

-SPIRIT AND FLESH-

The failure to discern the difference between things of the Spirit and things of the flesh has led to much false doctrine. There must be a right division made between these two spheres if we are to go forward in truth.

Too often man has mistaken an emotional experience for a spiritual experience. He has not noticed that there is a great difference between fleshly functions and the responses of the new man which is created in the believer. A man may get an emotional thrill from a sermon, especially if the preacher is a good actor. Also he can get the same kind of a thrill from a music concert or a ball game.

Because of such error, many men teach that salvation is begun by a work of the Spirit, but must be finished or perfected in the flesh. In other words, they believe in salvation by grace as a starter, but that a man must keep himself saved by good works. This was the very thing Paul was warning the Galatians against. They were not to think that anything begun in the Spirit was to be perfected in the flesh. Paul taught the Philippians that God would finish the good work which He had begun in them.

If we read the Word aright, and examine our own inmost hearts, we will discover a great truth. We will discover that in our flesh is no good thing. We will discover that the best we can do, our own righteousnesses, are as filthy rags in the sight of God. In the flesh we are helpless to do even one good work acceptable in the sight of God. Any good which we may do is what He works in us thru the Holy Spirit. It is not of ourselves.

That is why that God cannot in any way trust us with the keeping of our life or salvation. Our life is hid with Christ in God. There it is safe. Satan cannot reach it to destroy it. We cannot touch it to mar it. We can be thoroughly persuaded that He is able to keep it. Then all boasting will be excluded and God will not be robbed of the glory

-NOT MY WILL-

Few Christians know what it is to be in the will of God. Multitudes who have been saved by faith have never learned to walk by faith.

Whenever we have the life of Christ set before us as an example, it is in connection with Christian living, not the obtaining of salvation. It would be an absurdity to exhort an unsaved person to have the mind of Christ. Such a thing is impossible.

During the life story of the Lord we run across such expressions as ; "not as I will," "if Thou art willing...yet not My will," "to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give," "I can of Mine own Self do nothing: as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just: because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of My Father. Which hath sent Me," "My doctrine is not Mine but His That sent Me," "the works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me," "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." Many more might be given, but these are sufficient to show that Christ had no other purpose or mind than to be in the will of the Father. He did nothing to please Himself, not even turning a stone into bread. Once, and once only, do we find Christ asserting His own will. In the Lord's prayer of Jno. 17, verse 24, He says, "Father I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me." But this is spoken in anticipation of the future glory.

Now, what is TRUTH FOR TODAY? It is found in Phil. 2:5, LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS. This is the only way to perfection for the saint. He must submit to the whole will of God. He must forget self.

It is impossible for one to have real Christian joy and at the same time be having his own way and will in the flesh.

Acts 28:28

So many are puzzled about the question, WHAT IS TRUTH FOR TODAY? They open the Bible at random and read. They find something in one place which seems to contradict what they find in another. Many give up after a while. They do not know which way to turn. The only way out for them is to listen to what some preacher or teacher has to say and follow him.

But one can rightly divide the Word and find for himself what is TRUTH FOR TODAY. From Gen. 1-11 all the truth that is given is given for mankind in general at that time. Of course some of that truth is for all ages. It is not hard to decide on these.

But from Gen. 12 to the end of Acts, God deals with a nation, Israel. One reading of the Bible can convince anyone of that fact. But one must not fail to include in this list all the epistles that were written during the time of Acts. That will include all the epistles except the last 7 written by the apostle Paul. It will also be noticed that some Gentiles are included in Acts, beginning with chapter 10 and on thru the book. These are dealt with in a special manner, partaking of the hope of Israel by a process of being grafted into the olive tree as a wild olive branch. They are dependent on Israel for all blessing. When God ceased dealing with Israel as a favored nation at the end of Acts, then this special calling of Gentiles was terminated.

The KEY is Acts 28:28. There Israel lost her favored place and hence more was numbered among the nations. Now today, as in Gen. 1-11 God is dealing with all nations on an equality, none being a favored one. But out of all the believers is a chosen group. They find their calling and hope in Eph., Phil., Col., and 2 Tim. Altho chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, this group had its beginning after Acts 28:28.

-COUNTERFEIT SALVATION-

As we come nearer and nearer to the last days of this dispensation, the greater will be the falling away from the truth. The lie will become more pronounced and popular. This is being evidenced on every hand by the flourishing and expanding of great numbers of religious organizations. It is well that we stop and take stock of ourselves. More than ever we should search the BOOK, the only true guide in this present darkness, to see whether we are on the way of truth or in the WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT UNTO A MAN, but whose end is death.

Few of Adams's race have been pleasing to God. In their approach to God, the followers of Cain have far outnumbered those who have followed Abel's example. Cain sought the favor of God by service or good works which is nothing more than bribery. He was very proud when he offered his own production of his hands. Blinded by his pride, he was unable to see the stamp of the curse that was affixed to the fruit of the ground. He had forgotten God's judgment upon the fruit of the ground. He labored under the mistaken notion that what was pleasing to himself would honor God. Much of what passes for worship of God today, with all its music and ritual and pomp and show, is just nothing more than indulgence in pleasure with the mistaken notion that it could be pleasing to God.

Abel acknowledged his sinfulness. He offered the blood of a substitute to atone for that sin. Thru this blood he sought unmerited favor from God. The lamb he offered from his flock was typical of THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. He was accepted; Cain was not.

Satan is a liar and a counterfeiter. His greatest desire is that no man shall be saved. He is behind every movement today which in any way uses the approach of Cain. His religion is bloodless. His religion is one of works and service. His religion has a gospel, (not good news for fallen man), but service for an unfallen man who has a spark of the divine.

-A HOLIDAY POTPOURRI-

Wise men still seek Him.

Christ-mass is the only Mass celebrated alike by protestant and Catholic.

Many heathen tribes have worshipped the TREE OF LIFE. The Egyptians used the palm tree; the Romans, the fir tree; and modern pagans adore the Christmas tree.

Dec. 25 is a pagan festival day. The birth of Christ was about Sept. 29, 4 B. C. See the appendix in the Companion Bible.

Wise men give gifts to Christ, not to each other.

Some people who give gifts to each other are described in Rev. 11. Notice the occasion!

The ancient Druids made human sacrifices to the TREE OF LIFE.

By HIS OWN WORKS, man has ever been trying to regain the LOST EDEN and the TREE OF LIFE. The groves planted on the hill tops with their idols and altars were attempts in this direction.

But man can never regain the LOST PARADISE by works. There is ONE Who is the TRUE AND LIVING WAY and there is no other. In HIM is life.

1. The TREE OF KNOWLEDGE brot Man's ruin. Gen. 2:9.

2. CALVARY'S TREE brot man's redemption. Acts 10:39; 5:30. 1 Pet. 2:24.

3THE TREE OF LIFE brings man's regeneration. Gen. 2:9, Rev. 2:7; 22:2.

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of the heathen; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: FOR ONE CUTTETH A TREE OF THE FOREST, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. THEY DECK IT WITH SILVER AND WITH GOLD; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. Jer. 10:2-4. (An idol).

The Child was about 2 years old and living at the home of His parents in Nazareth when the wise men found Him. Read the accounts very carefully in Matt. and Luke.

The best gift today is described in Rom. 12:1. PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE.

-HOARDING-

During times of war and war scare, we hear a great deal about people HOARDING. Quite often it does not profit them anything. We have heard of those who hoarded coffee and had to drink stale coffee. Some hoarded flour and the rodents destroyed it. Some hoarded sugar and the roof leaked.

Foresight or provision is a commendable thing, but not so when it is done at the expense and inconvenience of others. Provision is quite right for the necessities. But to lay up treasure which cannot be used is foolishness. Providing for the pleasures of the flesh will end in loss.

We are exhorted not to lay up treasures here on the earth. There is always the danger of thieves. There is also corruption which will destroy all earthly things. But we are exhorted to lay up treasure in heaven. No thief can touch it there nor can any corruption spoil it. Heavenly things abide.

The Lord meant, WHOSEVER WILL HOARD HIS LIFE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS OWN PLEASURE SHALL LOSE IT. The man who pursues happiness and pleasure will never find them. They are too elusive. They are like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. A man's whole life can be wasted and lost in such a foolish quest.

But the Lord also meant, WHOSEVER WILL LOSE HIMSELF AND HIS OWN FLESHLY PLEASURES OF LIFE WHILE IN MY SERVICE SHALL FIND A LIFE FULL OF JOY. The people who really enjoy life are those who lose themselves in the service of the Lord. They find happiness in service to others. They have life more abundantly. They plan aright when they plan their lives according to the will and good pleasure of God. But the man who does all things to suit his own convenience and desires is a thorn-in-the-flesh to his fellow men and an enemy of the cross.

A MEMBER has his affections on things above where his citizenship is. He is ever reminded that he is to walk in the good works whereunto he was created. He is to walk worthy of his calling. Each MEMBER must submit to THE HEAD.

-WHEN SHOULD HE COME?-

"This spake He, signifying by what death he should glorify God." Jno. 21:19. "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" Jno. 21:23.

These two verses, with context, indicate that Peter was to die and that there was a remote possibility that John might not die until the coming of the Lord. If that be true then we could say that there was at one time a possibility of the Lord returning some time between the deaths of Peter and John. Will such an idea fit in with other Scriptures? Let us look and see.

Dan. 9:24 tells us that 70 weeks are determined upon the PEOPLE and THE HOLY CITY. Since the people and the holy city cannot be separated in this determined time, we have only one point to use for the beginning of this appointed time. That is the dedication of the temple in 405 B C. From that time till A D 29, when the Messiah was cut off, was 434 years or 62 weeks. That left 8 weeks to go then after the crucifixion, or that would be 56 years. Add 56 and 29 and that will put the end at A D 85.

Peter was martyred before that time, and if tradition can be at all trusted, John died some time after 85. In other words, if Israel had accepted the re-offer of the King and the kingdom during the Acts ministry, then and there would have set in the Great Tribulation followed by the second coming of the Lord and the Millennial kingdom would have been set up by A D 86. The Millennial kingdom could have been completed and the new heavens and the new earth ushered in by the time that Peter the Hermit was stirring up the great Crusades in Europe. By 1951 the new heavens and earth would have been almost 1,000 years old.

If all this had happened, it would have in no way spoiled God's purpose and plan for the Church which is the Body of Christ. That could have been worked out anyway.

How many times in history has the wilful rejection of man delayed the program and purposes of God!

-SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY-

A man's stature, spiritually, can be pretty well measured by his estimate of God.

The disciples, whom the Lord called LITTLE CHILDREN, had a hard time growing up. It was hard for them to comprehend His office and person. The term CHRIST signified His office. SON OF GOD signified His person. John wrote his gospel so that we might know that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. It was Peter's confession of the same thing which indicated that he was growing up spiritually.

At the end of the Lord's earthly ministry, even on the night of His arrest and trial, Philip said, Shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Up to that time, the Lord had been only the man of Galilee, Jesus of Nazareth, to Philip.

The rapid spiritual growth of the blind beggar of Jno. 9 is a marvelous thing. When first questioned he said that a MAN named Jesus healed him. Later he declared that this man was a PROPHET. Again he declared that this man certainly was OF GOD. After he was cast out of the Synagogue, he believed on this man as THE SON OF GOD.

Today there are great multitudes who see in Him no more than the son of the Galilean carpenter. They constantly speak of Him as Jesus. They do not own Him as Lord and Savior. They do not recognize Him as the Son of God. They will not confess Him as God manifest in the flesh. Either they are just plain unbelievers, or they are spiritual babes, never having grown up to maturity.

Search the 4 gospels. Can you find a single place where, in the days of His earthly ministry any disciple spoke to Him or of Him using the name JESUS?

BEWARE! When any man uses the familiar term JESUS in speaking of our Lord, that man is not spiritually mature. He is not a teacher or a preacher who can be trusted to lead others into spiritual truth. He has not yet learned that of the Son it is written, THIS IS THE TRUE GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE. Is He your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

-ULTRA-DISPENSATIONAL?-

From the very beginning until now, all of Adam's sons from among the nations, if they have life, will be made alive when the earth and heavens have passed away. "So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Job. 14:12. This very text proves that Job must have been a Gentile, for if he had been a Jew, he would have had hope of an earlier resurrection.

The malefactor, when dying on the cross, was denied a place in the kingdom, but was promised life in the new heavens and earth, or paradise. Luke 23:40. Surely this malefactor was a Gentile, or he could have had a place in the kingdom. Neither Job nor the malefactor accused the Jews of being ULTRA-DISPENSATIONAL because they believed God's promise of an earlier resurrection, or that to them pertained the promise, and the covenant, and the services. Neither did Rahab, the harlot, make any such accusation, but recognized that these were indeed peculiar people.

Israel no longer has this superior position and hope. It was lost at Acts 28:28. A Jew who has life today has no higher hope than any other person of this time or of any other time in history.

As at one time God took a nation and gave it a special calling and the hope of an earlier resurrection, so today, out of all the peoples and nations, some of those who have life have been chosen to a higher calling and hope. Eph. 1:4. They have hope of an earlier resurrection than any other people. Phil. 3:11.

Israel had no grounds of boasting because they were chosen. It was entirely by grace. The Body today has no grounds of boasting. We have not chosen Him, but He by His matchless grace has chosen us.

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely But the other of love. What then? Christ is preached. I rejoice.

-BRETHREN-

The all believers may be brethren in Christ, not all are brethren in the LORD.

To many, this may sound like a paradox. But all the redeemed of all ages, Gentile and Jew, kingdom and church, all alike were bought by the precious blood of Christ and saved by His life. To Israel, He is the Messiah. To the children of the kingdom, He is the King. To Gentiles, He is the Savior. There are many more distinctions that might be made; but in the Church of the Body of Christ there is one LORD. The members of the Body recognize Him as Head. This is a relationship peculiar to this particular dispensation.

Now just because your Lord is not the same as my Lord, there being dispensational differences, that is no reason for us to bite and devour one another. If your ministry is the GOSPEL OF LIFE, and my ministry is the GOSPEL OF THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY, do we need to throw stones at one another? During Acts there were two gospels being preached, one the gospel of the Circumcision, and the other the gospel of the Uncircumcision. These did not need to conflict, the one with the other. It is true that there was some dissension at times, but that was a matter of the flesh entering in.

Peter, in his 2nd epistle, recognized that Paul had a different ministry, but he did not fight against Paul or call him names. At one time some of the disciples would forbid others to preach because they were not of their group. The Lord rebuked such a spirit.

Any man who preaches that Christ is God manifest in the flesh, and the all-sufficiency of His one sacrifice, is indeed my brother in Christ. I should pray for his ministry, and he should pray for mine.

Any man who preaches the identification of the believer with Christ as seated in heavenly places and awaiting to be identified with Christ in His manifestation, that man is my brother in the Lord.

Let us be zealous in the work, and not jealous of the workers.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY is a monthly paper, sent to all who would like to have it, without any charge. I have been printing about 700 each month lately. If you will send in names and addresses of others who might like to read it, we might raise that to 2,000.

I have Companion Bibles, buckram bindings, at \$10.50 cash and carry, or \$10.80 postpaid.

Many Christians are like cider; sweet until it's time to work.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Bible Class is at my house each Tue. nite at 7:45. Informal, with no charges, dues, or collections. Come over.

Many very interesting letters have been coming in. I like to hear from you, about your affairs, and what your problems are. I have gotten much better acquainted with many of you during the last few months. Keep the letters coming.

I now have in stock two books by E. W. Bullinger. THE TWO NATURES IN THE CHILD OF GOD, 35¢. THE FOUNDATIONS OF DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, \$1.25. You will like these.

Some SHALLOW people find Bible study a little too DEEP.

Receipts for Dec. B1 (Mich.) \$5.20, B2 (Tex.) \$2., B3 (Ind.) \$1., B4 (Cal.) \$7.25, B5 (Ill.) \$1., B6 (Ind.) \$3., B7 (Ill.) \$1., B8 (Ind.) \$1., B9 (Mich.) \$5., B10 (Ill.) \$10., B11 (Ohio) \$2., B12 (Ind.) \$1., B13 (Mich.) \$5. The expense was \$48.14. Our thnks to all.

The class at my home is now engaged in the study of the Gospel by John. Some homework is assigned.

Chrissy, (Christine) a little Holstein heifer, came the day before Christmas. Her mother is named Beauty.

Chores take almost all day this time of year. We husked a little corn and hauled out some manure lately.

I have the following books by C. H. Welch for sale: A set of 11 of his pamphlets, \$1.50. JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER, \$1.90. DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, \$1.25. MIRACLE, PARABOL, AND SIGN, \$1.40. THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS, 75¢. THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING, \$1.25. Vols. 33 & 34 of The Berean Expositor, \$1.25 each. A subscription to the Berean Expositor, 85¢ for a year. Add 10% post.

Our new addressing machine came, but some materials were missing. So this is another month we have to write all those addresses again.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Radio Bible Class is on the air every Tue. nite at 7 over station WRSW, FM only. There is hope that we will soon be on AM too. The engineers are on the job working at it now.

A young person desiring Bible study, and maybe music too, might come and help us a few months with the farm work, or housework, and with the office work too. Write, if interested.

Don't forget all those letters you were going to send to me.

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