

# SERMON.

## Large Crowd Heard Pastor Russell Speak on The Blotting Out of Sin— Peter's Words Advising Sinners to Repent Were Taken for the Text—The Process of Conversion.

Pastor Russell of Allegheny, Pa., recently spoke on "Thorough Conversion and Blotting Out of Sin." He took for his text St. Peter's words "Repent ye, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19.) The discourse follows:

Contrary to the ordinary conception of the matter, conversion is a gradual work. It has a positive beginning, should have a systematic progress and a definite conclusion; and not until its conclusion is realized can the subject with any propriety speak of himself as saved, even by faith, for he is understood that his interpretation of the scriptures is that salvation in the present life is only by faith. Actual salvation beyond peradventure will only be realized at the conclusion of the present life, by those who "fight the good fight" and finish their course with joy, and obtain therefore participation in the first resurrection glory, which is immortal—the divine nature, (Rom. 8:17); Peter, 1:4.) Salvation in the present life is what the apostle speaks of as being "saved by hope" by faith—having received the Lord's promises and in our acceptance by the Lord under those promises. In the present life we are to "make our calling and election sure," but it will not be sure until the time shall have passed away, and we shall have finished our course with joy.

What we have said relates, of course, to the salvation proffered during this gospel age. It does not relate to conditions previous to our Lord's death nor to the conditions which will obtain after the establishment of the kingdom at his second coming. We are not living in the Jewish age nor in the Millennial age; hence it is not necessary for us to now consider the different conditions of salvation in the different ages.

The word conversion signifies to turn about—to reverse the course of life from progress in one direction to progress in another direction. The apostle declares that "the whole world lieth in the wicked one" and that nature "we were children of wrath even as others"—prone to sin as the sparks to fly upward. The natural trend or tendency of all mankind is more or less downward—the law of sin in our members resembling that of the law of gravitation in nature. Unenlightened of the Lord we do not recognize the prevalence of sin in our members; for while all mankind except the most degraded would recognize that murder and some other gross crimes are wrong, they fail to recognize anything wrong in matters that would appeal to the advanced Christian as being wholly contrary to the divine will.

**CHILDREN OF BELIEVERS.**

There is a difference—all mankind are not born on the same plane. Some are born in a justified condition, others in an unjustified condition; some, therefore, are born with a more enlightened conscience and others with a less enlightened understanding of what constitutes sin. The apostle sets this forth very clearly, assuring the children of believers that in God's sight the justification which came to their parents through faith in the Redeemer's sacrifice; and that this justification continues to apply to the child up to the time when he reaches the age of personal discretion and responsibility. The apostle indicates that this is not only the case where both parents are believers, but equally so if either of them is a believer. His words, frequently misunderstood, are: "The unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband; else were your children unclean, as the world is." (1 Cor. vii:14.) The meaning of this is: The believing wife is sanctified by the believing husband, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband; else were your children unclean, as the world is. (1 Cor. vii:14.) The meaning of this is: The believing wife is sanctified by the believing husband, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband; else were your children unclean, as the world is.

**FAVORED.**

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**FEAR AS A CONVERTING INFLUENCE.**

Fear may occasionally have something to do with conversion—fear of being alone in the world without the divine blessing, fear of what this might mean in the present life in the way of adversities and difficulties and sorrows beyond human relief, fear of the loss that this would mean as respects the overcast future, fear of being blotted out of existence in the second death. But in true conversion fear is rarely if ever the most important element. Even at the beginning, and before the close of the conversion, fear of the Lord should be the dominant motive. The apostle says: "Let us fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of us should seem to come short." (Heb. iv, 1.)

**THE LAW—CONVERTING THE SOUL.**

Whatever our point of beginning, we wait until conversion begins to take place. It implies that some power has operated upon us which has enlightened our understanding and granted us to see our personal responsibility toward God. This enlightening power the scriptures inform us is the law of God. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." (Psalm xviii:7.) We are by no means wishing to intimate that the Jewish law given at Sinai to the Jewish people only is applicable to Gentiles or to us who have accepted Christ. The law covenant ended at the cross.

Nevertheless, looking at that law we may draw lessons from it. We reason that the God who gave it to the Jew is the God also of the Gentiles, and that His law of necessity must be practically the same at all times—unchangeable because He is unchange-

able. We reason thus: that the law governing Adam—written in Father Adam's very members—is still in force upon us as his children. We realize that, as the apostle declares, some of the Gentiles show more and some less of this law written in their hearts.

In the very grossest and depraved heathen this law, guiding to a knowledge of right and wrong, is almost totally obliterated; while in some of us, less depraved by nature, this law—graven in human nature and transmitted from Adam to us, his children—is not so completely obliterated. We can discern something respecting right and wrong in all life's affairs—in respect to our creator and in respect to our fellow creatures.

Additionally we have received valuable hints from the law covenant to Israel at Sinai respecting our obligation to God, respecting idolatry, respecting the sacredness of human life, and of the marriage tie, and of responsibilities to neighbors, not to covet their property, not to bear false witness against them, nor to steal from them. Because of our general recognition of these general elements of the divine law on the part of mankind living under the light of the gospel law, the natural man, unconverted, recognizes to some extent the principles therein involved. More than that, the world has heard of the still sharper definition of the law of God expressed in the words of Jesus and by the apostles, showing that love of money or houses or lands or children or parents more than love for the Lord is idolatry; that lustful desire, although restrained, is adultery; that hatred of a brother or a neighbor partakes of the spirit of murder; and marks the hater and evil speaker as under divine condemnation.

It is when these things are discerned with more or less distinctness that we realize that "There is no righteous one, no one," when viewed from the divine standpoint;—that the condemnation that passed upon all through one man's disobedience, and which has been passed to all hereditarily, is a barrier to fellowship with God, who "cannot look upon sin with allowance," whose sentiment is that, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." From this standpoint of conviction of sin—by a discernment of the divine law and of our personal deficiencies when measured by that law—some long for restoration to the favor of the present life, as well as long for the everlasting life forfeited by the race through sin. It is a realization of this condition that leads to conversion; and evidently it is only a comparative few who do thus long for divine fellowship and care in this present life and who thirst for eternal life in fellowship with the Lord.

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that only those that walk up to the spirit are approved of God, but those who walk "after" the spirit. None of us can walk up to the spirit of God's law, for this is perfection, and we are all sinners; but we can be approved of the spirit as we walk after the spirit to the extent of his ability. And our abilities vary, although our wills must all be alike. We must all will to be like unto our Father which is in heaven—to be perfect; but we will all come short of that perfection, because we have the treasure of the new mind in blighted earthen vessels.

**CHARACTER MEASUREMENTS.**

To illustrate: Suppose a scale marked off from 0 to 100. Let that scale represent human ability, and the 100 represent perfection. The full 100 points is what the Lord's people must amount to before they can be approved of the spirit as we walk after the spirit to the extent of his ability. And our abilities vary, although our wills must all be alike. We must all will to be like unto our Father which is in heaven—to be perfect; but we will all come short of that perfection, because we have the treasure of the new mind in blighted earthen vessels.

**THE STANDARD OF CONVERSION.**

Conversion gradually affects all the affairs and avenues of life. The patterns set before us in the scriptures, "Be ye holy even as your Father which is in heaven is holy" and year by year we come to appreciate that holiness more and to feel our own weaknesses and unworthiness more. Our consolation under such circumstances is that the new covenant God deals with these converted ones according to the standard of their wills—according to the intentions of their hearts, and not according to the blemishes of their imperfect flesh. The Psalmist has expressed this matter prophetically, "If thou shouldst be strict to mark iniquity against us, who could stand?" and, as the apostle explains, "There is no righteous one, no one," when viewed from the divine standpoint;—that the condemnation that passed upon all through one man's disobedience, and which has been passed to all hereditarily, is a barrier to fellowship with God, who "cannot look upon sin with allowance," whose sentiment is that, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." From this standpoint of conviction of sin—by a discernment of the divine law and of our personal deficiencies when measured by that law—some long for restoration to the favor of the present life, as well as long for the everlasting life forfeited by the race through sin. It is a realization of this condition that leads to conversion; and evidently it is only a comparative few who do thus long for divine fellowship and care in this present life and who thirst for eternal life in fellowship with the Lord.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Charles H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

## What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

## GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of



The Kind You Have Always Bought In Use For Over 30 Years.

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grand, that which is noble, that which is true, that which is just, that which is loving.

Another step in our progress on love development is that gradually we get to love more and more those who have this same character likeness, those who are like the Lord—"He that loveth Him that begetteth, loveth Him also who is begotten of Him"—he that loveth righteousness, purity and goodness in the Father, will love these same traits, qualities, to the extent that he is able to trace them in any of the sons of God. Now, as the apostle says, we have this as a fresh evidence that we have passed from death unto life—"because we love the brethren."

## REFUSED AN AUDIENCE.

Pope Would Not See Countess Montignoso.

BERLIN, Jan. 5.—Countess Montignoso, (former Crown Princess Louise of Saxony, and divorced wife of the great King of Saxony) since her return to Florence from Dresden after an unsuccessful attempt to see her children, Dec. 24, went to Rome to seek the pope's influence with King Frederick Augustus to obtain for her the privilege of seeing her children. The pope, however, refused to grant the countess an audience.

## TO WRECK TRAIN.

UNDERWOOD, W. Va., Jan. 5.—An attempt was made to wreck the New York and Chicago express on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, carrying 100 people. A heavy iron bar was driven in the switch with such force that it rendered twenty minutes' work to remove it. Had the train crashed through at full speed it probably would have rolled down the mountain side.

FRANKLIN, N. H., Jan. 5.—During the absence of the late Mrs. Frank, the large dwelling house of George R. Knapton, completely destroyed by fire this evening. The house contained a large amount of valuable furniture, and the loss is estimated at \$10,000.

## NOTICE.

The Canvassers and Collectors for the SEMI-WEEKLY SUN are now making their rounds as mentioned below. The Manager hopes that all subscribers in arrears will pay when called on.

EDGAR CANNING in A'bert and Westmorland Counties, N. B.

J. S. CHAPMAN in Kings Co N. B.

F. E. AUST N. in Sunbury & Queens

## MARRIAGES.

MERRILL-HURLEY—At the Methodist church, Green Hill, York Co., on Wednesday, Dec. 28th, 1904, by Rev. J. A. Fraz, Margaret J. Hurley to Charles W. Merrill, all of Green Hill.

McKEL—At the church of the Good Shepherd, Florence King of St. John to Bertram Macdonald of Ottawa.

## DEATHS.

BURKE—At the General Public Hospital, Jan. 1st, Mrs. Jane Burke.

BARNES—At Boston, in the 30th year of his age, Bliss B. Barnes, formerly of Hanover.

CARROLL—In this city, on Jan. 1st, Margaret, widow of the late John Carroll, leaving three sons, two daughters and one brother.

MCQUIER—In this city, on Jan. 2nd, 1905, Peter L. Mourier, aged 67 years, leaving a wife and one son to mourn their sad loss.

NEIN—At Dorchester street, St. John, Jan. 3rd, 1895, J. M. Nein, died very suddenly at his residence, No. 8 Dorchester street, today.

SLIPP—Died at Hampton, on the 3rd inst. Albert L. Slipp, aged 82 years.

WELSH—In this city, on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd, James M. Welsh, aged 83 years.

WHITE—At West St. John, Jan. 4th, Jacob D. White, M. D., aged 73 years.

## LADIES! CURED - ME

When I had Failed to find the same for my own use, I was cured by the use of this Wonderful Remedy. I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! IS NO EXPERIMENT

A Positive Cure for all cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Sciatica, and all other forms of Pain. I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! IS WOMAN'S BEST FRIEND.

It cured me of all my troubles, and I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! Will Make Your Wife Well

Many a husband is ailing, and his wife is suffering, and I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! Is Your Wife an Invalid?

If you will send for a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy, you will find it is the best thing for your wife's health. I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! Is Invaluable TO SUFFERING WOMEN.

It is a Grand Remedy for all cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Sciatica, and all other forms of Pain. I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

## FREE! Cures Permanently

All the following complaints: viz: Female Weakness, Pale Complexion, Headache, Painful Periods, Backache, Pains in the Limbs, and all other ailments. I will send a free trial package of this Wonderful Remedy to suffering ladies who will send a stamped address to MRS. F. R. CURRAH, Windsor, Ont.

S VOL. 28. LONEL

He Had Body

ELLSWORTH... of murder... motive... the discovery of Robbins, a fisher three miles from he had long been crushed in and blood. As Robb old, had for called until last night his nearest neighbor of a mile away, had been seen fighting with his son to save through the body upon the of blood. His wife and words to Judge E. P. Judge Spofford, E. Wasgat and an examination, entrance unlock three rooms of aisted, plainly reie Robbms m assault. Blood door and walls and all over the was saturated w was baten in a recogniton. T the murderer.

Headquarters Army at Port A... of the Rus Arthur were m of Yamufu, on Bay, for 15 million at Changti the other deta after. Each de panied by six The Russian d taken on spec to Dalny, and embark for Ja waiting in that the loss of the of the gallant pathetic specta at Changtiens containing the

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