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A SUNDAY SERMON BY PASTOR RUSSELL

The Wisdom of This World Is Foolishness With God." Said St. Paul.

Unbelief and Ignorance of God Abounding - Darkness of This World Palpable-God's People Walking in the Light-Knowledge of God's Word Costly-Time, Attention, Thought, and Loss of Worldly Influence the Price - Illuminating Power of Scripture - Simple, Harmonious, and Reasonable Are the Teachings of the Word.



Syracuse, N.Y. Aug. 8 .- Paston Russell preached here today on the text. "Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth. (John 17:17.) He spoke as fol-

Today we find that the great majority of people think very little about the Word of God, so

that as a matter of fact our great colleges teach nothing pertaining to the Years ago it was quite customary that the Bible should have a prominent place in the schools, and the pupils were all under religious influences; for nearly every college was under the control of some denomina-This gave them a sectarian bias, however; and to whatever extent they were sectarian they were not free to study Truth.

But the world in its wisdom has been leaving everything pertaining to the Bible. To-day our college-bred men are the greatest opponents of the Word of God. The great majority of those graduated from our colleges within the past thirty years are total unbelievers in the Bible as God's Inspired Word: Many of them are ministers, who select their texts from the Bible and who retain a certain respect for it. Their parents venerated it, and so the sons still cherish it as they would an old friend. They regard it as they would a pair of old shoes that their great-grandfather had used-not that the shoes would have any intrinsic value, but that they were great-grandfather's shoes. Then the Bible is a convenient place from which to get texts. They know, too, that a great many people are not college-bred and still reverence the Old Book. They like to condescend to the extent of showing that they do not altogether ignore the sentiments of the common people.

If cross-examined carefully, prob ably ninety-five of every hundred of these would say, "I do not believe the Bible is the Word of God." Although many ministers do not so express themselves in the pulpit, they do so in private. As an instance of clerical unbelief in the teachings of Scripture, take the case of Rev. Dr. Aked. This well-known clergyman moved some years age to the Pacific Coast, and became president of the Church Federation in San Francisco. Both orally and in print this gentleman expressed his utter unbelief in the prehuman existence of our Lord Jesus-his belief being that ou: Lord was merely an ordinary man, a fine man. This view was published broadcast.

The next day somebody came out in the San Francisco papers and said that with such sentiments Dr. Aked should resign his position as president of the Church Federation, that certainly nobody would be desirable in that position who did not believe that Jesus had more than human nature-who thus discarded the Bible. The day following, Dr. Aked resigned, saying that he did not wish to offend anybody, etc. The Church Federation of ministers met, and reelected him on the basis of his pro-fession that he did not believe that Jesus Christ had either a prehuman existence or a superior birth! As far as I know, Dr. Aked is still president of the Church Federation; and those ministers that re-elected him, seventy-eight out of a hundred, were willing to come out in public and say

The point to which I am calling attention is this: The colleges and the ministers have abandoned the Word of God. The preachers like to select a text from it, just as they might on other occasions quote from Shakespeare. So far as we may judge, this is the general sentiment amongst them. Are they then sanctified by the Truth, the Word of God? If they declare that God has given a message to the world or to the Church, where

do they find it, if not in the Bible? The majority of the preachers do not believe in personal inspiration, except in the sense in which some people may be said to have a sort of intuition for music, etc., and so might be called inspired—that artist was inspired when painting that picture or composing that tune. But as for any belief in such inspiration as the Bible teaches-that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit," not knowing what they were saying-I doubt that five per cent. of the ministers thus believe the Bible to be the Word of God. (2 Peter 1:21; 1 Peter 1:10-12.) With the religious teachers and preachers (ment. He could feed Elijah by the in this condition of unbelief, is it brook, the ravens bringing the Proany wonder that true religion is at a phet the necessary food.—1 Kings discount with the people? It would 17:5, 6. be strange if matters were different. Jesus said, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith upon the

that He has come and has found very little faith.—2 Peter 3:3-9.

Away back in the time of the Prophet Daniel, God declared that in the Time of the End He would grant a

special blessing upon Bible students.
(Daniel 12:1-10.) And here we are lown in the Time of the End! Many are running to and fro in automo biles, electric trams, steam railroads, etc. Knowledge is increasing everywhere. But the worldly-wise do not understand; for these things of God's Word are hidden from the wise and prudent, and revealed unto babesthose not too wise, in matters per taining to this world. (Matt. 11:25.) different orders of spirit beings, and These accept the Word of God and finally man. (John 1.1-3.) After are guided by it. To these, therefore, has come a great blessing.

Our Lord also spoke about the en-The Ten Virgins refers not to the world, but to the Church-the wise and the foolish in the Church of justified believers, were ready to thing to do with them until they are meet Him. But the Bridegroom tar-restored to perfection." ried, and for a while all the virgins Message, "Behold the Bridegroom"-He is here! All the virgins awakened. The wise virgins had oil in their vessels. They trimmed their lamps (Psalm 119:105); they saw the Truth, and were prepared to follow

the Bridegroom in to the Marriage of

But the foolish virgins did not

the Lamb.

have the light. When they asked the wise virgins for oil, the wise virgins declared that they could not spare it. The oil represents the Holy Spirit and the enlightenment which it brings. The foolish virgins go to buy when they give time for study and investigation-time taken from business, pleasure, and worldly affairs, that they may obtain the oil which God is pleased that His people should have. Those who do not find time for investigation do not wish to have the oil, the light. Although they are true Christians, yet they are not willing to pay the price and get the oil. Whoever is now rejoicing in the light of Present Truth will testify that it cost him something—something of worldly influence, time, attention, thought-to have the oil and the light, to make ready to go in to the

Marriage. How well the Master understood the present situation! God wished the light to cost something. To some of olden time our Lord said, "Sit down and count the cost"-how much the light will cost you-what discipleship will cost. After having put your hand to the plow, do not look longingly back to the things of the world. God is not pleased with such service. Whoever prefers the world, the flesh, and the Devil may stay with them. During the Millenclass, and will give them mercy, olessings. But now He is calling for special class that delight to do the urged pushed and whipped. They written in My heart."

Should any of this class come inder a measure of difficulty, and scribed rules. temporarily become weak in the doing of the Lord's will, He will give nem the necessary experiences their hearts are right. He will awaken them from their lethargy, just as in the parable all the foolish virgins were awakened.

God is not seeking to deceive people or to force them into the King-dom. During this Gospel Age He has merely sent forth His Message to gather out those who wished to reno compulsion, merely His Word. We heard the call, speaking peace through Jesus Christ. Our hearts responded, and we came back into harnony with God. The Word informed us that through the death of His Son God had made all arrangements for covering our sins; and that He was willing to receive us just as if we had not been sinners—willing to take us into His family and make us His heirs, joint-heirs with Jesus

Christ our Lord. But all this was merely the voice, he promise, of God. There was nohing to insist upon our becoming hildren of God; and if we were received into His family it was because we willingly, intentionally, gave ourelves to Him. All through the Gospel Age the Word of God has gone orth. If He had sent force, He could in His Kingdom. quickly have gathered all that He de-After a few miracles people would have waked up and said, "What will happen to us if we do not get right with God?" That class will e dealt with by and by. Messiah's Kingdom will manifest the Power and the Wisdom of God.

Coming back to our text, we see that the Lord sent forth His Word, to in the sciences who has any faith in accomplish a certain mission. His God or in the Bible. Men have only Word is Truth-not truth on every subject, but on the most important ones. Of these important subjects the principal one is that which God purposes to teach all His intelligent creatures—obedience to Himself. All other education will prove to be valueless, perhaps injurious, unless associated with obedience to God.

The world is becoming very much discontented. People are unhappy; they crave more money and less work. Nobody is satisfied except true Christians. The majority of professed Christians are under the delusions of the present time. But the true Christian has that which is satisfac-Having given his all to the Lord, he has received the blessed as- The big man next to him, who was surance that all things shall work together for good to them that love God, to the called according to His purposes. Therefore he is content to let the Heavenly Father shape his affairs. Should he get out of work, God knows how to provide employ-

One cannot fellowship with the world, and at the same time be great in the Lord. We prefer to be amongst earth?" You are witnesses with me I those to whom the Master will say,

well done, good and faithful ser vant; thou hast been faithful over few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." The knowledge that God is for us and loves us is a satisfying portion to heart and mind.

Aug. 15, 1915. Having left the world to follow Jesus and daily seeking to walk in His steps, the Church class are loved of THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES. the Father. They are the ones whom

He has called. In the beginning God created the Lord Jesus, the Logos. (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14.) Logos, as His active Agent, made the man had fallen into sin, God said, We will let him have his experience with death and its concomitants. In of the Gospel Age. His parable of due time I will send a great Redeemer, to ransom Adam and all his posterity. During the Seventh Thousand-Year Day of man's existence Christ. (Matthew 25:1-13.) In the this Redeemer will take charge of huend of the Age all the virgins, all manity. Meantime I will have no-

restored to perfection."

But while God was thus resting slumbered and slept. Then came the from His earthly creation, He considered it a good time to bring in a New Creation. The first of this New Creation was the One who redeemed mankind. He passed through His experiences and testings eighteen hundred and more years ago. But this was not all of the Divine Plan. As the proved himself an idolator and a llar Apostle says, there was a secret which God had kept hidden from before the foundation of the world-His Purpose to have not merely a great Redeemer for mankind, but a people taken out from amongst hu-New Creation, of which the Redeemer would become the Head.

This work of gathering the Church class has been progressing for nearly nineteen centuries. All who have been begotten of the Holy Spirit are members of the New Creation, to whom old things have passed away, and all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17.) From the very moment of their spirit-begetting, the the minds of these New Creatures. They begin to see something of the depths, of God's character. It is a before the children of Israel (xiv, 21revelation. The Word of God is illuminating; the Holy Spirit has great illuminating power, and gradually fills nore and more with the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God. Of this class God says, "Gather My saints together unto Me, those who have made a Covenant with Me by enant to enter some church system, although some may have made a covenant with God and ignorantly with some church system also. Many peonial Age the Lord will deal with that | ple like to count themselves in amongst God's people, yet they have never entered into a covenant with Him. Apparently they think that Father's will, that do not need to be they will receive the same reward as do Thy will, O My God. Thy Law is High Calling except those who have entered the race in the proper way and have run according to the pre-Whoever makes this Covenant of

contstens Our Lord made it at the age of thirty years. At Jordan He gave Himself, a perfect man, His time, His will—everything—to do the Father's will, whatever that might be. The Father indicated His acceptance by begetting our Lord with the Holy Spirit and by giving Him the enlightenment that goes with it. Whoever would be His footspond. God has been taking out a step follower must also covenant to people for His name—using no force, no compulsion, merely His Word. We money—everything—to the Lord. Then the Lord says, "I will place in your care those things which you have given Me. If you demonstrate your faithfulness as steward of these little things, I will know that you can be trusted with the greater things of the Kingdom. If you try to withhold what you have consecrated, you have not the spirit for which I am looking. I am seeking those who

love Me and desire to serve Me." From first to last the Bible is in harmony with itself. This is God's Message. This is His way of reaching His Elect, whom He desires to take out of the world. For nineteen centuries the Church has been engaged in calling men apart from the world that they might gain Divine favor and joint-heirship with Jesus

"Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth." The world does not have this Message; therefore its truth cannot sanctify. Mankind are seeking otherwise, and are getting more or less confused and further away from God through their studies. It is a remarkable fact that we seldom find any one well versed the truth that the Prophet Moses discounted. (Hebrews 11:26.) This is the world's portion to-day. But the Science which will sanctify toward God, the Science in which we are in harmony with God, in which we are now happy and will be during the Time of Trouble, is ours. Faithful is He who has called us, who will also sanctify us, according to the riches of His grace in Christ Jesus our Lord .-Thessalonians 5:23, 24.

It was sentence day in the city court. A man in the prisoners' pen who had been sentenced to two years for larceny began to cry softly. going to serve seven years for bigamy, said:
"Aw, wotcher snifflin' about?"

"I'm - I'm - th-th-thinkin' about leaving' [sob] my-my-familyleavin' my wife"-"Aw, cut it out! Look at me. ain't cryin', am I? An' I'm leavin'

How He Looked to Her. Stella-What does her husband

look like? Bella-Like she had shopped for him by phone.

Text of the Lesson, 1 Kings xii, 25-33. Memory Verses, 28, 29-Golden Text, Ex. xx, 4, 5a-Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

When we hear Jeroboam saying in

his heart, "Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David. * * * they shall kill me and go again to Rehoboam, king of Judah" (verses 26, 27), and remember that God had said to him if he would walk in His ways and do right in His sight, He would be with him and build him a sure house (xi, 37, 38), we cannot see any evidence in Jeroboam of any faith in God or any heart for Him. When he took counsel and made the calves of gold and set them up at Bethel and Dan for Israel to worship, saying, "Behold thy gods, proved himself an idolator and a liar and a true child of the devil. He preferred his own way to God's way, darkness rather than light, the service of the devil rather than that of God. His sacrifices and his feasts, his altar manity to be the Church of the First- and his incense, were all the device borns. These were to constitute the of his own heart (verse 33), and it is written of him again and again through all the story of the ten tribes, "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made srael to sin." He never turned from is evil way, but did worse and worse, and after reigning twenty-two years he died and was succeeded by his son Nadab, who followed in his father's footsteps (xiv, 20; xv, 25, 26). Rehoboam reigned in Judah seventeen light of the Truth begins to enlighten | years, but he also did evil in the sight of the Lord, and led the people into idolatry and into all the abominations lengths and breadths, the heights and of the nations which the Lord cast out

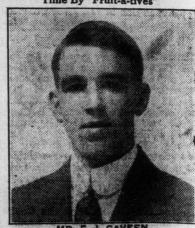
This is a story of long ago, but is being repeated on all sides before our eyes today, and as truly as the time came when both the ten tribes and the two tribes went into captivity for their sins, so the time will come, is even sacrifice." (Psalm 50:5.) He does now drawing near, when the Lord will not say, Those who have made a covspue out of His mouth the professing church because of her sins and set up His kingdom of righteousness and peace on this earth (Rev. iii, 14-22). The church, the company of believers, is expected to represent Jesus Christ on this earth, as Israel was expected to represent the Lord God of Israel; to walk in His ways and do right in will those who have entered into such His sight. From the beginning God must have the spirit of the Master, of whom it is written: "I delight to No one will receive the Prize of the word and His own power. Thus He reated all things in the beginning, and thus He restored all things after the catastrophe (Gen. i, 1; ii, 3; Ps. xxxiii, 6). In all the history of Israel He redeemed, He fed, He guided. He said Sacrifice is walking in the Master's to His apostles, "It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you" (Matt. x, 20). t is written of Stephen, "They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake" (Acts vi, 10).

When we consider the worldly abominations which are found in the churches of our day and the false teaching, such as the denial of the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, His vicarious atonement (His suffering for our sins in our stead), His literal resurrection from the dead, present ministry of intercession for His people, and coming again for His own and later with His own to set up His kingdom, does it not seem as if many of the eaders of our day are, with their increased light, worse in their idolatry and unbelief than were Jeroboam and Rehoboam? In all ages God has had His own faithful ones, though always only a few comparatively. One day as Jeroboam stood by his altar at Bethel to burn incense there came a man of God out of Judah with a message from the Lord, and he said that one would come from the house David, called Josiah, who would burn the bones of the false priests upon that altar; and as a sign that it would be so the altar was then rent and the ashes scattered.

Jeroboam attempted to lay hold of

the man of God, but his hand dried up, and he could not draw it back again until the man of God prayed for him. Then he asked the man of God to go home with him that he might refresh him with food and give him a reward; but he replied that he was charged by the Lord not to do this. Shortly after this an old prophet of Bethel, who had been told by his sons of this incident, saddled his ass and found the man of God sitting under an oak and invited him home, but the man of God replied as he did to Jeroboam. Then the old prophet said that an angel had told him to come for him and to bring him home. (But the old man fied.) To this the man of God yielded and went home with the old prophet. As they sat at table a strange message came through the old prophet, which was fulfilled when the man of God left his house, for a lion met him and killed him, but did not eat him and did not harm the ass on which he rode. This story is fully recorded in I Kings xiii. The fulfillment of the man of God's prediction some 300 years later is found in II Kings xxiii. As to the death of the man of God for disobedience I have often wondered if Paul had it in mind when he wrote Gal. 1, 8, 9. According to those words there are many who are under that curse because they do not preach the simple gospel. We must hear only what God the Lord has said (Ps. LXXV.) 8) and be deaf to all else.

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G. H. FERGUSON,

Minister of Lands. Forests and Mines.

Torento, June 5th, 1915.

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