



The Banner

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He that Winneth Souls Is Wise"



The True Church and The Two Babylons

(A BIBLE STUDY IN VERSE)

Belshazzar, most wicked, and haughty, and lewd
 Once made a great feast; was by Satan imbued,
 In that wonderful City called "Babylon the Great"
 Never once had its peer; so historians state,
 For beauty and riches, and prosperous withal,
 No one ever dreamed that it ever could fall.
 This fall, so well known, even schoolboys recite,
 Has its double today in this world of dark night; (Rev. 18:1-5)
 "Mene, Tekel, Upharsin," reads plain as the day
 Over Babylon modern, mark well what I say!
 John, banished to Patmos a vision receives (Rev. 1)
 From the Author of Scripture, who inspired its leaves:
 Sees a "Mother of harlots," who God's people slaughters—(Rev. 17)
 Some say this is Rome; if so who're her daughters?
 The Bible reads plain, no one need mistake it,
 True students know well there's but one way to take it. (Prov. 8:9)
 Belshazzar, World King, his wine proudly poured (Dan. 5)
 Into God's holy vessels, his grandpa secured (Dan. 1:1-2)
 From the Jews, who through sin left without God's protection,
 Led captive and wrought under heathen direction. (Ps. 137)
 Say, can you not see modern Babylon so gay
 In the maze of religions and churches today? (2 Tim. 4:2-4)
 With God's chosen vessels inscribed on their rolls
 Imbibing their wine; and they'll sure lose their souls
 Unless they discern before mercy closes—
 'Twixt God's "Holy Law" and the type-law of Moses:
 The former eternal, no adding, no loss, (Deut. 5:22—Luke 16:17)
 The latter a shadow of Christ on the cross: (Col. 2:14-17)
 You may call it the gospel of Jesus portrayed
 But the Decalogue is the Gospel displayed (Rev. 22:14)
 The one with Calvary's cross passed away; (Eph. 2:14-17)
 The other, saints through all ages obey. (Isa. 66:22-24)
 Would God's church on earth rule governments civil
 Knowing, Church and State was first combined by the devil? (Rev. 17)
 Babylon's mixed wine, first of Jezebel's doing
 In the time of Elijah, whose faith caused her ruin (1 Kings 22:23-24)
 A modern Elijah doth once more proclaim
 A God-given message in Jehovah's name (Mal. 4:5-6—Rev. 14:6-12)
 This is not some person raised up from the dead
 But a spirit filled remnant, who of sin have a dread (Rev. 12:17)
 John saw these brave people defying the dragon
 And man-made religions, like the heathen god "Dagon" (1 Samuel 5:1-5)
 Sun-worship of old, Sunday worship the new
 Are just like two peas in all that they do; (1 Kings 18:17-19)
 As Ahab was tied fast to Jezebel's skirts
 So the false Church today with politics flirts—(Rev. 2:20)
 Though Jesus said plainly: "Give Caesar his due (Matt. 22:21)
 But if you are mine, to my law you'll be true" (John 15:10)
 Which here and hereafter your duty explains—(Ecc. 12:13)
 'Tis my character's transcript—every tittle remains (Matt. 5:18)
 "And behold I come quickly;" rewards will I bring
 For those who obey the ROYAL LAW OF THE KING. (Rev. 22:14)

W. R. UCHTMAN

Vol. V Savannah, Ga., Aug., 1926 No. 9



THE BANNER

Entered as second-class matter August 7, 1923, at the post office at Savannah, Georgia, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published monthly by the Banner Publishing Association, a Corporation of Free S. D. A., 610 W. 36th St., Savannah, Ga.

Price.....10c per Copy, \$1.00 per Year

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GAIN OR LOSS

(By Chas. J. Ellis)

We are living in a world where the inhabitants are on a mad rush for gain. As it is with the nations on a whole, so it is with individuals; everybody seems to be busy in getting all that can be gotten from this sin-cursed world. Whether this will eventually bring gain or loss, is a question of paramount importance.

In every well managed business enterprise there is a time set for an inventory; this is to ascertain whether the business is gaining or losing. If gaining, efforts will be made to maintain the highest standard of efficiency in order to gain more. If losing it means a discontinuation of business or a radical change in its management in order to save it from total wreck.

There are two walks of life (temporal and spiritual) in which mankind is engaged in business; and what applies to the temporal also applies to the spiritual. Why should we on the contrary consider the latter of less importance, thus allowing the spiritual phase to suffer bankruptcy? While our present needs are supplied by the temporal things of this life, many of these things conflict with the spiritual; this being so, he who will enter into business with Christ, must heed His injunction given to His disciples and to the people nineteen centuries ago as recorded in Mark 8:34, which reads: "Whosoever

will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Here is the stumbling stone of self-denial over which the stubborn, unconverted heart falls; and in fact no one can make this step of self-denial except he takes an inventory of his life and sees that all his earthly pursuits without Christ are precipitating a failure. There may be prosperity here but this is transitory. Our Saviour asked "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mat. 16:26. This two-fold question evidently shows that man's life is invaluable as compared with the material things of this world and should be given first consideration, for some day these things will pass away.

"The whole creation," says Paul, "groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now . . . waiting for the adoption to-wit, the redemption of our body." Rom. 8:22, 23. From the above it will be seen that the work of final redemption will one day take place; only he who now scrutinizes himself in the light of God's Word and sees that he is losing his spiritual equilibrium, then makes the step toward self-denial will be profited when the final redemption is effected. This was what the great apostle did.

Turning to Phil. 3:7, 8, we read his wonderful declaration as follows: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of these things . . . that I may win Christ."

Reader, do you suppose that Paul was complaining over his losses and thus was inviting the sympathy of others? No. Rather he was making a declaration of his investment in the Lord—an investment in which he will one day share big dividends. Let us observe that Paul was professedly a godly man (like many of us today), but his way was so broad that it admitted of all that he then possessed. His genealogy, pharisaical pride, worldly honor and ambitions crowded his spiritual

pathway and left no way for his development. But when he found Christ, the "pearl of great price," he entered into business contract with Him, suffering the loss of these things for something more excellent in order that he may win Him. Oh that all may make this wonderful step toward self-denial and sacrifice!

The Inexorable Way

The way of self-denial is based on implicit faith in God. No one without faith can deny himself to make this step; so do not try to do so without having at least a little faith. First, believe in the existence of God who is God indeed: this is the exact meaning of the phraseology of Heb. 11:6, which reads, "For he that cometh to God must believe that He is (God) and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Really, many to whom this proposition of self-denial is put can not accept it; and though not willingly rejecting it, lacks faith to believe that God is God indeed: they will not trust Him to the extent of sacrificing their worldly gains even though such a course jeopardizes their souls.

Examples of Faith

Those who desire to trust God and take Him at His Word will find encouraging examples in the lives of men and women who trusted Him in days of yore and found Him true. The apostle calls this number a "cloud of witnesses." The reader is recommended to read Heb. Ch. 11, after which if he desires to make the step, let him do so by faith, he will be victorious even as those mentioned in this chapter.

Now that you have started on the way of self-denial the question that will often confront you is "Am I gaining or losing?" The devil will always bring before your mind the "kingdoms of this world and the glories of them." He will try to make you realize how unwise you are in sacrificing for Jesus: if he tempted Him (Jesus) with these things he will also tempt you. But remember always that God is God and this knowledge will bring to you the blessed assurance that He will reward you for the sacrifices your allegiance to Him has led you to make. Prove Him now by experiment as it is your priv-

ilege to do (Mal. 3:10) and He'll be found faithful. In the language of the Psalmist, "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." Ps. 34:8.

STOCKINGS IN PARIS

Oddly enough the American who expects to see more stockings in Paris than in American cities is somewhat disappointed. Some of the poorer women don't wear any, but they can pass in a crowd unobserved now that flesh-colored stockings are so generally worn—and besides the women of the middle and lower classes certainly do not wear their skirts so short.

That is where the surprise comes. The French taught us to wear short skirts and wore them when we did not dare, but we have become more proficient in the gentle art of showing the shape of our shapely legs than the teacher.

And silk stockings are by no means the rule that they are at home. Very few French working girls wear them. They are content with flesh-colored wool or cotton, and even well-to-do French women of a thrifty nature wear lisle for ordinary occasions.

It is the ostentatiously smart French woman, the fast woman, and the American who are the chief exponents of the very short skirt in this cradle of the world's fashion. Moreover, the American visitor sees some of the very obviously fast women who wear skirts that the American stenographer would consider of a dowdy length.

SERMONETS

Prophecy is history in advance.

The true seer is God's eye for His people.

True prophets have never been popular with the world.

A true prophet gets his knowledge from God at first hand.

A remnant of cloth is the last portion, and must be exactly like the first yard. So the remnant church must be like the apostolic.

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

"In the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters of the book of Revelation there are enumerated the seven last plagues which are to be poured out upon the earth. Of these it is written that 'in them is filled up the wrath of God.' In other words when they begin to fall there is no more mercy or forgiveness for men and women. Probation will have closed and the fate of all living will have been decided for eternity. Elsewhere they are styled, 'the wine of the wrath of God,' the wrath of God—'without mixture,' 'in the cup of his indignation.' They are, to borrow the language of the prophet Jeremiah, 'the wine cup of His fury.' They are also said to be 'full of the wrath of God.' See Rev. 14:10; Jer. 25:15; Rev. 15:7.

"Since, therefore, these plagues are 'full of the wrath of God' and since that wrath is said to be 'without mixture' it is clear that there cannot possibly be any mercy, forgiveness, probation, or salvation mixed up with the wrath which they contain. Often in Scripture story divine wrath, commingled with mercy, has been visited upon men. The chastisement was to lead men to repentance.

"But with the 'seven last plagues' it is clearly different. Once they begin to fall there cannot possibly be any mercy or salvation for any man. All the dwellers upon earth who live during the time of these plagues must make sure of salvation before the plague angels start upon their mission.

"That the time of these visitations is approaching is evident from many prophecies; but in the sixth plague evidence is given that enables us to see how present day events are shaping toward the end.

"Under the sixth plague will come the battle of the kings of the earth, and of the East and the whole earth. The conflict centers around the destruction of the Turkish Empire, or drying up of that Power which is described by Daniel as the 'king of the North,' and by the Revelator as the 'great river Euphrates,' the nation occupying the territory formerly occupied by that general who absorbed the

northern part of Alexander the Great's mighty empire.

"Today the Triple Entente has declared that it will be satisfied with nothing short of the extinction of Turkey as a European power. This is only a preliminary step to the ultimate and complete destruction of the Ottoman Empire as any sort of a Power. We are standing in the shadow of that event—an event which spells the end of the old world and the setting up of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 'Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.'"

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;

The eternal years of God are hers;

But Error wounded, writhes with pain,

And dies among his worshippers.

—Byron.

Some people think they can get to heaven without being members of the church. So the antediluvians thought they could get through the Deluge without entering the ark.

Some tauntingly ask, "Why are there more women in the church than men?" Why are there more men in prison than women?

Some professed Christians whose homes are only a block or two from the church, in reality live at a great distance from it.

A mere profession is only painted pageantry, to go to hell in, like plumes on the hearse, which bears men to their graves.

You can tell how much the devil hates a missionary by the amount of whiskey he sends on the same boat.

Lucifer, the highest angel in heaven, because of sin became the lowest devil on earth.

Lucifer became Satan by following "I."

The devil's other name is, "They all do it."

TRUE SUCCESS

The humble efficient worker, who obediently responds to the call of God, may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To feel so great and holy a responsibility is of itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental qualities, and their continued exercise strengthens and purifies mind and heart. The influence upon one's own life, as well as upon the lives of others is incalculable.

Careless spectators may not appreciate your work or see its importance. They may think it a losing business, a life of thankless labor and self-sacrifice. But the servant of Jesus sees it in the light shining from the cross. His sacrifice appears small in comparison with those of the blessed Master, and he is glad to follow in His steps. The success of his labor affords him the purest joy, and the richest recompense for a life of patient toil.—Mrs. E. G. White.

A REAL FAITH

A faith that does not enable us to find out what God requires of us, and then give endurance to complete the work required is not real faith. A faith that brings the victory will enable one to render perfect obedience to God's requirements, and then trust Him to complete the work which is beyond human ability. A faith that inspires us to keep going around the walls of difficulty until God calls a halt and puts the shout in our hearts, is the real faith of God.

The man going to hell is having a hard time here going to hell, to have a worse time when he gets there. The man going to heaven is having a good time here going to heaven, to have a better time when he gets there.

Those on their way to heaven will not be gloomy. They will get out of their long face experience, and into their long clothes experience.

Don't reject a true prophet because there are false ones. You would not throw away your purse because there is counterfeit money in circulation.

ARE YOU A CLAPPER?

A clapper in an old church tower professed to be greatly grieved because the bell in which it hung was cracked. It was ever and anon telling of its grief in dolorous tones, and excited the sympathy of many unsophisticated people. But Diogenes, coming along, said: "Cease your whinnying, Master Clapper; remember, in the first place, that you cracked the bell, and in the second place, nobody would know it was cracked if you did not tell him." When you meet a man who is always complaining about the coldness of the church and the want of harmony among its members, tell him this fable. Those who make the most complaints are often those who are most to blame.

NO TIME TO QUIT

There's a time to part and a time to meet,
There's a time to sleep and a time to eat,
There's a time to work and a time to play,
There's a time to sing and a time to pray,
There's a time that's glad and a time that's blue,
There's a time to plan and a time to do,
There's a time to grin and to show your grit—
But there never was a time to quit!

—Author Unknown.

If Revelation is a sealed book, as many claim, why was it not called "The Mystery of Jesus Christ," instead of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ?"

We "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone."

False prophets are proof that there are also true ones. There can't be a counterfeit of a thing that doesn't exist.

About all that false prophets desire, is for others to practice what they preach.

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.—Old Testament.

YOUR ATMOSPHERE

The only responsibility that a man can not evade in this life is the one he thinks of least—his personal influence. Man's conscious influence, when he is on dress parade, when he is posing to impress those around him, is woefully small. But his unconscious influence, the silent, subtle radiation of his personality, the effect of his words and acts, the trifles he never considers, is tremendous. Every moment of life he is changing to a degree the life of the whole world. Every man has an atmosphere which is affecting every other. So silently and unconsciously is this influence working that man may forget that it exists. — William George Jordan.

The simplest Christian, on his knees in the valley of humiliation, with God's telescope, prophecy, can see farther than the most learned as they stand on the mountain peaks of human wisdom.

Prophecy is written as in sympathetic ink, invisible for a time, yet flashing out in characters of light when the opportune moment arrives.

Christ, our example, quoted from the prophet Daniel, in His preaching; yet some modern teachers have no use for this book.

Many men who will not receive truth, without cost, from God's seer, will gladly pay for untruth from the devil's seance.

A servant wants his pay at the end of the day, week, or month, but the heir waits until the entire estate is apportioned.

Prophecy is God's great light, shining into the future. A good man walks towards the light, a bad man away from it.

If thou faint in the days of adversity, thy strength is small.—Old Testament.

A pilgrim won't load up with toys.

Do you want a part of Abraham's farm?