

The Canadian Evangelist

AND DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

"If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples."—Jesus the Christ.

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Is devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, and pleads for the union of all believers in the Lord Jesus in harmony with His own prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, and on the basis set forth by the Apostle Paul in the following terms: "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."—Eph. iv. 1-6.

THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST maintains that the commission given by Jesus Christ to His apostles should be rigidly adhered to, in theory and in practice, by all who acknowledge Him as their Lord. The commission reads thus: "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. xxviii. 18-20, R. V.) This paper will constantly affirm that only those who teach and practice according to that commission have a right to call Jesus their Saviour, and to wear the name of Christ.

The phrase "DISCIPLE OF CHRIST," as a sub-head to this paper, is intended to make clear the meaning of the name "EVANGELIST," which signifies a publisher of good news or glad tidings. This "newspaper Evangelist" claims to receive its inspiration from Christ, and finds in His life and in His Word the means to revolutionize the world, socially, morally and spiritually. This paper holds to the New Testament as containing an accurate record of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and of His Apostles. It proposes, therefore, believing in Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, the Son of the living God, to look upon this world of men in all their manifold, ever-varying relations and circumstances, through the medium of Christ's life and word, with the assurance that therein will be found the golden truth which will solve all problems, however difficult, and tend increasingly to the complete realization of "peace on earth and good will among men."

THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST maintains that there is no practicable *via media* between the rejection of the New Testament as an authoritative record, and the denial of Jesus of Nazareth as a Divine Lord. This Journal will therefore persistently insist that the New Testament must be accepted by all who profess to be Christians as an infallible rule of faith and practice, not as a mere ethical guide, in so far as we can see the truthness and fitness of its teaching. And that with regard to ordinances which have in themselves no necessary connection with moral and spiritual culture, as well as in reference to those matters which at present are entirely beyond our ken, it is ours reverently to believe, devoutly to obey.

To all who profess and call themselves Christians, and long for the unity of all who love the Lord Jesus:

That the Lord prayed that all those who would believe on Him should be one, that the Apostles taught the believers to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that the first Christians were one, that the Apostles strongly and affectionately protested against all tendencies to division in their day, are facts which do not require to be proved to those who believe in, and are familiar with, the New Testament.

That very early in the history of Christianity the unity of the disciples of the Lord was broken; that there then arose rival, warring sects, reviling and hating one another; that the consequences were deplorable and dreadful, and all but destructive of the faith, are statements which no student of history will call in question.

That divisions could not have occurred without some one going wrong, departing from the truth of the Gospel, is self-evident. That sectarianism is a sin—not merely a misfortune—no reader of the writings of the Apostle Paul will deny. It follows, therefore, that every Christian should carefully enquire whether the stain of sectarianism may not be upon him, and if he find that it is, he should hasten to purge himself of it.

What, then, is a sectarian? What is a sect as distinguished from a Church of Christ? What are the marks of a sect? What are the signs of a Church of Christ? These questions are respectfully submitted to all into whose hands this paper may fall, with the conviction that a thorough and earnest study of them would lead to conclusions which would hasten the day when the friends of Jesus will present an undivided front to the powers of evil now rampant in the world.

THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST appeals to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and who accept the Bible as a Divine revelation, and the New Testament especially as the end of all controversy in matters pertaining to the Gospel of Christ. It will plead for an all-round, full-orbed Gospel, and urge the application of the ethics of Christ to all the relations of life. It will aim to keep an eye on religious affairs, especially in Canada, and where it thinks the cause of Christ demands, will criticize with a free but kindly hand. The times are ripe for bold, aggressive assertion of the teachings of Jesus. To those who think such aims and purposes good and laudable, we extend the invitation to become subscribers, and to use our columns to place their views before the people of Canada.