mourn the loss of a kind husband and tender father, society is robbed of a good man and the sin of the whole affair is charged up to God's providence. Then Satan sets up a hellish laugh and is glorified. It is thus that sin reigns. Where is there a remedy?

We answer, take the Word of God as an infallible rule of life, believe what God says without any discount. Eat and drink to the glory of God, regulate everything in harmony with God's Word. But a few ever realize the precious treasure they have in the Bible. Man fell spiritually, physically, intellectually, all through listening to the enemy of both God and man. The image of God is restored to the soul by listening to God through His Word and a belief in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

IT TAKES COURAGE

To live according to your convictions.

Not to bend the knee to popular prejudice.

To refuse to make a living in a questionable vocation.

To say "No" squarely when those around you say "Yes."

To refuse to knuckle and bend the knee to the wealthy, even though poor.

To remain in honest poverty while others grow rich by questionable methods.

To live honest within your means, and not dishonestly upon the means of others.

To speak the truth when by little prevarication, you can get some great advantage.

To do your duty in silence, obscurity, and poverty, while others about you prosper through neglecting or violating sacred obligations.

To refuse to do a thing which you think is wrong, because it is customary and done in trade.

To face slander and lies, and to carry yourself with cheerfulness, grace, and dignity for

years before the lie can be corrected.

To throw up a position with a good salary when it is the only business you know and you have a family depending upon you, because it does not have your unqualified approval.

A BLESSED ASSURANCE

A good many people honestly believe that it is presumptuous to say that they are saved—that they have passed from death unto life—that they are going to have a place at God's right hand. But the Bible teaches very clearly that we can know we are saved. If we want light we can get it. We can know that we have passed from death unto life if we are in earnest about it.

There are twenty-one chapters in the gospel of John, and they all speak of believing. "Believe," is the key of that gospel. But turn over into John's first epistle, and you will find that the key to that epistle is "know." Forty-two times that word occurs in these few chapters. "These things are written that we might know." "I do not believe that it is the mind of God we should go through the world in darkness, not knowing whether we have been saved or not.

"I think the best book on Assurance is the first epistle of John. If you are in doubt about your own salvation, read it, and you will know. "I think Christ taught this doctrine very clearly when the disciples came back to Him after He had sent them out by twos. They were greatly rejoiced because they had had such wonderful power, but he seemed to check them, and said, "I will give you something to rejoice for. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven." He wanted them to know it.

Do you think Paul, amid all his difficulties and persecutions, would have gone right on if he had not known his name was written in heaven? Do you think these martyrs would have gone to the stake if they had had any doubt about their salvation? It is the privilege of every child of God to walk in the light—to say, "Abba, Father! Heaven is my home: God is my Father! Jesus Christ is my Saviour."

L. D. M.

WHAT IS SCRIPTURAL MEANING OF THE TERM MESSENGER?

The term "messenger" occurs in the Old Testament over one hundred times, and has but one meaning; namely, a forerunner, or one sent with a message, irrespective of good or bad news.

Jacob "sent messengers before him to Esau." Gen. 32:3. Saul "sent messengers to take David." 1 Sam. 19:14-24.

Haggai, the prophet, was the Lord's messenger. Then spake Haggai, the Lord's messenger, in the Lord's message, unto the people. Hag. 1:13.

Jesus defines a messenger as more than an ordinary prophet. Regarding John the Baptist He says: "What went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you and much more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee, For I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist." Luke 7:26-28. Here it is shown that John was not only a prophet, but a messenger; and because he was a messenger as well as a prophet, it was the highest calling of any individual ever born of woman. Let this fact be well considered. The fact that a prophet is a messenger does not lessen the importance of his testimony, but adds much to it.

The term "apostle" is defined by Young in his concordance as "a sending forth." A man may be a minister, or an evangelist, but not an apostle, or a prophet. This is shown by the following text where both terms are used. "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship." Acts 1:25; Rom. 1:1. The twelve disciples that Jesus sent forth were apostles in the highest sense, but there is no evidence that either Matthew or Mark were prophets. Matt. 10:2; Luke 6:13. An apostle is not necessarily a prophet. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets." And then he adds, "Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? . . . Do all interpret?" 1

Cor. 12:28-31.

An apostle is one who leads out in the work of God; and he is a messenger. A prophet may also be a messenger.

Moses and Paul possessed several gifts. Both were prophets; both were apostles; both were evangelists, or ministers; they were both organizers, and both were workers of miracles. But it is unusual for one person to possess all the gifts. God endows individuals with gifts according to the importance of their work and the period in which they live.

There will be nothing wanting in the agencies that God uses in the closing work of the gospel. We, therefore, find these various gifts manifested in the chosen instrument which God is using in the closing work. This is necessary to bring into the church a unity of the faith. Eph. 4:3-16.

B. S. J.

IS A PERSON CONSCIOUS IN DEATH?

To be able to answer this all important question intelligently, we must consult the Bible, which is the Word of God. God in times past answered this question for all ages, and it is forever settled. That death is an absolute cessation of conscious existence is taught by the wise man in Eccles. 9:5, 6. "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." This surely is sufficient to settle this whole question for every soul who is willing to take the plain words of the Bible rather than the theories of men. No words could have been chosen by the inspired writer to make the truth of man's unconsciousness in death any plainer than those which are used in this passage.

Analyze this verse carefully. Note its brief but clear statements. "The living know" something—"that they shall die." There is intelligence and knowl-

edge with those who are alive; and this is just the opposite of death. "But the dead know not anything." There is no intelligence and knowledge in death. Death is the exact opposite of life. And "the memory of them is forgotten." In death they do not recall the scenes of life, as the spiritualist medium seeks to teach.

And their love has ceased. While in life the love of a mother may have centered in an only child, yet when she dies, her love "is now perished;" nor does she or her spirit, return to hover over the object of her affections, for in death there is no love. Nor does hatred continue in death. Hatred also perishes there, as does envy.

And with anything that is transpiring in all the earth the dead have nothing at all to do. "Neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." They are unconscious of all that is taking place.

There is a teaching in the world today known as Spiritualism, and claims that one is conscious in death. How impossible for any to be deceived by so-called spirits of the dead if the great truth of man's unconsciousness in death, so plainly stated in this passage, were confidently accepted!

Nothing is known by the dead of the passing of the years or of the condition and circumstances of loved ones. "His (the dead man's) sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." Job. 14:21.

Death is only a sleep. In the Bible death is given a name which stands for unconsciousness. It is called a "sleep." Thus in Ps. 13:3; "Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death." Death is a period of unconsciousness, a sleep, from which all will be awakened at the resurrection.

Christ agrees with David that death is a sleep. In John 11:11-14, we have this record: "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples,

Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." and Christ that death is a sleep. In 1 Cor. 15:6, he says: "After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep." And in 1 Thess. 4:13, he says: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

Daniel agrees with David, Christ, and Paul, that death is a sleep. In Dan. 12:2, he speaks of the dead as follows: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." At death, then, one lies down to sleep; at the resurrection he is awakened. Between death and the resurrection there is an unconscious sleep.

(To be continued)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. It is the word of God without any alloy. "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Ps. 12:6.

2. All the power and glory of God is in His word. "The word of God is quick (living) and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12.

3. It is an infallible representation of God Himself. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1, 2.

4. The Word is Christ manifested. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

5. The Holy Spirit is so inseparably connected with the

Father and Son, that the Word of God is also the Spirit. "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63.

6. The Lord recognizes no difference in these three personalities. "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 John 5:7.

7. These three form a divine connection on earth by water and the blood of Christ. There are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water and the blood, and these three agree in one." 1 John 5:8.

8. A saving faith in the blood of Christ is expressed by a water Baptism. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19, 20.

9. The salvation of each individual depends upon a faith in this three-fold testimony on the earth. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16.

10. If we continue in the Word then we are Christ's disciples and the truth makes us free. "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32.

"I SHALL HEAR IN HEAVEN"

"I shall hear in heaven," were the last words of Beethoven, the celebrated deaf musician.

Words of praise and commendation are words that we like to hear in this cold world, but how many times we hear things which are out of harmony with the plan of the God of nature!

"I shall hear in heaven" only kind words. There will be no unkind or hasty words spoken there. "I shall hear" words of praise and songs of love. "I shall hear in heaven" words of love and commendation in place of

criticism and fault-finding, and laughter in the place of weeping. O, in heaven, I shall hear songs of joy and gladness!

Beethoven could not hear the words of appreciation that were spoken regarding his musical attainments, but his hopes were centered beyond this earthly life and beyond the tomb.

Many times in this cold world we are passed by unnoticed, and wonder if our endeavors are really appreciated. At times we doubt if our efforts and the words of truth which we have spoken will ever bear fruit.

The faithful colporteur, toiling beneath the scorching sun month after month, at times asks, "Does it pay to sell these books? Will anybody hear of Jesus' return as the result of my feeble efforts?" Years come and go. The books are read. The reader accepts the message. The colporteur will never know of the joy of this soul until he hears it in heaven.

There is the self-sacrificing teacher, endeavoring to guide aright the minds intrusted to her care. At times the way surely looks dark. Failure appears on the surface. The majority of her students drift into the world and become estranged from the message. But who can foretell what this faithful worker will hear in heaven?

What has not noticed the consecrated elder as he faithfully directs the services of his little group each Sabbath? He speaks a kind word here, and a word of cheer and comfort there. He toils on meekly, and finally dies without seeing any marked results of his services. That youth to whom he spoke a few words of counsel, left the truth and drifted into the world; but in after-years he remembered the kind words of the dear old man when others were criticizing, and he gave his heart to God. Yes, he "will hear in heaven," and will feel rewarded.

We would not forget the loyal lay member as he passes from person to person, or from door to door, giving out his tracts. At times he sees them thrown carelessly on the ground in disgust by the receiver. And there are the timid ones, and those who are "slow of speech." They all continue to perform their

part, but at times, when the way looks dark, they are inclined to say, "Why should I continue to do this kind of work? No one wants to hear about Jesus." But let us remember, "Duties are ours; events are God's." We "shall hear in heaven," and shall be satisfied.

M. E. V.

CAMOUFLAGE

The guiding hand of God is not always recognized in his dealing with man; often what seems to be a misfortune is a blessing in disguise. There are times when we petition God for favors, and instead of waiting at His feet for Him to render the aid needed in His own way, we grow impatient. We expect an immediate answer, and that, too, in our own way. But they Lord has said: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." He always regards the petition, but at times answers in a way different from what we had anticipated.

To use a homely illustration: Trials might be considered as camouflage; for hidden behind them stands Patience awaiting the test of the trial on the one about to experience it. When trials are rightly appropriated, they bring to the tempted one a blessing greatly needed in the Christian life—Patience.

Oftimes the plea is made for more patience in our home life. God hears and sends the answer back: "Very well, my child, but you must remember that 'tribulation worketh patience,' you must pass through some trials in order to develop patience." Then when the test is applied, many either through ignorance or through forgetting that God is using a certain means to develop the patience desired, fail to see the hand of God at work, and fall beneath the test. The natural result is that they are as impatient as before the test came; and too often not having overcome in the previous instance, they face every succeeding trial with the same result.

If the petitioner will but remember that tribulation does work patience, and then meets each trial with Christian grace, he will find that patience, born of the Spirit of God, is quietly developing in his character.

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PROGRAM

Our Program Is:

1st—A deeper consecration to do service in the vineyard of the Lord.

2nd—To do our BIT in preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

3rd—As a race, maintain self-respect, and do as Our Lord has said, "Occupy until I come."

4th—To establish among Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, Negro Conferences with Negro officers— Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Bookkeepers.

5th—To establish schools for the training of our children and for workers in our organization.

6th—To establish a publishing house in which we may furnish employment to Negro Men, Women, Boys and Girls, as we strive to preach the truth of the Third Angel's Message through the printed page.

An invitation is extended to all "INTELLIGENT" Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, those, with a vision, with moral courage, with backbone, those who are strong in the knees, in short, just common self-respect, who have the love of God in the heart, to join with us and help to put this program over the TOP, for over the TOP it must GO.

"Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. Therefore, we are determined to, "Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us Free." Gal. 5:1.