

The Glorious Consummation---No. 5

Present World Conditions in Their Relation to the Coming of Christ

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

CHRIST is being wounded today in the house of his friends. Thousands who profess his name are doing despite to his grace, and proving disloyal to his cause. There has arisen in the great Christian church a new school of theology less conservative than the old, and better adapted to the liberal ideas of this degenerate age. Professedly Christian in its appellations and ideals, it is rendered the more potent to accomplish its faith-destroying work. It makes its appeal to the intellectual and to the esthetic to the exclusion of those divine agencies which only can transform and energize the life. It teaches in effect, if not in so many words, that the regeneration of man must come through the influences of education and civilization, that man is his own savior, and that the exercise of his natural impulses is but the expression of the struggles of the Christ within.

An Appalling Crisis

The editor of a religious magazine makes this earnest indictment of this subtle, philosophical skepticism:

"The Christian church is in the midst of one of the most appalling crises in the history of Christendom. False teachers have swept over it like a devastating flood. . . . The disheartening feature of the situation is that, whereas in the past the destroyers of the faith have commonly been men of the world, outside of the churches, today they are inside, leaders in the great scholastic apostasy, and entrenched in its press, its homes, its educational institutions, and even its theological seminaries, and are holding their positions by sheer perjury."

But, thank God, there are noble men and women in the church in every land who are endeavoring to stem this tide of religious skepticism. There are thousands, as in the days of Elijah, who have not bowed the knee to Baal nor kissed his image. These disciples are drawing together in holy Christian unity. They feel that upon them rests the responsibility of reaffirming the principles of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." They regard the present situation as an imperative call to the church of Christ to a new evangelism.

The Cry for Pilots

Declares J. Lovell Murray, in his book, "The Call of a World Task:"

"This is an hour in which the souls of men are hard beset for certainties to which they can make fast. When the great storm broke on the world, some found that a light anchor in yielding sand would not hold them. And some found that they had been leaning against a sheltered dock, but had never been moored. And now they are adrift on a turbulent sea. Their cry is pathetic for pilots who can bring them to a safe and sure anchorage. . . . Those who held to doctrines because they were radical, those who held to doctrines because they fitted in with certain foregone hypotheses, have had their eyes opened. Not suppositions, but certainties are demanded; not observances and dogmas, but realities. A new hour has struck in the unfolding of the divine purpose for mankind; and it is an imperative summons to the entire membership and the full energy of the church."

Fundamentals of Christian Doctrine

What are the fundamental teachings of the Scriptures regarding Christ and his gospel of salvation? A restatement of them here is appropriate for this hour and for the purposes of this article.

The word of God teaches—

The Inspiration of the Bible

1. That the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and contain a full revelation of his will to men, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

The Divine Trinity

2. That the Trinity consists of the eternal Father, a personal, spiritual being, omnipotent, omniscient, infinite in power, wisdom, and love; the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal Father, through whom all things were created and through whom the salvation of the redeemed hosts will be accomplished; the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, the one regenerating agency in the work of redemption. 1 John 5:7.

The Deity of Christ

3. That Jesus Christ not only possesses divine nature but is very God as well, being of the same nature and essence as the eternal Father. While retaining his divine nature, he took upon himself the nature of the human family, lived on the earth as a man, suffered death on the cross, was raised from the dead the third day, ascended to the Father, where he ever lives to make intercession for us. Heb. 2:9-18.

The Mediation of Christ

4. That in fulfilment of the Old Testament types, Jesus, the Son of God, is now "a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." That, as our great High Priest in this heavenly sanctuary, he presents his own sacrifice before the Father in behalf of sinful men. Thus he serves as the one Mediator between God and man, rendering both unnecessary and impossible any other system of mediation. Heb. 4:14-16; 7:24-27.

The Ordinance of Baptism

5. That the proper form of baptism is by immersion, and that this ordinance of the Christian church should follow repentance and forgiveness of sins, and that through its celebration faith is shown in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Rom. 6:1-7.

Justification by Faith

6. That no man through his own efforts can obtain salvation. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "There is none righteous, no, not one." Sonship with God cannot come through family inheritance or birth, by the power of will, nor by cultivation of the intellect. With the call to sonship God extends the power of his free grace whereby men and women may attain to that holy relationship. This power is conferred through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who by his own blood justifies the believer for the sins that are past, and by his indwelling life imparts power whereby it is possible to live a life of righteousness. John 1:11-13; Rom. 5:8-10.

The New Birth

7. That every soul, in order to obtain salvation, must experience the new birth. That this comprises an entire transformation of life and charac-

(Continued on page 4)

and sea, statesmen and scientists are already telling us that they bear no comparison to what we will see in future wars which they already foresee. A correspondent in the *Washington Post* of Feb. 15, 1920, reports the premier of Great Britain as saying recently:

"What would happen if we had another war baffles imagination. Discoveries made almost at the end of the war, if they had been used, would have produced horrors indescribable—discoveries by all the principal belligerents.

"If we are to have a repetition of that, civilization might well be wrecked and this world be driven, not to the condition of the Middle or Dark Ages, but to something which the world has never conceived of in its most imaginative moment."

Lord Robert Cecil says:

"The next war, if it took place, would be as much more horrible than this war as this war has been more horrible than any preceding war. It would mean the wholesale destruction of the civil population."

A noted aviator, Capt. Paul Bewsher, describes what could be done by means of airship explosives and poisonous gases by a nation prepared to launch an attack from the air immediately upon the proclamation of war, and before the other nation would be in a condition to ward off the attack:

"At dusk the enemy's secretly prepared and forewarned fleets of aircraft would collect at various rendezvous, and flying through the darkness, would arrive, a few minutes after the declaration of war, above the principal munition factories, power stations, oil tanks, railway junctions, administrative offices, arsenals, barracks, dockyards, and other centers of importance.

"On these vital points their bombs would crash; on the sleeping cities a hail of poison-gas cylinders would be discharged, . . . and dawn would come to a nation headless and powerless, its cities a hecatomb of dead and dying, its railway junctions and strongholds in ruins, unable to offer any considerable resistance to further attacks by land or sea."

Great Britain's undersecretary of state for air, Major General Seely, says:

"Any power which gains initial command of the air will be able, within a few weeks, to destroy the whole of the enemy's merchant ships, all his main railway stations, and, by a combination of explosive and incendiary fire, all his large cities."

With such a vision before them of the frightfulness which will be inevitable in future should the nations again engage in conflict, statesmen are seeking, either by a league of nations or by some other method, to avert war in the future, so that civilization may not be blotted out.

Though men may say, "Peace," there is neither peace nor safety to the dweller on this earth. A storm of trouble and sorrow yet awaits the world compared to which all others have been but summer zephyrs.

But there is a place of refuge provided, a sure hiding place from the approaching storm. It is under the shadow of the Almighty. When by and by men will be seeking to hide among the rocks and the caves of the earth, it is the privilege of God's people to have a sure refuge and covert from the storm in Christ our Saviour.

Our chief concern now should be to know that our sins are forgiven, and that through the merits of our blessed Redeemer we can read our title clear to a mansion in the skies.

G. B. T.

* * *

EVEN more important than where you stand, is the direction in which you are moving.

The Glorious Consummation

(Continued from page 2)

ter through the re-creative agency of the Holy Spirit, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:5; Matt. 18:3.

The Prophecies of the Bible

8. That the prophecies of God's word are designed for the enlightenment of the believers, revealing to them where they are living in the history of the world, and the work that they should do in order to co-operate with God's plans and purposes concerning the proclamation of the everlasting gospel. Some of these prophecies contained in the Old Testament Scriptures, notably those relating to the first advent of Christ, have met a marked fulfillment. Other prophecies, particularly those found in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, relating to the second coming of Christ, are in process of fulfillment at the present time.

The Second Coming of Christ

9. That the second coming of Christ is the great hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel plan of salvation. His coming will be visible, personal, and literal. Many important events will be associated with his return; viz., the resurrection of the dead, the destruction of the wicked, the purification of the earth, the reward of the righteous, the establishment of his everlasting kingdom. Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 2 Tim. 4:1; Dan. 7:27.

The Millennial Reign of Christ

10. That the millennial reign of Christ will take place between the first and second resurrections, during which time the saints of all ages will live with their blessed Redeemer in the New Jerusalem above. At the end of this millennial reign the city, with its inhabitants, descends to this earth, the wicked dead are raised to be punished, the earth is purified by fire, becoming the everlasting abode of the blest, with Christ as king over all the earth. 2 Tim. 3:12, 13; Matt. 13:24-30; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; Acts 15:14; Revelation 20; Zech. 14:1-4.

The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald

THE GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Devoted to the Proclamation of "the Faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

VOL. 97

APRIL 1, 1920

No. 14

Issued every Thursday by the

Review and Herald Publishing Association
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

TERMS: IN ADVANCE

TERMS: IN ADVANCE

One Year	----- \$2.50	Six Months	----- \$1.50
Two Years	----- 4.75	Three Years	----- 7.00

No extra postage is charged to countries within the Universal Postal Union.

In changing address, give both *old* and *new* address. Make all post office money orders payable at the WASHINGTON, D. C., post office (not Takoma Park). Address all communications and make all drafts and express money orders payable to REVIEW AND HERALD, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter, August 14, 1903, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized on June 22, 1918.

The Ten Commandments

11. That the will of God for his children is comprehended in the law of ten commandments, and that these are great moral, unchangeable precepts binding upon the children of God in every age of the church. Ex. 20:1-17; James 2:12.

Relation of the Law to the Gospel

12. That God's moral law of ten commandments is the great sin detector. Into this law mankind, with conscience quickened by the Holy Spirit, may look as into a mirror, and see the defects of human character. But the law cannot take away sin. By the deeds of the law can no man be justified. The law can pronounce only the condemnation of death. The law is used by the Holy Spirit to lead men to Christ, the sin pardoner, the Redeemer. Acceptance of the substitute and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ confirms or establishes this law. He who has been pardoned will not desire to continue in sin that grace may abound, but with the law written on his heart in the new covenant relationship, he will delight in the law of God after the inward man, seeking to show his love for Christ by obedience to his holy requirements. 1 John 3:4; James 1:22-25; Rom. 3:20-22; 3:31; 6:1, 2; 7:22; John 15:10; Ps. 119:97; Heb. 8:8-12.

The Bible Sabbath

13. That the fourth commandment of this unchangeable law requires the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. This holy institution is at the same time a memorial of creation and a sign of sanctification. Ex. 31:12-17; Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 12:1-12; Luke 4:16; 23:56; Acts 17:1-3; 18:4, 11.

Relation of Church and State

14. That the church and the state occupy different spheres of operation, the former dealing with questions of a religious character, the sphere of the latter pertaining alone to questions of a civil character. Church and state should therefore be kept forever separate. Matt. 22:15-22; Rom. 13:1-7.

Life Only in Christ

15. That man possesses a nature inherently sinful and dying; that eternal life and immortality come only through the gospel, and will be bestowed as the free gift of God, by Jesus Christ, in the day of final awards. Rom. 2:6, 7; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; 1 Cor. 15:51-55.

The State of the Dead

16. That the condition of man in death is one of unconsciousness and inactivity. That all men, good and evil alike, remain in the grave from death till the resurrection. Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; Job 14:21; John 5:28, 29.

The Punishment of the Wicked

17. That the finally impenitent will by the fires of the last day be reduced to a state of nonexistence, becoming as if they had not been. That in thus depriving them of the life which they failed to use to his glory, God not alone vindicates the justice of his government, but exercises toward the wicked his great final act of love in that he deprives them of a life which has become one of miserable existence, and which, if it were continued, would grow more intolerable to those who bore it. Rom. 6:23; Mal. 4:1-3; Obadiah 16.

The Resurrection

18. That there shall be a resurrection both of the just and of the unjust. The resurrection of the just will take place at the second coming of Christ; the resurrection of the unjust will take place a thousand years later, at the end of Christ's millennial reign. John 5:28, 29; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; Rev. 20:5-10.

The New World

19. That in the fires of the last day, this earth will be regenerated and cleansed from the effects of the curse; and that in the final conflagration, Satan and all the impenitent will be destroyed. The creation of God will be restored to its pristine beauty and purity, and will forever constitute the abode of the saints of the Lord. 2 Peter 3:7-13; Isaiah 35; Rev. 21:1-7.

Men and Women of the Book

The disciples of the Master as never before should prove both by their teaching and their lives that they are men and women of the Book; that they believe with childlike simplicity its holy principles; and they should seek by every means in their power to stem the rising tide of infidelity which is sweeping over the world. They cannot hope to stay the skepticism or unbelief so far as the great majority in the world or even in the great Christian church is concerned, but they may confidently hope to save individual men and women, and this is the great purpose of the gospel of Christ. Christ sends forth his gospel message to all nations to gather out from them a people for his name. This command is to loyal to their heavenly commission.

F. M. W.

* * *

Consistent Living

ONE of the greatest hindrances to Christianity is the inconsistent lives of those who take upon them the name of Christian. The fact that they do not live out the principles they profess is a stumbling-block to many. The late J. Wilbur Chapman relates the following incident of a consistent life, and the result:

"Mrs. Pomroy was counted a member of President Lincoln's household. One day, when he had grown weary with the affairs of state, he suggested to her that she should occupy with him that night the President's box at Ford's Theater. She courteously declined. He gave her a subsequent invitation, which was again not accepted; and finally, with some degree of irritation, he said to her, 'Mrs. Pomroy, it is counted an honor to sit in the President's box; I should like to ask you why you have refused.'

"Hesitating a moment, as if she were afraid that she might hurt the feelings of the President, she said: 'Mr. President, I am a Christian, and when I became such, I promised my Lord that I would go no place where I could not take him with me or ask his blessing. I could hardly do this at the theater, and for that reason I do not go.'

"It is said that Abraham Lincoln never again asked her to accompany him to such a place, but it is known that again and again, when they were driving together on some mission of mercy in the various hospitals, he would say to his coachman, 'Drive a little slower,' and then say to Mrs. Pomroy, 'Tell me more of this Christ whom you serve.'"

When people see the life of Jesus manifest in us, they will love him and be drawn to him.

G. B. T.

* * *

"KEEP thy heart with all diligence."