

PSEUDO-APOSTLES OF THE PRESENT DAY

Church History in the Light of the Bible.

Only Twelve Apostles of the Lamb—Scriptures Show That No More Were Purposed by God—St. Paul Superseded Judas—Catholics and Episcopalians Deceived—Apostolic Bishops Unauthorised—How This Great Error Was Foisted Upon the Church—1,200 Years Without the Bible—The Reformation Movement—Bible Gradually Restored, but Entrenched Errors Still Hold Many—So-called Christian Kingdoms Now Showing Their True Character—Great Time of Trouble Now Begun to Make Way for Christ's Kingdom.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Feb. 27.—Pastor Russell [name] here today, and delivered a very forcible address, from the text, "And thou hast tried them that say they are Apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." (Revelation 2:2.) The Pastor said in part:

There has been a class of men in the world for centuries past who have been claiming to be Apostles; but who are not Apostles, according to our text. The Bible shows us unmistakably that God never purposed more than twelve Apostles of the Lamb. Let us refresh our memories on this point: Our Lord Jesus said to the Twelve, "I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, from the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the Throne of His glory, shall also sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matthew 19:28.) There were to be only twelve Apostles, as shown in Revelation 12:1, the Church is shown as a woman clothed with the sun, [the Gospel], having the moon [the Jewish Law] under her feet, and having on her head a crown of twelve stars, [twelve Apostles], appointed, inspired teachers. We see that there were only twelve of these stars authorized by God, St. Paul taking the place of Judas.

God's Word Must Be Spoken Faithfully.

Jesus says that those who make claims of being Apostles when they are not are lying. We are not to follow what the customs of the past centuries have taught us, but what the Lord Jesus Himself says. He is the authority. We have a measure of sympathy for these gentlemen who have dropped into certain positions of doctrine, and for centuries that they were Apostles, like the original Twelve appointed by our Lord, having the same inspiration and speaking with the same authority. We have sympathy for them, but they are not speaking uncharitably, dear friends; for we are to speak the Lord's Word. "He that hath a dream [an imagination], let him tell a dream; but he that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully." (Jeremiah 23:18.) If we hold back for fear of man, we shall share in the sin. The great claims once made have been abandoned, or at least this class do not attempt to speak with the authority of former days; for mankind are becoming more enlightened and their claims would appear absurd. Yet they still claim that they are the only ones who have the right to authorize any to preach, but if they do not ordain a man, he has no right to speak in the name of the Lord at all. They claim this right because they are "Apostolic Bishops." They claim, however, not pressing even this claim with the former days. Other church leaders inquire: "Why do you stand aloof from us?" and they do not quite like to tell fully their reasons. They hesitate to say, "We are the Church, we are the Apostles, and you have no right to preach unless we ordain you." Hence they are in a somewhat vacillating condition today. About four years ago the Bishops of the Episcopal Church held a meeting in Detroit and there passed resolutions that they would be willing to fraternize with other denominations provided these others were orthodox, which meant, provided they were in harmony with the teaching of the Church of England Bishops. Anybody else would be unorthodox would have no right to preach.

We have not yet recovered. The great mass of Christian people are still deceived. Beginning some time before the year 325 A.D., this doctrine of Apostolic Succession had been growing. The bishops were beginning to "lord it over God's heritage." This lording came in very gradually, as such things generally do, and was associated later with the declaration that the people were the "laity," and that the Church was the "clergy." All had the general thought that the Bishops were Apostles and had their authority from the Lord. We are to remember that until a few centuries ago copies of the Bible were so scarce that a Bible was really worth a fortune, because Bibles had to be printed out by pen by scholars, of whom there were very few. They had to be printed upon fine vellum parchment, as printing-presses and paper were not then invented. Hence there were very few who had Bibles or who could read at that time. Under such conditions the people were dependent upon the Church Bishops. When these began to claim that they were Apostolic Bishops, they gave the people to understand that they alone had received authority from God to read and interpret the Scriptures.

Jesus said to the Twelve Apostles that whatsoever they should bind on earth should be bound in Heaven, and that whatsoever they should loose on earth should be loosed in Heaven. Their writings were especially supervised by the Lord and their doctrinal utterances inspired. (2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 1:11, 12.) St. Paul assures us that "the Word of God is sufficient, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16, 17.) Hence we need no further doctrinal utterances, no more Apostles than the original Twelve—the Apostle Paul by the Lord's choice taking Judas' place. Since the advent of printing and since the close of the 1260 symbolic days—1260 years—of Papal persecution, Bibles have been printed and scattered far and wide by Bible societies, and education has become general. To-day Bibles are everywhere and very cheap, so that all can read.

Origin of the Nicene Creed. Let us go back to the year 325 A.D. By that time the bishops in the Church were claiming Apostolic authority. They were the living Apostles, whose teachings were the voice of God. But these "Apostles" did not agree among themselves, as did the early Apostles, the real Apostles; for when we read the writings of the Apostles appointed by our Lord, we find that they all agreed. But in the year 325 A.D. a positive stand was taken as to belief. The Council of Nicea was called by Emperor Constantine. He was apparently a worldly-wise man, and though he could make a good stroke of policy by joining in with the Christians, who were coming to the front.

The Emperor was not baptised until the day of his death. He was a professed Christian, for he had the marks of the cross on his forehead. He was a man who would judge his heart, still the policy idea was there surely, as evidenced all through the matter. In this year 325, he sent out a call throughout the Empire to the Bishops of the churches, or came to the city of Nicea for a general convention, offering to pay all expenses. About 384 Bishops came together—far from the entire number. This conference was the first of its kind, and was called an Ecumenical Church Council, as from one held at Jerusalem by the Apostles of Jesus themselves. This was claimed to be another meeting of Apostles. The Emperor, supposing that the Bishops were fully authorized, as they professed, made substantially the following proposition to them:

"You all claim to be Apostles, but you have different theories and opinions among you. There seems to be something wrong. I will suggest what will set you all straight: I propose that in this Council you set forth your views as to what is correct, orthodox, doctrine. Agree amongst yourselves as to what is the doctrine, and whatever whatever shall be taught contrary to these doctrines shall be heretical—heresy. Further, I have decided to unite with your Church, and you need my support. When you get my support, the pagan peoples will flock into your Church by hundreds. I will back you up in your teachings, and all heretics shall have a hard time in the Roman Empire. You make the Creed, and I declare it to be Orthodox, and then leave its enforcement to me. I will attend to the heretics in this life, and you can tell them of their eternal roasting throughout the future."

Thus the Nicene Creed, the first of the great creeds, was formulated—by these self-appointed Apostolic Bishops. So between the Bishops and the Emperor, a heavy hand was laid upon the people. Being uneducated, the Church leaders had them largely in their mercy. That was the end of Bible study; there was no more as for the Bible. They were to follow the Nicene Creed. They had Apostles to get their support with them, who could teach them all they needed to know. Bible study was abandoned. Restored After 1,200 Years. From that time on for twelve hundred years the Bible was an unknown book to the masses. In the year 1526, Professor Tyndale, a sincerely Christian man, not satisfied with the teachings of the Church Bishops, translated the Greek New Testament into English, that the people might know what were the teachings of Jesus and His Apostles. He was compelled to go to Germany to get his translation printed (printing-presses then being in use), because of the adverse influence of the English Bishops. The Testaments were then imported to London. The people were anxious to get them, and proposed that Bible classes be started and educated men employed to read to the people. What did the Bishops then do? They heard about the movement, and they sought to suppress the study of the Bible by the people. They sent out a decree that the Bishops of this day. And these were Protestant Bishops of the Church of England. They were worldly-wise men and knew what would be the effect if the people learned of the real teachings of the Bible. Their own power and influence would soon be gone. The people would soon be asking uncomfortable questions: "Where did you Bishops get your authority to make creeds and to call yourselves Apostles?" So the Bishops shrewdly determined to nip this matter in the bud. Tyndale later suffered martyrdom. For forty years the people complained, wondering why the Bible had been taken from them. Finally the Bishops concluded that policy demanded that they let them have the Bible. So they got out a special edition, which they called "The Bishops' Bible." This they gave to the people, warning them of the danger of giving it any other interpretation than that given by the Bishops, assuring them that eternal torment awaited them otherwise. The Catholic Bishops were then practically forced to do likewise, and they issued the Douay Version for Catholics, giving their people the same warnings. Thus the influence of the Bible was largely nullified.

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But the Bible could not be fully put down. Later, the entire Scriptures were translated into the various tongues of the people. After the beginning of the Nineteenth Century education began to be much more general, and Bible Societies sprang up. People began to read for themselves as never before. Since then superstition has been gradually breaking down, and people dare to think. Some are still fettered by superstition, but the number is lessening. These creeds are so absurd that no intelligent minister, we believe, would think of defending the creed of his own denomination.

Instead of reading the Bible in the light of the creeds, we are to read the creeds in the light of the Bible. Then their absurdity is at once apparent. They have been a sore bondage upon God's people. But all this will be covered up by the new Creed of Good. It will teach a never-to-be-forgotten lesson.

It is the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that all of their own people are to go to Purgatory at death. No one goes to Purgatory to Heaven. They must first have certain experiences in Purgatorial tortures to fit them for Heaven.

How much trouble all this nonsense has caused! The Bible foretold it all. The Apostle Paul declared that "many would depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." (1 Timothy 4:1-3; Acts 20:29,30.) It is upon these seducing spirits that we lay the blame—Satan and his angels. We are not claiming that our Catholic and Episcopalians are intended to perpetrate a fraud, nor any of the others. But with the Apostle Paul we claim that they were deceived by the great adversary. We are beginning to see that a God of Love would never have such a plan for His creature as to tempt to the creeds. We are living in a day which more light than ever before is due upon God's Word. We are living in the dawn of the glorious New Dispensation. We are nearing the time when, according to the Bible, "all the blind eyes shall be opened and the deaf ears unstopped." Let us thank God for the light.

Apocalypse Near—World's Kingdom. The present great war in Europe is the battle of the Armageddon of the Scriptures. (Revelation 16:16-20.) It will eventuate in the complete overthrow of all the systems of error which have so long oppressed the people of God and degraded the world. The angels of every kind will go down. The glorious Kingdom of Messiah is about to be set up in the earth, for the establishment of permanent righteousness. We believe the present war cannot last much longer, until revolution shall break out. The nations are rapidly impoverishing themselves. Great Britain has already expended thirteen billions of dollars in the war, and her minister of finance says that another year of war will require nine billions more. That will make twenty-two billions. At 5 per cent interest, this would mean that one billion, two hundred millions would have to be raised each year by the British people just to keep the interest paid. To say nothing of the principal. Do you think they can afford to pay such an amount? Not at all! We believe that all these bonds will be repudiated. The same is true of France and Russia. Germany is impoverishing herself. All these governments are madly attempting to embargo future generations. All are saying, "We must conquer." Well, we shall see how it will all end! We stake our opinion on the Bible. All these nations will soon pass away. There will not be a Kingdom left in all Europe. Then Anarchy will follow.

None of these nations is Christ's; as their course unmistakably shows. Every one who has violated international law. They are willing to barter away millions of lives of their people for the petty gain of a little more territory and commercial benefit. Selfishness is rampant. If violation of law is anarchy, then we already have anarchy amongst the nations. How thankful we are that while this awful trouble is going on, the voice of the Lord is being heard, yet the Word of God points out that upon the ruins of the present Order shall come the Kingdom of God's dear Son! Man's extremity will be God's opportunity. The voice of Messiah shall be heard. He will command, "Peace, be still!" and the raging billows of this passion will be calmed, and all tumult will cease. He will bring order out of chaos. When men have reached the point of despair, deliverance will come; for then they will begin to cry to the Lord. "And He will be entreated of them and will help them. God's Kingdom will be established on the ruins of the world, and will prove to be the desire of all men."

SINCLAIR'S SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PEARL BUTTONS

Nearly one year ago we placed an order for Pearl Buttons direct with one of the largest makers in Japan, and these Buttons are now here. On our invoice is an entry for 5,400 cards at 10 silver yens per thousand, and this number of cards of one dozen each, means 64,800 buttons. If you require Pearl Buttons, we have them in every kind and size, not Fresh Water Pearls, but the Real Salt Water Pearl Buttons, and we have them at every price, 5c, 7c, 10c, 12 1-2c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 40c, and 50c per dozen.

All Wool Dress Serges at 65c Yd

If you have any doubt about this being Special Serge Value, see what you can do elsewhere. Here we offer you a Pure Wool Dress Serge at the old price, and we have it in Black, Dark Navy, Mid Navy, Copenhagen Blue and Tan, 28 pieces in all, about 1200 yards to sell at 65c per yd.

Three Special Silk Values

The coming season will be one of great Silk wearing. That's why we suggest that you should inspect our Dress Silk offerings. Here are three of our leaders: 36 in. Black Pailette, very special, at.....89c yd 36 Colored Paillettes in 16 shades, at.....\$1.00 yd 36-in. Satin Duchesse with our name as a guarantee on every yard, only.....\$1.25 yd

Linen at Old Prices

We have 20 Sets of John Prown & Son's Shamrock Brand of boxed Damask Linen Table Cloths and Napkins to match. The Cloths are 8 x 10 quarter, the Napkins 22-in. size. The patterns are the very choicest and we offer them at the Old Price as sold by us before the War, when Linens were 13 cheaper than now. The old and present price, only \$7.50 Set.

New Spring Corsets

Our Corset Department is now complete with every new Spring Model in such well known makes as the Kabo, one of the best known American, known as the Live Model Corset, also the C. C. la Grace Corsets in models for slight, medium and stout figures. In fact we show a Corset specially designed for every figure. Prices, \$1 to \$4.50.

Ladies' Suits, \$9.50 Each

We have one each of Ladies' and Misses' Suits, not this season's styles, but Suits of the past year. These Suits are well assorted in sizes, Ladies' and Misses', in Black, Navy, Tan, Brown and Grey Wool Serges, also a few Tweed Suits, all one price, your choice only \$9.50.

SINCLAIR'S

SEE OUR Ladies' Silk Wash Waists at \$1.98

SINCLAIR'S

BIG FLOODS THREATENED

Conditions More Serious Than at Any Time Since 1897

Is Belleville to have a repetition of the serious flood tide in the winter of 1897, caused heavy loss and great inconvenience to hundreds of our residents. The situation is at present very threatening and no relief is in sight. The ice that came down the river in the freshest a few weeks ago is still collected in great masses below and above the railway bridges, and this recent cold weather has served to bring down thousands of tons of the pestiferous trash or anchor ice. This has been collecting beneath the masses of surface ice above and the channel now appears to be completely blocked for any free passage of the water.

Victoria Park was completely submerged on Friday. Allen's coal sheds are inaccessible. The boat houses near the water are about half under. This morning the situation became decidedly worse. The surface ice on the river has now risen to the top of the retention wall and a considerable stream is flowing over the sidewalk at No. 1 Pinehill. The water is on a level with the main floor of the Belleville Creamery Co. McCoy's livery stable contains several inches of water and a number of the horses have been taken to other quarters. Barnett's blacksmith shop is closed down. All the cellars and several of the kitchens in this vicinity are flooded.

On the west side the situation in the lower part of Murray ward is equally threatening. The output beneath the railways is full of ice and there is no free passage-way for the water that is now accumulating all over the district known as "the Flats." The water is backed up as far as Cooper's dam. On Sunday the water entered the basement below the Deacon shirt factory and extinguished the furnace fire. Yesterday and today the factory has been compelled to remain idle. On the east side along the business section of Front street many of the basements are flooded and furnace fires are out. The water is still rising and there is no immediate relief in sight. The weather man promises "decidedly cold" temperatures for tomorrow. "Aid. Chas. Whelan, chairman of public works, when seen by The Ontario this morning said he would be glad to employ any practical method to abate the trouble, but so far he had not based on any possible solution. In the flood of 1897 a channel was cut through the surface ice to the outlet of the river but this had done no good. A turn to milder weather seems to afford the only hope of improved conditions.

Wallbridge & Clarke's BITTER ORANGES FOR MARMALADE

Seville Oranges California Seedless Oranges Messina Lemons Extra Granulated Sugar Quince Marmalade Bramble Jelly Ginger Marmalade Guava Jelly Black Currant Jam Ginger and Pineapple Apricot Jam Pineapple Marmalade Blackberry Jam Green Fig Marmalade Gooseberry Jam Mandarin Marmalade Bar le Duc Jelly Peach Jam Cherry Jam Hawaifan Pineapple

EARLY GREEN VEGETABLES

At Wallbridge & Clarke's Cucumbers Celery Tomatoes Radishes Parsley Lettuce

Record Handling of Grain

The Grand Trunk Pacific elevator at Fort William, Ont., has established a wonderful record for the handling of grain, during the past season, one that has never been equaled at that port of big records and marvellous achievements in moving grain. The following figures are interesting and expressive: Handled from cars between Oct. 1 to Dec. 23rd, 21,994,000 bus or 18,500 20cars. Average per working day of 12 1/2 hours, 241 cars. Loaded into boats in October 5,600,000 bushels in boats in November, 5,937,000 bus. Daily average loading 300,000 bus. Loaded into boats between Dec. 1 and 12th, 5,700,000 bus. A daily average of 475,000 bus. Loaded in 28 hours ending midnight Nov. 30, an average per hour of 42,000 bus. Loaded in 4 1/2 hours one complete crop, an average of nearly 83,000 bus per hour, 283,000 bus.

Celebrated Her Hundredth Anniversary

Mrs. Annie Mills, widow of the late Thomas Mills of Big Island, on Friday, Feb. 25th reached the remarkable age of one hundred years and about forty of her friends assembled at her home in recognition of so unusual an event. The party came well provided with baskets, the contents of which were displayed in tempting array. After dinner a great-grandson, Master Ira Francis David, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. David of Northport, who has reached the interesting age of one and a half years, was duly christened by Rev. W. J. Weatherall of Northport, assisted by Rev. E. A. Fowler of Demorestville. Photos of Mrs. Mills and of the party were taken by Mr. Regy Mills, a grandson of the guest of honor. After an afternoon pleasantly spent in conversation, music and games the gathering dispersed after wishing to their venerable hostess many more years of happiness. Mrs. Mills, notwithstanding her advanced age, is mentally as alert and active as ever, but eyesight and hearing show signs of failing. Although somewhat enfeebled of body she is still able to move about quite freely.

Late Mrs. Win. Cross

Mrs. Chloe Cross, widow of the late William Cross, who passed away on Monday at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Reid, Yeomans street, was born in Hungerford, in 1827. She lived most of her life in Tyndingside. Four years ago she came to Belleville to reside. She had been in ill health for about a month. In religion she was a Presbyterian. Mourning her loss she leaves four sons and five daughters, John of Dr. deau, Ont., Richard of Bloomfield, Jas. of Tyndingside, Stephen of Belleville; Mrs. Nancy Prentice, Huntington; Mrs. Margaret Thresher, Belleville; Mrs. Chloe Vance, Flinton, Mrs. Adella Dale, London and Mrs. Eliza Reid, Belleville.

Invited For Another Year

At a recent board meeting of the officials of Holloway St. Methodist Church, a resolution was passed expressing to their pastor, Rev. Mr. Clarry, their appreciation of his past year's services and inviting him to remain for another year. Thanks was also extended to Mrs. Clarry for her co-operation and help especially to the choir. Mr. Clarry spoke feelingly thanking the board and accepting the invitation.

Recital at St. Andrews

Last evening at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Guild, a vocal and piano recital was given by the pupils of Mrs. A. P. Allen and Miss Helen Ketcheson. The program was deeply appreciated by the large attendance of members of the society and others. Among those taken part were Miss Lily Boyle, piano solo; Miss Carmelita Mastin, song; Miss Pearl Hollins, piano; Miss Violet Holmes, vocal solo; Miss Freda Johnson, lano solos; Miss Nellie Wickson, vocal; Miss L. Huld, lano; Miss Vera Boyle, vocal; Misses Waters, Allen Smith, Kerr, Holmes and Mrs. P. K. Ketcheson, vocal; Mr. J. M. Patterson, vocal; Mrs. Allen and

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BIG ASSAULT 40,000 IN KI LONDON, Feb. 2 Dutch sources state loss a the assault tions total over killed alone.

GERMANS UNABLE THEIR H PARIS, Feb. 2 from the front itions have greatly French. The ed headway.

HUNS NEW MU START REKELIN, Feb. submarine war, positively comm night as previous aimed vessels will ships and sunk v

TURKISH BRIGADES FEBRUOGRAD, an occupying T boring down on The Hunnish arm and will see rap glo.

GREATER OFFI VE LONDON, Feb. military authorities greater offensive western front pro page three.

BRITISH CASUA LONDON, Feb. alder in all the total 730 officers.

GERMANS SOW WITH COPENHAGEN ton Bladi reports man Skollis is enga south of Falstorb Swedish territory.

MATHEMATICAL GAIN OUTCOME OF OTTAWA, Feb. of Common we Hughes was asked at Verdun. He reported an ann President of the that the Germans back past For D French expected ground that had b

Late the Prime a cable from S which was shown members but not message, it is un confirmed the an quoted, but stated Government was a general result of men would be dis ous to the cause of

GERMAN VESSE ATLANTIC C NEWS YORK, Feb. warnings that a G raider, possibly acco sorts was attacking Atlantic were recee Carl Oll Tanker, w today from Algiers.

21 CIVILIANS KIL AT VER PARIS, Feb. 2 Verdun says that few remaining ch have been killed by in the city.

PASSENGERS FE NEW YORK, Feb. line steamship E whose original pa on the steams covered anonymous Espagne night, m called today for Bo red but one of the originally booked.

TO DISCUSS APTR TION LONDON, Feb. 29 all the Chambers of