

WEEK OF PRAYER, DECEMBER 22—DECEMBER 29, 1934

The Preacher

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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Reading for Sabbath, December 22 PREPARE TO MEET THE LORD

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness, and of gloominess. A day of clouds and of thick darkness. As the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like neither shall be any more after it even to the years of many generations.

"A fire devoureth before them, and behind them a flame burneth; the land is as the garden of Eden before them and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them." Joel 2:1-3. "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly."

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of darkness and desolation, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to

deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy ridance of all them that dwell in the land. I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord.

I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked: and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord. Zeph. 1:14-18, 2, 3. A crisis has arisen in the government of God on earth. Enmity to God has struck its roots deep in human hearts. It has become widespread, both in the world and in the professed churches of Christ. A wakeful impiety is quickened into an instinctive vigilance, and rouses to demonstrations of hatred against the testing truth for this time. Wherever the truth is proclaimed, it will be opposed in a decided manner.

Everything has been moving on just as the Lord revealed in prophecy that it would. Something great and decisive is soon to take place, else no flesh would be saved. The character of God will not be compromised under the wrath of God. Universal desolation will soon reach all parts of the known world. There have been lightenings and earthquakes, fires, and floods, calamities by sea and land; but who reads these warnings? What impression is made upon the world? What change in their attitude is seen? No more than was seen in the inhabitants of the Noa-chian world.

The people are just as ardent today in their games, in their chariot and horse racing and in their love of amusement as were the antediluvians who "Knew not until the flood came and took them all away." They had heaven sent warnings, but they refused to listen. By their attitude they deelclared, we want not thy way. O God; we want our own way, our own will.

Today the world is mad: an insanity is upon men and women, and is hurrying them on to eternal ruin. Every species of indulgence prevails, and men have become so infatuated with vice that they will not listen to warn-

ings or appeals. The Lord says to the people of the earth, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." All are deciding their eternal destiny. We must arouse men to realize the solemnity of the times, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended.

God has given no man a message that it will be five, ten or twenty years before this earth's history shall close. He would not give any living being an excuse for delaying the preparation for His appearing. He would have no one say as did the unfaithful servant, "my Lord delayeth his coming," for this leads to reckless neglect of the opportunities, and privileges given to prepare us for that great day. Every one who claims to be a servant of God is called to do his service as if each day might be the last. The words of Christ have a direct application to this time: "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore, be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom his Lord has made ruler over his household to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when He cometh shall find so doing. Let every one to whom the Lord has given light from His Word be sure that he makes a right use of that light. "Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Talk of the speedy appearing of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Put not off that day. Let all who would cooperate with God unite in proclaiming the present truth, the message of the third angel: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone

in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:—and they have no rest day or night who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

Then as the eyes of John rested upon God’s people, he exclaimed: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

A. C. C.

**Reading for Sunday,
December 23
THE NEED OF PRAYER**

Having come up to another week of prayer we should all return thanks to Almighty God for sparing our lives to see such a wonderful time in the history of our time. But it seems like there is no importance attached to the number of years we have been in the army of Jesus Christ if we are not growing spiritually. I think just at this time we should have a real good self examination of ourselves, look on and in our lives to find spiritual defects. Then when we shall go to the house of prayer and while we pray, there should be no doubt in our minds as to whether our prayers will be accepted or not.

The Apostle Paul’s joy was like this: “And that knowing the time, that, now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now in our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.” Romans 13:11-13.

It is quite certain my beloved brethren and sisters, that we all have become another year older since the last Week Of Prayer, and what is very important to us is: are we better spiritually? Have we been able to overcome some of our failures in life? Are we growing spiritually? Are we progressing or retrogressing? Individually I think that we should query ourselves. All of us should have that self examination; because says the Scrip-

ture: “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Heb. 10:26.

Evidently these precious words are not for the unbelievers, they are for us. We should count them dear to our lives, and adhere to them. No Christian should feel because he or she was “born in iniquity and shapen in sin” they must sin. Indeed, the Saviour’s function is to save us from our sins “And thou shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins. Math. 1:21. While we take great delight in meeting the Lord every morning in this Week Of Prayer the question is, have we been trying to live above sin? The Lord speaks through Isaiah to this effect: “Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinance of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.” Isa. 58:2. But how did they approach the Lord, did they do all they were commanded to do? No, you know what they left out.

If we should approach the Lord and leave things undone, He will turn us down the same way. Of course we are to remember those people sought the Lord too; but did the Lord receive them gladly? No, the first thing the Lord told the prophet to do was to “cry aloud, spare not, lift up they voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” If their lives were in keeping with what they taught or professed then He would have received them with loving hands because they followed His injunctions. Now we should not feel because we have too many sins we should forsake going to Him at this important time. As we approach the mercy seat, our sins may feel so very heavy that we will think they are too numerous to go to the Lord with; but He (Jesus) tells us: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Math. 11:28.

Now having come to Him in this Week Of Prayer because He asks us to come to Him, we are

to remember His other injunctions, “Go and sin no more lest a worse curse come upon thee.” Peter says: “It is better we were not born than after we have known the holy commandment to turn again.” We, he says, would be like the dog that is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. Yes, the Christian should not live in sin. And if we have secret sins and cannot give them up, it is enough evidence that Christ is not our Saviour. He (the Apostle Paul) speaks emphatically, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go into perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” Heb. 6:1-3.

The more we sin the more Godly sorrow is required and that means fresh repentance, and no allowance is made for a fresh repentance without the crucifying of the Lord afresh. If we continue like that instead of going unto perfection, we lay a new foundation, and a new foundation means a new house, and we will continue to build houses until Christ comes, and our spiritual house will not be completed. When we were baptized we laid our first foundation. We should not stop building till death, or the coming of Christ. Furthermore, the same apostle tells us: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Heb. 12:1.

Surely sin will prevent us running the race with patience. The fact is, we will fall out of it because the way becomes narrower each year. Our sins are like a big load and the way very narrow, no space for ourselves and sin, therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace, asking God to wash and cleanse us from all of our sins, and accept us as His dear children. Then when we are washed, turn not again to our wallowing in the mire

(sin). Think of it, my brethren and sisters, to continue in sin is to lose in the race, we can win through Jesus Christ. We need not be in doubt as to how we might win, for the Apostle Paul speaking for the race says, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjugation: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:26, 27.

Is it impossible to keep our bodies under? No, the Saviour died and is raised again from the dead and ever liveth to make intercession for those who come unto Him. He instructs us how we may keep ourselves from sin: "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation, the spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak." As we come together to meet around the throne of God in this Week of Prayer, let us give ourselves observably to God, that He may wash and cleanse us from all of our sins, and that we may launch out and do greater service for Him during the ensuing year.

If it were not necessary, the Lord would not have told us to watch. Therefore, let us watch as well as pray that we may not lose our reward. Christ said, "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." John 15:7, 8. Christ is coming back again to receive all of those who have accepted Him as their Saviour. Shall we be in that number? O may God so help us, that in this Week of Prayer all of our prayers may reach Him, and be not prevented because of our sins, is my prayer.

"Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart,
Draw me, my Saviour, so precious Thou art;
Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast,
Shelter me safe in that "haven of rest."

"Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
Naught as an offering to Jesus my king;

Only my sinful, now contrite heart,
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart,
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart."

"Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be Thine,
Sin with its follies I gladly resign,
All of its leisures, pomp and its pride;
Give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,
Give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified."

"Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last;
Till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
Thro' endless ages, ever to be,
Nearer, my Saviour, still nearer to Thee,
Nearer, my Saviour, still to Thee."

V. JARRETT.

**Reading for Monday
December 24
THE CALL OF GOD**

Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God has been calling the children of men back to Himself. His call to Adam in the cool of the day, was a personal call, a direct call by name. It was thus, "Adam, where art thou?" Gen. 2:9. Like Adam and his wife, we often sin against the Lord, and try to hide from both man and God, our very best friend.

Sin is so hideous, so deceitful, so very cruel that we wish to be hid even from the eyes of Him who sees all things as they really are; for all things are open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Also this shows that we understand what sin we have sinned, and how often we try to shun the guilt and place it partly on the Lord and partly on some one else like Adam did. This proves that we need to answer the call of God. This call cannot be answered by proxy: it cannot be answered by man made organizations, neither by trying to influence earthly governments in our behalf to carry out our own religious ideas or plans. It must be answered by our coming to God individually.

When God called Abraham, it

was a personal call. The record says: "I called him alone." Isa. 51:2. The call was, "Walk before me and be thou perfect." Gen. 17:1. We should not say this calling is too high for me, for this is indeed the high calling which is in Christ, our blessed Redeemer, and we must reach it right here on this earth, in this present evil world. Titus 2:12.

The Lord called Saul of Tarsus, and he said, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19. God made this man a blessing to others. How? By opening the eyes of their minds that they might see themselves, and then see the dear Saviour who saves from sin. And their eyes were opened. Vs. 18. Do we want this blessing? Of course we do. Then let us answer the call today. "Today if ye will hear my voice, harden not your heart." It is plainly seen that when we answer the call of God we get forgiveness of our sins and get power from God to help others find pardon and forgiveness. Therefore the Lord points us to our Father Abraham that we may obtain the same blessings that Abraham received. "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, know ye therefore that they, which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

During the many years of this world's history, God has called many. And according to sacred writings we are nearing the end. God so loves us, that He does not want any of us lost. Therefore, He sends a last warning. The record is found in Rev. 14:6-9. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If any man worship the beast and his

image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation."

Note, the angel represented as flying in the midst of heaven, has a message which is so urgent, so important, so necessary that it must go as one flying, and with a loud voice, preaching the everlasting gospel to them that dwell on the earth; and when the Third Angel shall have finished, there will be no more mercy for the guilty. Those who have refused to heed the call will then be left eternally out. The Lord will say, "Because I have called and ye refused, I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded, but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproofs." Prov. 1:25-25. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour when ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Heir of the king-dom, O why dost thou slum-ber?
Why art thou sleep-ing so near thy blest home?
Wake thee, a-rouse thee, and gird on thine ar-mor,
Speed, for the mo-ments are hur-ry-ing on.

Keep the eye sin-gle, the head up-ward lifted;
Watch for the glo-ry of earth's com-ing King;
Lo! o'er the moun-tain-tops light is now break-ing;
Heir of the king-dom, re-joice ye and sing.

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall I send, and who will go. My answer is, here am I, O Lord send me. All I am and all I have is Thine, O my God, use that which is thine own. Lord, make me a bless-ing to-day,

Abless-ing to some one I pray;
In all that I do, in all that I say,
O Make me a bless-ing to-day.

M. L. IVORY

**Reading for Tuesday,
December 25
THE NEED OF CHRIST
IN THESE LAST DAYS**

The time has come for special services, and as our hearts are drawn together from all parts of the world, unitedly we pray

that every heart may be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Lord is calling both old men, young men, women and children to make ready for the day of the Lord's visitation. What are you doing in regard to this call?

The signs that were given whereby we might know where we are in the stream of time are fast fulfilling. The Saviour said, "there shall be signs in the sun, moon and stars." These are all in the past. He said also, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Children disobedient to parent, and many other signs upon the earth whereby we may know when His coming is near. To impress these facts upon the disciples, He said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24:42.

My dear brethren, it is high time to take your stand for Christ and Christ alone. Truly all are in distress, for most every nation is angry one with the other today. Famines and pestilence are flooding the earth. Therefore, if there was ever a time that we need Christ, it is now. "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." Job 22:21. The Psalmist David calls our attention to a new creation of which he said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psa. 51:10. This acquaintance with Christ makes us new creatures both old and young. Not proud but lowly in spirit.

There are thousands joining churches today but not acquainting themselves with Christ; it is one thing to be a member of the church and another thing to be a member of Christ. It needs a new birth with a new heart, then our lives will show forth the praises of God. The Apostle Paul tells us what it requires to produce the character of Christ. Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith. Gal. 5:22-24. Churches mean nothing, but the change of heart will prove itself at that day when Jesus shall gather His own. The holy spirit will not work in a

corrupt heart, therefore let us come to God in this season of prayer and give our hearts to Him for that cleansing which is so necessary, and that the Holy Spirit may be able to do its perfect work in and through us.

As we are intrusted with the privilege of giving this last warning message to the world, let us pray for strength that we may endure hardness as bold soldiers, and that we might be instrumental in finishing this great work on the earth. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. He further said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." John 14:6. There is no doubt that this great work must be accomplished. Angels would be glad for the privilege of giving this last message to the world, but this work has been assigned to man to do. Therefore let us arise and be about our Father's business, ere our Lord return.

Men who will keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are those whom God is calling to preach the everlasting gospel to all the world. Oh, may we say with David, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psa. 51:7. In this last hour of mercy, we cannot afford to stand aloft in the church, for we read in Isaiah's prophecy, "For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake, I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth, and the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Isa. 62:1, 2.

Oh, dear saints, the time is fully spent. We must lay aside all malice, all hatred, revenge, iniquity, sin and the weight which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand

of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1, 2.

The time is short, even the very deserts are producing fruit; the dark heathen are calling for the gospel message. But to carry forth this message the apostle said, we are to put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Eph. 6:11, 13-18.

Have you surrendered your all to God? Do you hear that blessed tender voice, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil. Come let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:16, 18. This opportunity may never come to us again. Therefore, I beseech you, take heed to your ways. Hear the voice of God saying, "This is the way, walk therein."

At this special season of prayer, Jesus is calling to every one who will hear His pleading voice, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." If we are true followers of Christ, our will should be in accord with His will, then the Holy Spirit will lead and direct our prayers. David said, "Hear my voice O God, in prayer, preserve my life from fear of the enemy."

Brethren, let us grow together in the spirit of love so that we may achieve the high standard of a Christian life, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. What shall we do to be saved? Believe

on the Lord Jesus Christ and ye shall be saved.

"Be-hold the Sav-iour at the door!
He gen-tly knocks, has knocked be-fore
Has wait-ed long, is wait-ing still,
You treat no oth-er friend so ill.

"He coun-sels thee to buy of him Gold tried by fire, and rai-ment clean;
A-noint thine eyes, that thou may'st see,
And put a-way thy stains from thee."

D. A. DUNN.

**Reading for Wednesday,
December 26
SIGNS OF PEACE**

Although disasters and confusions are every where they are true and vivid signs of the soon return of the great peace giver with His kingdom of peace. For those who have their hope in the soon coming of Jesus Christ, these events mean the near approach of the destruction of this old earth and the setting up of a new heaven and a new earth wherein they may realize to the fullest the promise, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you not as the world giveth, give I unto you." John 14:27.

Indeed, the problems that will confront the world for consideration in 1935 are complex and many. Calendar Revision is scheduled to come before the League of Nations in 1935. A plan of leap-year rule is to be presented. Some of the sixteen advantages of this plan are: "Every week has seven days, provision is made for the preservation of religious doctrines, provision is made for the preservation of historical dates, holidays can be dated for any day of the week desired, and comparative statistics will be absolutely reliable."

A recent article by Anton W. Wilson says: "Calendar revision is inevitable, and will come as soon as a plan is devised which is satisfactory to business and not antagonist to religious doctrine." Let us pray that those delegated to intercede for us, in this all important problem, may be endowed with the wisdom that is of God.

In 1927, the International Press Conference made the declaration that the greatest menace to the peace of the world is peace time censorship of the international exchange of news. Such claims have been made repeatedly ever since. Thomas Jefferson told the founders of this country that he would rather have a free press than a free government. "Where the press is free the government can not be tyranny."

Too, along with this censorship the world now faces a corruption of news at its source. In many European countries the real purpose for the visit of a diplomat or the doings of a conference is told in the news as the dictator wishes the citizens to know it. We realize more fully the fact that with the exit of freedom of press also goes public and personal rights when we review the history of De Revera in Spain, Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany, and Workers and Soldiers Soviet in Russia.

The liberties of the majority of the nations of Europe have gone under the feet of dictators, the effect is felt in the Far East, in South America and there is a danger of effect in the United States. The American editors made a sensational battle with General Johnson of the NRA to maintain the provision for free press in the journalism code. It was with great difficulty that Section VII was incorporated into the document, thus recognizing anew the liberty of the American Press. Three great rights are involved in this move; freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of conscience.

In an address to Duke University, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt discussed three steps that would make for world peace. The first step is to control the sale and manufacture of munitions; the second, to do away with forces used primarily for attack; and then "after these two practical steps have been taken we must have the creation of a will for peace." Within this third step lies the kernel.

The absence of modern munitions has not and will not keep the spirit of war and tumult out of man, but the "creation of a will for peace will come only as

restored by the Prince of Peace who gives peace "not as the world giveth." Mankind was furious at battle in the times of sling and spear, and it continues that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." 2 Tim. 3:13.

Despite the obvious conditions of the world and the omens of disaster, there is a marked general cry of peace and safety. Some of the world's most prominent lecturers and authors lead in this deception, examples are H. G. Wells and Will Durant. A recent article by Mr. Durant has such statements as these: "284,124 suicides in the United States from 1920-1930,—is this a symptom of the death of civilization? Nothing seems left to that thoroughly analyzed universe, — no significance, no drama, no lasting nobility, and hundreds of writers begin to ask whether life has any meaning, any permanent worth? Such statements show that Mr. Durant is absolutely aware of the omens of moral collapse, but he closes his article with this dash of optimism, "We are not dying: we have just begun to live."

In the same manner Herbert G. Wells, in his recent book, "The Shape of Things to Come," heralds a "world renascence." That a supergeneration will arise and establish a new order of living for the human race.

"Better Times Coming" is the title of a recent editorial, in the Des Moines Tribune, by J. R. Jeffries. The body of the article follows: "A good time is coming when people shall so frame their statutes as to protect alike the enterprises of rich and poor in the greatest market place which God has ever given his children. Then the rule of justice intrenched in the habits of the whole community will put away all unseemly fears of panic and disaster and the courts will enforce the law to the letter. The time is nearer than we dare think."

However, such views deny the second coming of Jesus Christ,—the approach of the divine reign of the Prince of Peace; they look for a civilization or kingdom with man's power supreme. "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when

they shall say, Peace and safety, sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thess. 5:2, 3.

ALFRED DUDLEY.

Reading for Thursday, December 27

THE TIME OF TROUBLE

We are fast approaching the time of Jacob's trouble, which the people of God must soon face. Also that awful trouble that the prophet Daniel predicted, such as the world has never witnessed. Gen. 32:10, 11; Dan. 12:1. This being true, what then should be the attitude of all who claim to know the Lord, what special injunctions of his should we now be heeding? The answer is found in Luke 12:33, 34. "Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not." . . . "Take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness and cares of this life and so that day come upon you unawares, for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:34-36. These admonitions if unheeded will leave us at the will of the enemy. "Men ought always pray and not faint."

Seeing that we are fast approaching the time of trouble and how good and merciful the Lord has been to us by permitting us to see the beginning of another Week of Prayer. Oh how earnestly we should thank our dear Lord, and pray that He will keep us in this awful time that is soon to come upon this earth.

"Prayer is the key of heaven's storehouse and faith unlocks the door. Anything we ask according to His will, He heareth us and we receive of Him because we do those things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 John 5:14, 15; 4:22. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord. Not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work with unwavering faith.

It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance.

While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that Sabbath keepers, the Lord's people in the time of trouble may not have mercy or justice.

The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are canceling the true issue and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the under current is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the Dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people.

We should bring before them the real question at issue. Thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason of our faith. Says the prophet, "the wicked shall do wickedly and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." All who have access to God through Christ have an important work before them.

Now is the time to lay hold of the arm of our strength, by faith, prayer and supplication, not leaving off or slighting the work that must be done, for if we do our faith will not be made perfect.

In these perilous times, the prayers of both laymen and ministers should be as of David, "It is time for thee, Lord, to work; for they have made void thy law." Let the servants of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, crying, "Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach." God has always wrought for His people in their greatest extremity, when there seemed the least hope that ruin could be averted. The designs of wicked men, the enemies of the church, are subject to His power and overruling providence.

He can move upon the hearts of the great men of the earth; the wrath of the turbulent and disaffected, the hatred of God, His truth, and His people, can be turned aside even as the riv-

ers of water are turned, if He orders it thus. Prayers move the arm of Omnipotence. He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep, the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of His people if they call upon Him in faith. He will restrain the foes of darkness, until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for this conflict, time of trouble.

"The wrath of man shall praise thee," says David; "the remainder of wrath shall thou restrain." Psalm 76:10. God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front, and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry, awakening minds that otherwise would slumber.

Thus it has been in the past history of God's people, for refusing to worship the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up. The three Hebrews cast into the fiery furnace. But God preserved His servants in the midst of the flames, and the attempt to enforce idolatry resulted in bringing the knowledge of the true God before the assembled princes and great men of the vast kingdom of Babylon. When Daniel was accused of disrecognizing the king's decree. "Now, when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house and three times a day prayed and gave thanks before his God as he did aforetime."

The attention of the princes and rulers was called to his case. He had an opportunity to speak for himself, to show who is the true God, and to present the reason why he alone should receive worship, and the duty of rendering him praise and homage, and the deliverance of Daniel from the den of lions was another evidence that the being whom he worshiped was the true and living God. So it was with Paul. His imprisonment brought the gospel before kings and rulers who otherwise would not have had this light. The efforts made

to retard the progress of truth will serve to extend it. Thus will it be in the time of trouble, with the people of God. When the Dragon becomes wroth with them and goes forth to make war with this remnant which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, Rev. 12:17, then to rid this earth of this little remnant of people, the image of the Beast puts forth his power and issues a decree "that as many as would not worship the image of the beast, should be killed and that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark" (receive his false doctrine.) Rev. 13:15-17. We who know these facts should work, watch and pray always that when this time of trouble comes upon us to test and prove our loyalty to God, when this decree goes forth demanding homage to the beast, O that we may be prepared for it as was the three Hebrews who when demanded of the king to bow to his god accepted the fiery furnace rather than prove disloyal to the true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints, and for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:18, 19.

W. L. BLUNT.

Reading for Friday, December 28 ARE YOU A SELF-MURDERER?

The Third Angel's message is not for the soul and spirit only, but also for the body. There are some who teach things for spiritual and soul salvation only, and pay little or no attention to body and health salvation. We should teach all three because God tells us in 3 John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Spirit of Prophecy says, "God is the owner of the whole man. Soul, body, and spirit are his. God gave His only begotten Son for the body as well as the soul, and our entire life belongs to God, to be conse-

crated to His service, that through the exercise of every faculty He has given, we may glorify Him."

We must remember that man is made in the image of God, and he cannot keep a true image, if he is ill and broken with disease. I Cor. 3:16, 17 says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Since our bodies are the temple of God, does it not behoove us to see that we keep these temples clean and in the best condition possible? These temples are bought with a price, the price of the spilt blood of Christ, therefore we should glorify God in our body and in our spirit which are God's. They are not ours to use as we will, but as God wills.

You are just as guilty of sinning if you do not take the proper care of your body as you would be if you stole, lied, or killed someone. What do we usually say when we hear of someone who has taken his life by poisoning, or shooting himself? Why, we say, "Oh, isn't it too bad? That person is lost because you know no self-murderer will get into the kingdom of God." But do you know, that you are just as guilty as that person who takes his life quickly, if you are doing or eating something that kills you slowly? It has been said that a man does not die; he kills himself. There is a lot of truth in that saying. We can also die before our time, because in Eccl. 7:17 it says, "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?"

I Cor. 10:31 says, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." What are some of the ways we may glorify God in eating? We may glorify God by eating only those things which build up the body and give it strength. In the beginning God gave man the best diet possible. Reading in Genesis, we see that his diet consisted of herbs and fruit of the trees. The Lord intended that man should eat of the fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables as all of the ele-

ments of nutrition are contained in them. If we prepare them in a simple way, free from all spice and grease, we will have, along with milk and cream, the most healthful diet. They impart nourishment to the body, and give a power of endurance and vigor of intellect that you could not have by a stimulating diet.

After the flood the Lord permitted man to eat flesh food owing to the fact that everything was destroyed. But he signified the kind of flesh to eat. Read over in Lev. 11 the entire chapter and you will see the distinction between the unclean and the clean meat. One of the animals God mentions distinctly; that is the swine or hog. But what is the most common meat that is eaten today, by most people? Is it not the swine or hog? The swine was made for a scavenger to clean up the earth. He will eat anything. God knew what He was talking about when He said not to eat the swine, because God created him.

Would you eat a buzzard or a mouse, or a fly? You had just as well eat them as the hog; they are just as clean. The hog is not the only unclean thing spoken of in Lev. 11, but I mention him because he is the one most commonly eaten. God tells us we will be destroyed when He comes, if we eat swine flesh. Read Isa. 66:15-17.

Meat is getting so diseased in these last days, that it is fastly becoming unfit for food. Too much meat eating is detrimental to our bodies. Eating largely of meat is causing diseases of all kinds, cancers, tumors, scrofula, tuberculosis, etc. Meat is not essential for health and strength, and we would be better off if we didn't eat it. But when you give up eating flesh, you should be sure to include something to take the place of flesh, in your diet. Flesh contains protein. Protein is also in beans, peas, lentils, cottage cheese, eggs, milk, and nuts. These can take the place of flesh. Protein is essential for building up worn out tissues of the body, and if it is not included in the diet, you will be sick, and die.

The eating of too much starch and sugar is not good for the body. Spices and condiments are irritating to the stomach, and

along with rich food combinations and flesh, they produce poor quality of blood, which affects all the organs of the body. We cannot serve God to the best of our ability when we eat these things, because the body is weakened. When we are sick or weak in body it affects our souls, so that we cannot resist sin like we could if we were in perfect health.

How may we glorify God in drinking? Can we glorify Him by drinking tea, coffee, beer, fermented wine, etc.? No, we cannot. Tea contains a drug called tannin, and coffee contains one called caffeine, and both of them affect the nerves and body. They are like a whip or lash to the nerves, driving them on beyond their endurance. Have you ever drank tea, when you were tired? It causes you to feel rested, does it not? Or coffee when you are sleepy? It causes you to feel wide awake and ready to do things. They are both deceiving, because your body is calling for sleep and rest, and you are giving it a drug to quiet it, though you may not know this. Try to stop drinking coffee and see what happens. You will have a splitting headache for several days, and you will become ill, that is if you have been drinking it a long time. It only goes to show that the body is calling for these drugs, and they are just as dangerous and harmful to our bodies, as morphine, cocaine or opium.

Beer and wine contain a percentage of alcohol. We know alcohol enfeebles the body, mind and moral propensities. Proverbs says, "wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." It also says, "Look not upon the wine when it is red, or when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright, at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." Water and fruit juices are some of the best and safest things for us to drink. Those other things enfeeble the intellect, weakens the moral powers, and the things pertaining to God and heaven are not appreciated.

Tobacco is a weed which contains nicotine, and in whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution. It is a slow, insid-

ious poison. No one should use tobacco, and certainly no one who is claiming to be a follower of Christ. No tobacco user is going into the kingdom of heaven.

We defile the temple of God, when we do these things, and whosoever defiles the temple, God will destroy him or her. The safe plan is touch not, taste not, and handle not these self-debasings, health destroying things. Our adversary the devil knows that he cannot overcome us, unless he can get us to transgress the law of nature, which is transgression of the law of God, which in turn is sin. Let us stop killing ourselves by these wrong habits, and let us worship God in soul, spirit, and body, and be in his likeness both spiritually and bodily. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps. 139:14.

Reading for Sabbath, December 29

THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

As we are living in the culmination of this world's history, we notice that the Lord has a special work to be accomplished in which symbolic angels are commissioned to do. In Eze. 9:3, 4, we read, "And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; and the Lord saith unto him, Go through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

This mark is a Seal or Sign which will distinguish God's people from the people that worship the beast and receive the mark. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: Rev. 13:16. Here we have two distinguished marks.

John the Revelator describes the mark or Sealing work of God thus: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on

the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Rev. 1:1-3.

To know what the seal or mark is, we read in the book of Exe. 31:13, 17. "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations: that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.

It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.

"Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them. And hallow my Sabbaths: and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Eze. 20:12, 20.

As we observe the significance of the word, seal, sign or mark, it is clearly seen that the Sabbath is God's seal, sign or mark. As an acknowledgement that God is a Sabbath keeping God, and that His people not Sabbath keepers in the letter but in the spirit.

This specified work which God assigned to His angels is, They are to hold back the winds that it should not blow till all of God's people are sealed. Many people today are praying for war so that conditions may be better, but there will be no war of any grave consequence until the sealing work is accomplished, as wind in prophecy denotes war, strife and commotion.

Again, the prophet says, in describing the nature of the sealing work as preaching the everlasting gospel to them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship

him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. Rev. 14:6, 7. These angels are evidently symbolic; for the work assigned to them is that of preaching the everlasting gospel to the inhabitants of this world. But the preaching of the gospel has not been intrusted to literal angels; it has been committed unto men. These angels, however, symbolize a body of religious teachers who are commissioned to make known to the inhabitants of this world the special truths for the closing scene of this world's history. The attention of the world is to turn to these special truths.

This message which has been proclaimed since ninety years ago, will soon be finished and the angel will report, I have done as thou hast commanded me. Eze. 9:11. Probation will be closed, the work of our advocate Jesus Christ will be accomplished; there will be no more pardon for sin. The decree will then go forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:11, 12.

May God help us, that when that awful day shall come, we will have laid aside every weight, and all sin, and have the seal of God upon us so that we may be numbered with those to whom it shall be said, "he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: he that is holy, let him be holy still."

W. T. DALY.

We are put into this world to make it better, and we must be about our business.

Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards; they simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep and wax strong, we grow and wax weak; and at last some crisis shows us what we have become.

"The best prescription for life in the hereafter is to live now; the best prescription for good work tomorrow is to do good work today."

AN INVINCIBLE GUARD

Of the many beautiful truths contained in the Holy Book, there is one of great beauty and comfort that is often overlooked by Christians. This truth is the ministration of holy angels. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them," Psa. 34:7. Just as truly today as when they entered the prison and delivered Peter from the chains that bound him. Acts 12:1-11. The angels have lost none of their power since they "shut the lions' mouths" in the days of Daniel, Dan. 6:22, neither have they lost their interest in the salvation of mankind since the day they took hold of Lot and his family and hurried them out of Sodom. Gen. 19:15, 16. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb. 1:14.

Their forms are not always visible to the natural eye; and yet they have so often appeared as human beings that God admonishes us to "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb. 13:2. The Bible teaches that each child of God has a guardian angel that attends them through life. Matt. 18:10.

No interest in missions betrays either woeful ignorance or wilful disobedience.

OBITUARY

In loving memory of my beloved son, Merton O. Fennell, who departed this life December 26th, 1933.

REST IN PEACE

Sweet be the rest of those who died,
In their beloved Redeemer.

Why should we weep, when God who
loves thee,

Called thee from sorrow, pain and
woe,

To await Him in that glorious res-
urrection morn,

To be crowned with everlasting right-
eousness.

Mother—Mrs. V. Mason,
Moron, Cam., Cuba.