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HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints.

NUMBER TWO.

Sermon delivered in the Tabernacle
March 23, 1907, By Elder M. N. Campbell.

In the Apostolic age, the Christian church possessed the truth in its purity. When the Lord Jesus Christ organized His church, He gave them the truth, and as they gladly received that truth, it inspired them with power from on high and the gospel was everywhere proclaimed; so that the Apostle Paul declares in the first chapter of Colossians, that every creature under heaven has heard the gospel in his day.

The work of the early church, the church in the apostolic age, is well represented in the sixth chap-

ter of Revelation by the white horse:

"And I saw and behold, a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer."

This, I say, is a fit representation of the early apostolic church that went forth as the "morning, fair as the moon; clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners," taking mighty strides in the face of the most bitter persecution that Satan had ever raised. But a change came over that early apostolic church, illustrated by the figure brought out in the third and fourth verses:

"And when he had opened the second seal I heard the second beast say, come and see, and there went out another horse that was red."

The whiteness of the first horse indicated the purity of the faith of the people of God in that first century. The red indicates that a change has taken place. And so it had. The apostle Paul declared that the mystery of iniquity did already work in his day. The principles of apostasy from the truth were already insidiously working in the Christian church, and in his farewell address to the elders of the church at Ephesus, he warned them against some of their own selves who would rise up and draw away the disciples after themselves; teaching perverse things. Brethren, the greatest evil that can befall the Christian church comes not from outside of the fold, but from within—from those inside the fold teaching perverse things to draw away disciples after them-

selves. That is the situation with which we are face to face in our ranks at present. Men have arisen teaching serious heresies and are now putting forth every effort to undermine the confidence of our people in the leaders of our work and sending out emissaries to churches that have been weakened by dissension, hoping to capture them. With smooth words and subtle insinuations the faith once delivered to the saints is now being attacked. Our strength to-day is in pressing together.

The period represented by the red horse, covers the time from 100 to 323, from the close of the first century to the professed conversion of Constantine.

Men held positions in those days entirely out of harmony with the gospel. They had wrong ideas of God; wrong conception of the gospel withal, and from that time the church is well represented by the red horse. The tendency of that age was to depart from the truth and to take up with wrong ideas of the gospel. This was followed by another stage brought out in the fifth and sixth verses.

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny; and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

The whiteness of the first horse indicated the purity of the first church of the early century. The

redness of the second indicated the tendency to depart from the standard set up by Christ and His disciples. Now comes a period indicated by the black horse showing the depths of darkness that settled down upon the early church showing the departure from those early principles of love and purity. This period covered the time from the professed conversion of Constantine, to the assumption of authority by the Bishop of Rome in 538, when the decree of Justinian went into effect, giving him the power of life and death over his subjects, the greatest power that can be given into the hands of any one man. During this period the grossest errors that subverted the Christian church, came in. The professed ministers of the gospel turned away from the Word and accepted Platonic philosophy. Philosophy and science, falsely so called, were allowed to come in and take the place of God's word. During these days the doctrines of the Veneration of Saints, Purgatory, Celibacy of the Clergy, Monasticism, Image Worship, and Martyr Worship were all introduced, and during this same period the Sabbath, which God had given to his people, was set to one side, and the day set apart by all heathendom for the worship of the sun, was substituted in its place. So this was a period of great moral darkness; a time when all these wrong ideas, designed to overthrow God's truth, came in and took their place in the professed church of Christ. This, however, is not the last stage.

In this same sixth chapter of Revelation, the seventh and eighth verses, brings to view another period:

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say.

And I looked and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was death, and Hell followed after him."

This takes in that long dark per-

iod between the year 538 and the opening of the Protestant Reformation in 1517, a period during which God's two witnesses were clothed in sackcloth; a time when God's word was practically silenced. It was a time of great ignorance on the part of the people. They knew nothing about God's word except as the priests chose to tell them of it; and it was little indeed that the priests themselves knew of the Bible. During this long period, the pale horse held full sway, and Hell or Hades, the grave, followed after. It is estimated that between fifty and eighty millions of God's true children were put to death. During that time any man who dared to think for himself, who craved for light and sought after it, and obeyed what God gave him, that man courted death as surely as he took a step towards the light. This was the very darkest period of all the ages, and it almost seemed that the promise that Christ gave to His church that the gates of Hell should not prevail against it, had lost its force. But it had not. Witnesses for the truth remained in the fastnesses of the Alps, in Persia and in India—God had faithful souls all this time who earnestly contended for the faith that was once delivered to the saints, and these little companies held loyally to the truth until God raised up that mighty apostle, Martin Luther, who came forward with the fundamental truth of the gospel, that a man is justified by faith and not by works.

(To be continued.)

Secret Orders.

Despite all the Bible and spirit of prophecy have said against Seventh-day Adventists belonging to secret organizations, I am continually finding that members of our church are bringing this shame upon us. Yes, it is an open shame for any person to have his name on the books of a secret order and at the same time keeping his name on

our church books. In the first place no church should allow this to run on from time to time. Investigations should be made, and if God be God, then serve him; but if not, then let them depart and serve the god of this world. The two must not and cannot and never did go hand in hand. He that loveth this present world can never gain Christ.

The Bible plainly declares that we are to enter into no union with the World. "Say ye not a confederacy to all them to whom this people shall say a confederacy." Isa. 8:12. Now the word "not" is a strong negative. And brethren and sisters, when the God of heaven openly forbids us confederating with the powers of darkness, then let us quit and stay quit. "Neither fear nor be afraid." Do not be afraid that you will starve to death or lose any good thing if you let the lodge alone. Do not you fear, but "Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself and let him be your fear and let him be your dread." Isa. 8:13. That is the idea friends. No man that ever trusts in God as he should need kneel down and compromise with the devil for a right to live in this world. Never!

But says one, we are not doing it to make a living. I should like to know what you are doing it for. Is it for association? Are you not satisfied with the body of Christ? Then why not spend your time in missionary enterprises to build up the church? The excuse that we join the lodge in order to do good is an open contradiction. If we wished to do good, the church and under the banner of the third angel's message is the place to help others. In other words, how can we help others out of the world as long as we ourselves do not care to step out? This is impossible.

Further, I demand an answer to this strange question. Is God of heaven the author of Maccabeeism, Freemasonry, Odd Fellows, Woodmen, etc, etc? Surely not, my friends. Then why and how have they come? They are originated

in the minds of worldly men inspired by the enemy of souls to lure people out of the fold of Christ and bind them in bundles for the fires of the last days. Shall we join a body that is not Christ's body? Shall we be married to another while Christ still lives? I pray not.

Further, to join a lodge is a tacit acknowledgement that we do not find sufficient in the message to satisfy our hearts. What a terrible arraignment to bring against the church of God! I can see why worldlings might wish to join a lodge, but how one who has tasted of heaven's pure fountain can thirst for the miry pools of Satan's invention, I never can fathom.

God further states, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." II Cor. 6:14. Now if we persist in keeping on, what kind of Christianity is it we have? I tell you it is not Christianity at all. Again, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." Will we do it, or will we dally a little longer in the courts of sin? What a blush it must bring to the holy angels when Satan affirms that church members think more of the silly initiations into a lodge—"riding the goat" etc, than they do of partaking of the sacrament of Christ.

How shall we demand of new converts to give up their lodge when they point to this one and that one who are members of our church and the lodge at the same time? Is it not high time for Seventh-day Adventist ministers, church elders, and members in general to investigate matters, and see if we cannot rid ourselves of this child of sin? Pen and paper are not adequate to express my feelings on this subject, but I will say in conclusion with the Apostle Paul, "The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." II Tim. 2:19.

C. A. HANSEN.

The Canvasser.

The hope of God's people is the coming of the blessed Saviour in the clouds of heaven. Then will our trials be over and then shall we ever be with the Lord. These are most inspiring hopes. They serve as anchors to keep the soul sure and steadfast. They make for us a frontage against the encroachments of the enemy. Satan's reign of sin will then be over.

The Lord, however, in his wisdom and loving kindness, has not left us to idly wait the day of his coming. He has a work for each to do. In fact the realization of our hope depends upon our activity in this; namely, the carrying forward of the third angel's message. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Many and varied are the ways in which this gospel may be carried. One of these is by the printed page. The canvassing work is by no means an insignificant factor in the spreading forth of the last message. It is blessed of God in the salvation of many souls; has the sanction of the Holy Spirit, and in the Testimonies is placed on equal basis with that of the ministry.

The faithful and devoted canvasser is a power in the field in which he is laboring. He may not always be conscious of the influence he is exerting. Yet he realizes he is sowing the seeds of truth, tho' he knows not which shall prosper this or that. The record books of heaven and the day of judgment will alone reveal the results of his labors. Then will he rejoice with those who have been saved by his diligence and faithful work.

The success of a faithful canvasser cannot and should not be estimated by the number of books he sells. If his heart is consecrated to God every word he utters tells on the side of truth. Every exhibition, practically speaking, is a sermon preached to the inmates of that certain home. Count the

number of homes visited, then one can form some idea of the work accomplished.

Nor is this all, the daily walk and life of the canvasser has its influence. His presence in a neighborhood soon becomes known. An interest is aroused. People talk about the truth. In this way it is often carried to those who are seeking light.

In view of these advantage shall not many of our young people engage in this important branch of the work. By so doing they will gain an experience which will be an untold spiritual benefit to themselves. They will thus hasten the coming of the Lord, and at last reap the reward of the faithful. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

J. H. McEACHERN.

From the Field.

ALLEGAN.

The Allegan church held its quarterly meeting Sabbath, April 6. Elder Hofstra spoke to us from John 14. He dwelt upon the loving kindness of the Lord toward Judas, even though he was so soon to betray him. Christ has left us an example of loving kindness.

At the close of the discourse, the ordinances of the Lord's house were celebrated. We had a very precious season on account of the presence of the tender melting spirit of Christ, and it was a time to be remembered by all. Let us draw near to Jesus so he can fill our hearts with his love.

MARTHA A. SMITH,
Church Clerk.

Kent City.

I am glad to report that a few souls are hearing the "still small voice" and are turning to the Lord.

A young man at Delwin has begun to keep the Sabbath and is working his father's farm. May God call more young men who

have the moral courage to stand for the right and prove to this faithless people that God will give success to an industrious Adventist farmer.

I am now laboring near Kent City. The company here at Kent City is not very large, but very zealous and true to the Lord. I have met with the church two Sabbaths, but most of the meetings have been eight or ten miles from Kent City.

The spirit of the Lord was in some of our meetings in a marked manner. Sinners cried to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness, but they wanted to find peace with God without obedience in Sabbath-keeping. Some are still interested.

There are some isolated Sabbath-keepers at some distance from any church. A Sabbath-school has been started among them.

S. S. GRAY.

Clifford Lake.

We are glad to report to the brethren and sisters of the West Michigan Conference that the church in this place has been greatly strengthened. A regular series of meetings was begun early in March and continued several weeks. Some opposition was raised and a Baptist minister preached one sermon against us, but by so doing hurt only his own cause.

Some have decided to obey the truth for the first time, while others are anxiously studying to learn more and we believe they will be with us soon.

Some who were members of the church, but had grown cold and indifferent and had not attended church for years, have returned to the fold. Tea, coffee, and tobacco have been laid aside, the family altar has been reinstated in the home and all are happy in the blessed hope. Old church troubles have been righted and all have decided to forget "those things which are behind" and "press toward the mark for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

H. C. PITTON,
C. A. HANSEN.

If I Knew.

If I knew the box where the smiles
are kept,
No matter how large the key
Or strong the bolt, I would try so hard--
'Twould open I know for me.

Then over the land and sea broadcast
I'd scatter the smiles to play,
That the children's faces might hold
them fast
For many and many a day.

If I knew a box that was large enough
To hold all the frowns I meet,
I would try to gather them every one,
From nursery, school and street.

Then folding and holding, I'd pack
them in,
And turn the monster key;
I'd hire a giant to drop the box
To the depths of the deep, deep sea.

—The New York World.

News and Notes.

We take the privilege of quoting the following from a personal letter from Miss Mabel Baker who is engaged in Bible work in Grand Rapids: "How thankful we should be that we have the real truth to give to the people. There is so much error being taught at the present time. I never realized how ignorant people were about the Bible until I commenced to study the Bible with them. This is a grand work and with the help of the Lord I hope to bring souls to Him."

About twenty of our Sabbath-schools have not sent in their quarterly report yet. If your school is one of the number will you please report at once?

Dr. L. J. Otis, Clifford A. Russell, and Margaret Haughey attended the convention at Grand Ledge last Sabbath. A report will appear later.

Clifford Russell visited the Mont-rey church school last week.

Do not fail to read the article that appears in another column entitled "Secret Societies."

Believing With the Will.

The will is the center of the man. We are not to believe, to obey, simply with the feelings. God requires the will. "If any man will-eth to do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17, R. V. When a man's will is given up to God, that man belongs to God. When the will is converted, the man is converted. We do not fully believe until we believe with the will.

If Satan tells us that we do not believe, answer I will, I do believe. When tempted to yield in the fight, say, I will not surrender, I will not give up. If we have made a mistake, if we have fallen even into sin, and are then tempted to utter discouragement, say, No, I never will give up the conflict until I win the prize.

Jesus said, "I have set my face as a flint, and I know that I shall not be confounded." A Christian without a will is worthless. He who is moved simply by the emotions of the moment is worthless in the strong, strenuous conflict which we are fighting. Many times the light is shut away entirely. Many times the enemy seems to have won a victory, and we can only say with Christ, "I have set my face as a flint, and I know that I shall not be confounded." I will persevere, I will not surrender, I will believe, I will do God's will.

O brother, give your will to God and let him strengthen it, and make it unconquerable. Hope against hope. Believe against every earthly evidence, because God has spoken, because he has promised, and he cannot fail. He that will-eth shall be lead of God shall know the teaching, shall not be deceived, shall surely prevail, though heaven and earth fall.

J. S. WASHBURN.