

"Ye are my Witnesses"

B. BESLEY

"The love of God is greater far, Than tongue or pen can tell; It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell. Come we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies a parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe, To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole Though stretched from sky to sky."

Man was placed in the garden to dress it and to keep it as the centre of cultivation that might overspread the world. Adam, and the human race in him, was on his trial, but man fell. His fall was internal and external, the sin first of the human spirit, then of the human flesh. Adam had the consciousness of the possibility of sin or separation of himself from the Divine Will; therefore the fall was the voluntary descent of the human will from its unity with the will of God. St. Paul teaches that through one man sin entered into the world. It entered as bringing with it the condemnation of universal death: the guilt of the first transgression is reckoned in its consequences upon all the race. It passed upon those who did not in Adam commit his offence. They sinned in Adam, though not guilty of the act of his sin. "As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous". By the fall man lost his original righteousness, and fell into a state in which he was dead in sin, his mind was depraved, his heart corrupt and his thoughts evil continually. Gen. 2:17.

In these early pages of the Bible we have the story of Paradise lost, but in the closing chapters we have Paradise regained. Between the two pictures we have the story of Christ's redemption. It takes love mingled with knowledge to see people as they really are, and God, who is infinite in love and knowledge, saw a world condemned in sin to die and gave His only Son, Jesus to be a propitiation for our sins. By His blood is meant the giving of His life in love's sacrifice. "The blood is the life." "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins". No wonder Jesus shed as it were great drops of blood, while engaged in prayer in Gethsemane, as He looked through time and saw the sin in the world. Thus by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross He did away with the Jewish custom, the entering in of the High Priest once a year, on the day of Atonement, into the most holy place, the "Veil", to enter within the Veil was to have the closest access to God. His entering in being for the purpose of atoning for his own sins, the sins of his household and the sins of the people. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained the eternal redemption for us".

The proofs of His resurrection are infallible. He ascended into Heaven, for He was seen being caught up out of their sight, then forty days after He sent the promised Comforter, His Holy Spirit, into the world. The Third Person in the Trinity. He is the Spirit of Christ, of God, and of the Father. He represents Christ to the souls of men. Man, when willing to, receives His Spirit through His Word, the Book of books. Queen Victoria, in response to the question of some of her Indian Princes, "What is the secret of England's greatness?" sent them a copy of the Holy Scriptures with this simple reply: "This Book is the secret of England's greatness." The Holy Spirit is also in the preaching of His Word. He says, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost", and "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world." John the Baptist ceased not to preach the doctrine of repentance, by which is meant a deep godly sorrow produced in the heart of a sinful person by the Word and Spirit of God. Whereby from a sense of sin as endangering to his own soul and displeasing to God, he with grief and hatred turned from all his known sins to God as his Lord and Saviour, Luke 13:3. The soul who thus repents and takes God at His word has the Spirit of God directly witnessing with his spirit that he is a child of God. The divine evidence that his sins are forgiven, his actual sins, and his soul born of God. Such an one has great peace and joy within, but soon or later the carnal mind begins to appear, anger, pride, hatred, etc. Paul, in speaking to the Christians at Corinth, says: "For ye are yet carnal". By the carnal mind we mean inbred sin or inborn sin, inherited depravity, which is the depraved, corrupt, fallen state of human nature which has been transmitted from Adam to his posterity, and remains in the children of God until they are entirely sanctified. Ps. 51:5, "Wherefore Jesus also that He might sanctify the people with His own blood suffered without the gate." By entire sanctification we mean the second instantaneous operation of the Spirit in the human soul through the atoning merit of the Saviour's blood; by which the root and seed of all sin is destroyed, the whole soul restored to its image of God in righteousness and true holiness, and the witness of the Spirit received as clearly as to justification. God pardons an act but destroys an existence, carnality is an existence, therefore has to be destroyed, eradicated, or it will destroy us. God says, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Paul prays,

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be presented blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." "Be ye holy for I am holy." A command. Holiness is not a state of deliverance from infirmity, weakness, flaws, but it is from sin. Our love is made perfect. It is not Adam's perfection, nor is it Angelic perfection, but it is "Christian perfection."

He has promised "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Some people quote, "No man liveth and sinneth not," but what is meant by that, that there is no man living who is not liable to sin. But God's grace is sufficient to keep his children free from sin if they do His will completely. Through all these centuries the standard of religion has not been lowered in God's sight. It is just the same today. The Holy Spirit works too through the laity in the church, those who have been born again and washed in His precious blood. Christ says, "Ye are my witnesses." He not only meant the "twelve" but His disciples through time. "Go ye, therefore, and disciple all nations," is not a polite request, not the mere expression of a wish, not a simple suggestion, but a short, sharp, direct, explicit, pre-emptory and permanent order from the Great Captain of our salvation to us. His soldiers, "Go." We must proclaim, shout out, the one supreme message, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel." Good news. Witness all those who testify with convincing and convincing force to the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and to the love of that Saviour who came into the world to save the world through Him might be saved. The first of the fine principal motives which have influenced the Christian Church in the establishment and maintenance of missionary work is the exaltation of Jesus Christ, and shame to those who call themselves Christians to-day if they do not rise to their heaven-born privilege and duty of honoring the King for the blessings we enjoy through the gospel. Profession without practice is worse than no profession at all. Years ago Christians had not the protection of the law as we have. The gardens of Nero were the scene of inhuman cruelties perpetrated on the Christian victims. Through extorted confession and malicious information a "vast multitude" were convicted. Some were crucified; others were sewn up in the skins of wild animals, and torn by dogs; others still were smeared over with pitch and used as torches to illuminate the darkness at the celebration of public games. In 1415, Hus, the reformer, was sentenced to the stake. His prayer at the stake was, "Lord Jesus, for Thy sake I endure this cruel death; I beseech Thee to pardon my enemies," and the last sound that came from his lips was a psalm of praise. In Japan in 1696, with the death of Nobunga and the appointment of another minister, Hideyoshi, suspicion arose as to the ultimate design of the propagandists of the new faith, and they were accused of political designs. Persecutions at once began and grew more and more severe until, under a new minister, Iyeyasu, an edict was issued absolutely prohibiting the profession or practice of Christianity in Japan. This was followed in 1614 by an edict banishing the missionaries from Japan, and severity of the persecution was redoubled. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. In the mission field witness-bearing is the essence of the great task before them. The root of Luther's ecclesiastical activity was his spiritual experience. In the secular realm the man who is qualified for the place is the man who is wanted, so in the spiritual, spiritual men for spiritual work. "For except the Lord build the house, their labor is but lost that build it." God's power can't rest upon carnality. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." We have any amount of church members to-day, we are not lacking in that capacity, but lacking in spiritual power. "Oh for holy passion in the human breast, bringing souls to Jesus, there to find sweet rest." It is possible to know him as a relative, as a friend, a benefactor, a teacher, a prophet, and yet not to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Our life is not enough without our words. It is only when we bear true witness to the Lord Jesus Christ that we have any true knowledge and value of ourselves. We are his ambassadors.

"Christ has no hands but our hands To do His work to-day; He has no feet but our feet, To lead men in His way; He has no tongues, but our tongues, To tell how He died; He has no help but our help, To bring them to His side. We are the only Bibles, The careless world will read; We are the sinners Gospel, We are the scoffer's creed; We are the Lord's last message, Given in deed and word, What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?"

Christians means Christ like. Christians when giving their testimony do not mean by what they say that they are trying to tell others how good they are and wish they were just as good. Their object is to glorify God, and other Christians look upon testimony in this light and so does God. "If we are ashamed to confess our sins in this sinful and adulterous generation then I will be ashamed to confess you before the Father and the Holy Angels." A Christian's testi-

mony is backed up by his works, including his purse. When Christian testimony is being slandered, the slander is against Christ. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." Service and praise are combined. God is pleased with the essence of praise and prayer. The Psalmist says, "I will speak of Thy testimonies also, even before kings, and will not be ashamed." Praise is a personal matter. "I will extol Thee, my God, my King!" It is a public duty also. "Then the Levites said... stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever." Reasons given in Ps. 135 for testimony are, first, "for the Lord is good." Then, "the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto Himself and Israel for His peculiar treasure. Can we ever praise Him loud or long enough for being chosen as God's peculiar people; a royal priesthood, a holy nation? Again, "The Lord is great and our God is above all Gods." A witness is to testify to what he knows. God's witnesses are to tell what they know—tell their experience. Our public testimony should cover the very ground our faith covers. "They (God's saints) shall speak of the glory of Thy Kingdom, and talk of Thy power." That is, speak of God's kingdom which is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Will it not glorify God to tell it to others? There may be hungry souls there that your testimony may bring to the light. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." God expects His people to testify plainly to all that He does for them. We are advertising. A good salesman is ever on the alert. He arranges his goods in the most pleasing manner possible, praise them, and does all he can to make them appear worthy buying. Some are advertising salvation through Jesus Christ. "Ye are the light of the world." "Ye are a candle and put it under a bushel but set it where all can see, so God does not set our souls on fire and expect us to be still and not let the light of Christ shine through us. Before we were saved, in God's sight, the sin in our hearts looked worse than a mass of putrefying sores would look to us. He too showed us our sinful nature. Then when He, the great physician, applied the healing balm, gave us spiritual sight, we could say like the blind man who was healed, "One thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I see," and can say with the poet, "Floods of joy o'er my soul like these billows roll since Jesus came into my heart."

The great Welsh revival of a few years ago started with the testimony of a young girl in prayer meeting who only said, "O, how I love Jesus," and then sat down. The work of grace which followed is considered to be the most wonderful and far reaching of this generation. John Wesley's death scene was one of the most peaceful and triumphant in the annals of the church. Prayer, praise and thankfulness were ever on his lips. D. L. Moody used to say, "I don't know any doctrine I have preached that has been more talked about than the doctrine of the blood. Why? The moment Satan gets a preacher to leave out this doctrine of the blood, he has gained all he wants."

"Our fathers chained in prisons dark, Were still in heart and conscience free, How sweet would be their children's fate If they, like them, could die for Thee?" Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to Thee till death!" Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for so kindly allowing me this space in your paper.

PURVIS STREET
Purvis Street, Feb. 20.—A number from here attended the Valentine social in Lyn on Friday night. Miss Anna May has returned home after having spent an enjoyable month in Brockville, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Thomas Gilpin. Norman Purvis, of Lyn, is visiting his son, Claude N. Purvis, this week. Miss Gertrude Steacy, of Athens, spent the week-end here, the guest of Miss Kathleen Bushfield. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bushfield spent Saturday last at R. J. Parker's, Brockville. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Purvis, Cain-

ADDISON
Addison, Feb. 16.—Mrs. Frank Taplin and Mrs. M. Brayton are at present spending a few days in Brockville. Miss Beatrice Duclon was a recent visitor at the home of her sister, Mrs. Spicer, near Frankville. Miss Opal McVeigh is at present enjoying a visit with friends at Forfar. Mrs. Vernon Moulton was a recent visitor at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kinch, Newbliss. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moulton have moved to the village and are now comfortably settled in the home owned by F. Taplin. The Mission Circle held its February meeting at the home of Mrs. George Millar. A number of the members of the W. M. S. attended the girls' meeting and enjoyed the splendid programme. At the close Mrs. Millar served refreshments which were much appreciated by all. The Ladies' Aid met in the church hall last Friday afternoon. It was decided to hold a pie social in the hall on Thursday evening, Feb. 19. A good programme will be given. Rev. H. E. Warren, of Athens, will preach in the Methodist church here on Sunday morning, February 22, and Rev. D. D. Elliott will preach in Athens.

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HARD ISLAND

Hard Island, Feb. 16.—The Sunday school has been re-opened with a goodly number present.

Miss Violet Robeson spent part of last week visiting her uncle, Charles Robeson.

Mrs. Etta Eaton was a Brockville visitor on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Burt Aiguire spent Saturday and Sunday in Brockville with her son, Cecil, who is a patient in the General Hospital. All are pleased to know that he is getting along nicely.

Mrs. E. Livingston is nursing at Glen Buell. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Howe have in the General Hospital.

FAIRFIELD

Fairfield East, Feb. 21.—The members of the Ladies' Aid and their families held a surprise party at the home of George Woods on February 10, the evening being spent in games and music, after which refreshments were served. The ladies presented Mrs. Wood with a bed spread in honor of her being organist in the church for so many years.

W. J. Bissell, of Algonquin, visited at J. Manhard's last week. Mrs. A. McDougall, who has recently returned from New York, is visiting at Wallace McDougall's.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Spicer and son, Lorne, visited at Howard Richards', Roebuck, on Tuesday last.

There was an assembly at P. Dier's last week with a large attendance and all spent a most enjoyable time in dancing and euchre.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Spicer visited at A. Spicer's at Algonquin on Sunday last.

TOLEDO

Toledo, Feb. 16.—Mrs. M. Nichol and Miss Jennie Nichol entertained Mr. and Mrs. William Hull on Sunday.

Mrs. C. Gray, who has not been enjoying robust health recently, is now quite ill.

Mrs. M. D. Marshall and Merrill Phillips were among those who made business trips to Jasper on Saturday.

The play, "Jerry the Tramp" given by the Dramatic Club of St. Ann's church, Merrickville, in the town hall here on Friday night, the 13th inst, was a decided success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd present.

At the close of the concert the members of St. Philip's club, of Toledo, Roman Catholic church, took matters in hand and entertained everyone to an excellent supper and a most enjoyable dance, the merry-makers dispersing in the wee sma' hours. Excellent music was furnished for the dancing by a five-piece orchestra from Easton's Corners.

The people of this community were greatly surprised to learn that Mrs. Herbert Bellamy had been taken to the Brockville General Hospital on Friday last to undergo an operation.

R. Carr and H. Eaton, of Frankville, were in this section last week sawing wood.

Mrs. Ella Eaton is able to be around again after her recent accident.

La grippe is still in this vicinity, the three children of Mr. and Mrs. John White being ill at present.

Mrs. Lloyd is so far recovered as to be expected home any day.

Toledo, Feb. 20.—Toledo and vicinity were well represented at Joseph Carr's sale, held near Frankville on Wednesday-afternoon.

Those who attended the regular meeting of the Y.P.S. on Wednesday evening had the pleasure of listening to an instructive talk from Rev. T. F. Townshend on "One Hundred Years of Methodist Missionary Work", while at the same time lantern slide views were exhibited.

Her numerous friends are glad to know that Mrs. Herbert Bellamy is making excellent progress after her recent operation.

Herbert Bellamy is a frequent visitor to Brockville while his wife is in the General Hospital.

Mrs. L. Bruce is home again and is almost completely recovered.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Bell and family, of Plum Hollow, spent Sunday at the home of William and Henry Seymour.

THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE CRAZE Has taken the country by storm. Look for a puzzle every week on an inside page

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