

## -TRUTH-

Thru the ages, the one avowed quest of the philosophers was -- TRUTH. That was true of Plato and Aristotle, and still is the quest of philosophers today. But philosophy is mentioned only once in the Bible, and there it is declared to be "vain and deceitful." All the paths followed by the philosophers have ended in a maze of frozen abstract ideas. If they had found TRUTH, they would have found God, for God in the absolute is TRUTH.

One simple sentence from the lips of the Lord when here on earth forever ended that quest. He truly said, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." He also declared, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." This is just another way of saying, "I am the true and living WAY."

Paul, in speaking of the heathen in darkness, said, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might FEEL after Him, and find Him." This word FEEL (in the Gr.) was used by our Lord when He said, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is Myself: HANDLE Me and see."

The apostles were indeed fortunate. That very thing which the philosophers were seeking in the cold abstract, the apostles heard, saw, and even HANDLED. What a shock it would have been to the philosophers if somebody had told them this!

Christ is the expression of God to us. Outside of Him there is no truth. The antithesis of truth and Christ is Satan and the lie. There is no truth in Satan. God, because of His very nature, cannot lie. He is truth, and all truth.

To us has been manifested the "mystery of Godliness, God was manifest in the flesh." Not all confess and recognize that truth today, but the time is coming when "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is JEHOVAH (KURIOS, which is used to translate Jehovah in the LXX), to the glory of God the Father." Let His name be exalted above every name!

## -THE PRESENT DISTRESS-

In writing to the church at Corinth Paul used such expressions as THE PRESENT DISTRESS...SUCH SHALL HAVE TROUBLE IN THE FLESH...THE TIME IS SHORT...THE FASHION OF THIS WORLD PASSETH AWAY. In connection with these are some rules and advice which seem very strange to us today. He does not advise people to marry. He urges those who are married to conduct themselves as if they were not married. He tells fathers not to be in a hurry to get their daughters married off. He speaks of married folks caring for the things of the world and seeking to please each other rather than seeking to please the Lord. Why does he give this advice?

I believe the key can be found in Matt. There is the explanation of the present or near distress and why the time is short. Great tribulation is at hand. It will come so suddenly that those who are in Judea will flee to the mountains. A man that is on his house top will not have time to stop for his goods and the man that is in the field will not have time to get his clothes. The haste will be so great that it will fare hard with those who have to carry babies or who are with child. If this flight should occur in the winter, the hardships will be tremendous. But if it should come on a Sabbath, it will be a calamity, for they will not dare to travel much over a mile on that day. Paul would have the Corinthians prepared for this great event. That is the reason for his advice.

Was that day at hand? If we will but study the prophecy of Dan. and figure out the 70 weeks of years on the people and the Holy City (the two must not be separated) we will find that this flight would have taken place about 81-82 A. D. Probably the letter was written in A. D. 52. These events then would have come in the lifetime of most of those Christians living in Corinth. The advice was timely.

That event was postponed at Acts 28:28. It is not TRUTH FOR TODAY.

-STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS-

In the days when I was active in music I used to sing a song which began, "I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger." I did not realize for some time that the order was wrong. It is not possible for one to be a pilgrim in this world until he first becomes a stranger to it.

These words occur twice in the Word and both times in the right order. The Holy Spirit makes no mistakes in choosing right words and putting them in the right order.

When one no longer is asked to join clubs and take part in worldly entertainments in his community, he has become a stranger and is ready for his pilgrim walk.

The world hated Christ. It put Him to death. The world was the religious system of the times. That same world hated His disciples too. It was because He had chosen them out of the world. They were no longer of the world.

To become a stranger to the world, one must die to it. That is by being identified with the Lord in His death. We must reckon ourselves dead indeed to the world. Then the things of the world no longer attract. Great events of the world that draw great crowds pass by unnoticed.

To die to the things of the world is to no longer desire them. Refraining from the things while desiring them is of no avail. The very desire is wrong. All desire must be turned to Christ. Then other questions are settled. We then can walk in newness of life. But that walk will be a pilgrim walk.

Conformity to this world will never result in being conformed to the image of His Son. Now we must walk after the Spirit. That is transformation. At the very best, there will still be conflict between the flesh and the spirit. We still have two natures within us.

It is not strangers and pilgrims who are enemies of the cross, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

-A REMEMBRANCE-

A few years ago I bought some used books from England. One of them was MINOR WORKS by E. W. Bullinger D.D. In this book was pasted a letter, trimmed to fit as a part of the book. The letter is as follows;

39, Harewood Square, N.W.  
11 Nov. '92

Dear Mr. Rolfe

I thank you for your kind letter and enclosure which I return. It is good of you to take so much trouble to defend a poor worm like myself and sad indeed that any such defense should be needed!!

I shall be glad to hear from you again when you have read the little books -- One (THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH) was rewritten for you!

Please give our Christian love to your dear wife and believe me

Yours affectionately

E. W. Bullinger

I do not know this Mr. Rolfe. I do not know the circumstances of the letter. But to me it is a remembrance of one who was a pioneer in the search for truth for today. He made his mistakes, as we all do, but the wonder is that in being a trail blazer he did not make more errors than he did.

It was not so easy in his day to depart from established churches and creeds and seek truth, and truth alone. Traditions had a strangle hold on Christendom then and heresy was the name attached to any teaching which dared to break with these traditions to examine the Word as to whether these things be so. It was rank heresy in those days to speak of the second coming of Christ, yet Mr. Bullinger saw this truth and preached it. It was not long until such teaching was called BULLINGERISM. Today this teaching is common among most of the fundamental denominations. What was once called heresy is now recognized as truth.

It may be that some of my good friends in England can tell me more about this letter and the circumstances connected with it. It reminds me to THEREFORE STAND. It is an incentive to boldly speak the truth.

-MAKE UP-

When we hear this expression, the first thing that comes to mind is that something is lacking. It is for something that has not been done or is omitted that we have to MAKE UP FOR. Most school children know what we mean by MAKE UP work.

When our parents sinned in the garden, they immediately were aware of something lacking. They had lost something of the image in which they had been created. The best they could do for themselves was to make aprons of fig leaves. That was their MAKE UP.

When the "one-talent" servant came before the master to account for his stewardship, he began to MAKE UP for his slothfulness by talking over much. In fact he did more talking than the other two put together.

From the psychological standpoint, the desire to use anything for MAKE UP is because of an inferiority complex. The person using it is only confessing by his actions that he is not up to his or society's or God's standards.

MAKE UP is used by many who feel that they are not as beautiful or handsome as they should be. They feel a lack and try to MAKE UP for that lack.

The Christian who walks after the Spirit and not after the flesh does not need much MAKE UP. His face will be lighted with a glory that others will not have. His actions will be in conformity with the will of God. He will not need to talk over much. Most MAKE UP which he might use would probably hinder the shining forth of the light of the gospel.

I am not speaking against the use of all forms of MAKE UP. Some folks know they are lacking in some things. They feel inferior to others. It might be that they should use some MAKE UP for their own peace of mind. It might give them confidence. But there is one thing that must be remembered; there is a very thin line to be drawn between MAKE UP and HYPOCRISY. It is far better to be sincere and without reproach. Put on Christ instead of MAKE UP.

-IS PHIL. 3:11 LITERAL?-

Recently this question has come up several times. There seems to be a great deal of confusion in opinions regarding this particular passage of Scripture.

It has been suggested that this earlier resurrection means a SPIRITUAL EXPERIMENTAL KNOWLEDGE. If that be so, then the 10th & 11th verses will hardly make sense. In verse 10 he is praying for that very thing. Does he want spiritual experimental knowledge so that he may attain unto spiritual experimental knowledge? That is going round in circles. It must be a literal resurrection.

If a literal resurrection is meant, then is it for us or for Paul only? That is usually the next question we get.

We have no definite word as to the time or manner of the resurrection of the members of His Body. It could be that some have already been resurrected. It might be that none will be resurrected until the enemy is cast out of the heavens. It could be that the resurrection of the Body might be just a very short time before the appearance in the air and the catching up of the saints of 1 Cor. 15 and 2 Thess. 4. But this is mere speculation.

Now if the resurrection of Phil. 3:11 is for Paul alone, then we cannot enter into the experiences of verses 4-14, for all thru them Paul uses the pronoun "I" and then changes to "we" at verse 15. But in this verse 15 he says, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." Does that mean to include us in with his experience of 4-14? I wish I knew.

Personally I am not very much concerned about this question. I have the assurance from the Word of God that the Body must be in the heavenly places and waiting when Christ is manifested there. I also know that this Body of His will be manifested with Him in His glory. God will provide the transportation and it will be done in due time. It is our duty to have faith in the Word and wait upon God. He is faithful to do that which He has promised.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

August completed the 100th radio broadcast of our Bible Class, TRUTH FOR TODAY. Sept. 26th will be our second anniversary of the radio program. It is over station WRSW, Warsaw, Ind. Tune to 107.3 on the FM dial. This station is FM only. The time is 7 o'clock each Tuesday evening.

The TRUTH FOR TODAY Fellowship continues with the weekly Bible Class at my home each Tuesday nite at 7:45. All are welcome to this class at any time. At present we are studying Rom. and Phil.

It is quite a struggle to keep this paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY, going not from the financial standpoint, but from the fact that we just do not get the time. We are glad for the interest and response we have had from our feeble efforts. But we see that we have started something we cannot very well quit. If you know of any who might be interested in it, send us their names and addresses. There is no charge or subscription price for it.

The goats have been sold. It is lonesome without them. One person got the whole herd, 6 does, 1 buck.

Aug. 31 Betsy had a fine little Guernsey heifer calf. With 5 males in a row, this seems to be a turn in our luck now.

We still have the Brown Swiss male calf we spoke of last month. We would like to sell him soon.

Things are well soaked with the

rain and I have Sudan grass down. It has been down over a week. Will it make hay or will it rot?

Receipts for July; A65 \$1., A66 \$10., A67 \$2., A68 \$5., A69 \$1., A70 \$8., A71 \$2., A72 \$2., A73 \$10. Total expense was \$48.84. We are very thankful for your fellowship in the expense of the ministry.

I have a complete stock of the publications of C. H. Welch that are now in print. A set of 10 of his pamphlets, \$1.37. Books; Just and the Justifier, \$1.90. Dispensational Truth, \$1.25. The Testimony of the Lord's Prisoner, \$1.25. Miracle, Parable, and Sign, \$1.40. The Form of Sound Words, 75¢. Add about 10% to cover postage.

There has been such a demand for Mr. Welch's publications that I have had difficulty in keeping the stock up to demand. Hope you will pardon the delays.

We sold Dot's calf for veal. He weighed 225#.

If any young folks would be interested in studying for a ministry of a rightly divided Word of truth, we might make some arrangements here. It would be a combination of work and study. Write.

Mrs. Baker and I were in Muskegon Aug. 6. We went again Aug. 27 and daughter Ruth went along. We enjoyed the fellowship and ministering to the group in the absence of Mr. Elleby.

A member of the Bible class is helping with this issue. Thanks.

TRUTH FOR TODAY  
Oscar M. Baker  
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U. S. A.

Sec. 562, P.L. & R.

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