

SALVATION PRODUCES WORKS.

A Thoughtful Sermon Delivered by the Rev. B. P. Robertson, of Gaffney, S. C.

News and Courier, 17th.

The pulpit of the Citadel Square Baptist Church was filled yesterday morning by the Rev. B. P. Robertson, of Gaffney, S. C., who preached a strong and interesting sermon on the subject, "The Trained Disciple at work, or the Child of God Working Out his Salvation." Mr. Robertson took as his text Philippians, 2:12: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," and spoke as follows:

My friends, the great topic of study in Heaven is life. The angels have searched to find out the mystery of life in Jesus and all errands to this earth have been in the interest of life, and even the most important topic that has so far as we know occupied the mind of God has been life. For it was God who so loved mankind that He gave His only begotten Son that the human race might have life.

Now, it seems to me that if life is of so great importance to the inhabitants of Heaven, surely it ought to absorb our attention when it all concerns us. If all the Heavens are interested in our lives, surely we will give the subject our prayerful and most earnest attention, and I am happy to note that most all the great minds of earth in past history have concentrated their thoughts on this topic. I might mention the names of Moses, Socrates, Luther and Spencer.

I rejoice that I have been enabled to see the day when science and the Bible are conceded to be the warmest friends. To-day the scientific method of investigating truth is being applied to the study of the Holy Scriptures. We can never honor the name of Henry Drummond and John Stewart Mills and Herbert Spencer enough for this grand achievement for the benefit of the human family, and now science has become the strongest ally of the Christian religion.

But with all the works of science it is impossible, as we saw in my first sermon, for man to clearly understand what kind of a man he ought to be. While life in nature and the divine revelations in the Scriptures tell us much about the Divine life for man, yet not until he beholds Jesus Christ through the eye of faith does he understand what sort of person he ought to be. Then, by experience, does he realize that Christ is the life, the truth that reveals that life and the way to that life for him.

And while nature about him emphasizes the truth that man needs special nourishment and training for the fulfillment of the Divine plan for him, yet he cannot possibly understand the real meaning of this until he studies the real life of Jesus on earth and lives in His very presence day by day, by means of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within him. Jesus himself spent thirty years in special training for the accomplishment of His mission in the world. How much more does the Christian need the school of discipleship? This I emphasized in my second message.

This morning I desire to call your attention to the thought of the child of God working out his salvation in this life. The text which I have chosen has been very much abused as to its meaning. I am sure it contains one of the most important doctrines for God's people in their relation to the world when correctly interpreted. The first thought to which I invite your attention is: This Scripture does not teach that works will produce salvation, and the second is: This Scripture does teach that salvation will produce works.

1. This Scripture does not teach that works will produce salvation. The connection in which this Scripture is found proves this. For the apostle is writing this letter to the Philippian Christians and exhorting them to work out their salvation. These Philippians are supposed to already possess life; they are already saved; then why would Paul exhort them to seek that which they already possess?

Jesus was on earth who were fullest of good works were looked upon by Jesus himself as dead in trespasses and in sins, and how can the dead produce good works and through these secure life? Impossible.

Then we are taught by the scientists that true evolution from a lower to a higher state of existence is impossible without help from a higher creation or being. Place water in a vessel and apply the optic test and there will spring up no life in that water. So there can never be generated in man a heavenly life without the presence of the Heavenly parent in that man. The Heavenly life in man must come from the Heavenly life, which is Christ. Science teaches the impossibility of good works producing it.

Then people whose lives bear moral fruits when there is no divine life within them are religious parasites. The mistletoe on the oak appears to have life in itself, but cut down the oak and where is the life of this parasite? So take the so-called moral people and remove all traces of the religion of the true God from them, and they will be the very image of Satan himself. Their morality is a kind of respectability which they have borrowed from the people of God.

A friend of mine visited the Art Museum in London a few years ago. As he passed into one room he saw a lady lying on a couch, breathing as if she was then dying. My friend was alarmed and called for help. But the watchman reminded him that it was nothing but a wax figure with artificial breathing. So it is with our moral respectable people; there is no real life in them. And at the last day they will realize that their superficial and artificial morality has done them no good. It will not produce life.

This truth, which is substantiated by science, Scripture and the Christ, places all the heathen among the dead ones of earth. Their religions, so-called, are only human creeds, more or less, and manifest human efforts to produce life in themselves by means of so-called good works. The heathen religions are what we would term today codes of ethics, which express the ethical teachings of the adherents. Some of them, which give any emphasis to life hereafter, are simply efforts to produce life through good works. And as it is impossible to do this, then all the heathen will miss the attainment of the divine life for man.

2. But this Scripture does not teach that salvation will produce works. The fact that we have some members in our churches who do not live respectable and useful lives is no argument against this statement. These people resemble very much the hermit crab, which in life crawls into the shell of a mollusk and there spends its time seeking the protection of another's house. So these church members who have no life in them seek shelter from the day of visitation within the church. But this will be of no avail to them in the trying hour.

Activity is a universal law of life. If we take the large telescope and look at the heavens we behold activity, and if we take the microscope and look at the small atoms we behold activity. The whole universe is alive, from the smallest to the greatest part of it. The flowers of the field, the trees of the forest, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, with all these activity is the sign of life. Life in these will cause them to be in motion, fulfilling their destiny.

So it is with the person who has received the divine life (from Jesus Christ). Just as the dead leaves on the oak will begin to drop off just as soon as new life in the spring begins to course through its fibre, so the sins and evil habits will begin to disappear from the man who has obtained life in Jesus Christ just as soon as this new life begins to spring up in him. You can tell that this man has new life by the activity in shedding the old dead leaves of sin. Jesus saves his people from their sins. Why does a man come to Jesus for the new life if he prefers the sinful life to the Christ life? The funniest thing under Heaven is a man claiming to be a Christian and still serving the devil.

The person who has the divine life within him will bring forth fruit to the glory of God. Just as the tree will bend and blossom and produce fruit, so the child of God will work out his salvation by producing in his life the fruits of love, joy, peace, temperance, kindness, meekness, gentleness and long suffering and such like. And these fruits will establish him in the confidence of the public, so that when he presents Christ to them in the Gospel they will accept the message.

It is the plan of God to evangelize

the world through His own children. He could have done this through the angels, but He chose rather to honor His own children with this work. And by doing this work, with all its accessories, the child of God is to work out his salvation, and this Gospel work is more a privilege than a duty for the child of our Father. I wish we could realize this more than we do. By doing this work we develop our Christian characters and become prepared for our eternal service in our Father's house above.

It seems to me that the very fact that it is our Father's will that we should produce good works in preaching the Gospel to the poor dying is enough to induce us to gladly do it. But if we will remember that the world is lost without God and without hope in the world, we surely will tell them of Jesus. We should preserve the perishing.

A young lady prayed as soon as she was converted to be carried to Heaven. That night she dreamed that she went to Heaven. As soon as she arrived the door-keeper carried her into the crown chamber. He showed her Paul's crown, covered with stars; then Spurgeon's crown, and finally came to a crown with no star in it. She asked whose it was, and she was answered that it was hers. Then she says: "Let me go back a twin some souls to Christ, so that I may have some stars in my crown." My friends, will there be any stars in your crown?

A Sensible Woman.

A party of married men were talking about their wives, and it is worthy of note that every man was glad he had a wife, and was anxious to tell of her good points.

"I never heard my wife swear but once," said one of them, when there seemed to be a lull in the praise-meeting.

All the others looked shocked. If any of them had ever heard their wives swear they were not telling it, and they resented the frankness of the one man who was apparently betraying family secrets. But the man did not regard the bad impression he had created.

"And that," he continued, in the same tone, "was away back yonder, thirty years or more ago, when the oil excitement in Pennsylvania agitated the whole country. I owned a farm which cost a thousand dollars, not because I had taken it for a debt of that amount which I could not collect. My business was very small then, and a thousand dollars represented the bulk of my capital. I had been married five years, and my wife was the very best investment I had ever made. One day I received word that oil had been struck on the farm adjoining mine, and right away I proceeded to go crazy, just as everybody else did when oil showed up anywhere in their neighborhood. My wife showed signs, too, but she kept her wits about her. Inside of a week I began to get offers for my farm, and I got crazier every time there came an offer higher than the one before it. It went up like a balloon at first, until the figures got away up, and then the smaller bidders dropped out. At last an offer of a hundred thousand dollars came from the representative of a company that I knew was worth two or three millions."

"Let it go, John," said my wife, when I told her of this offer. "I guess not," said I; "if it's worth a hundred thousand to them, it's worth a hundred thousand to me."

"I tell you to let it go," said my wife, as firm as a post in the ground. "Not much," said I. "I'll get two hundred thousand."

"She pulled down her apron with a jerk, a peculiarity of hers when she meant business."

"You're getting a hundred times more for it than you gave," said she, "and you never expected to make a hundred thousand dollars in a hundred thousand years, and you know it."

"But I'll make a good deal more than that now," I insisted, and started back to my desk to write a letter declining the offer.

"She pulled down her apron with a jerk that made the strings crack."

"John Martin," said she, "don't be d--- fool!"

"And I wasn't," concluded the narrator, "for I accepted the hundred thousand dollar offer, and it was ninety thousand more than the company ever got off the farm, for the oil didn't seem to run that way."—New Lippincott.

Large sun spots, astronomers say, caused the extreme heat this summer, and doctors declare nearly all the prostrations were induced by disorders of the stomach. Good health follows good digestion. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat. If you have indigestion or dyspepsia it will quickly relieve and permanently cure you. Evans' Pharmacy.

Pekin, China, is surrounded by a wall 50 feet high and 40 feet thick. The walled portion of the city is 16 miles in circumference, and the wall itself is between 500 and 1,000 years old.

You can spell it cough, soft, cough, kaff, kaff, cough or kaff, the remedy to quickly cure it is One Minute Cough Cure. Evans' Pharmacy.

Carelessness With Money.

The Secretary of the Treasury has a very large directory of careless people—of people who have money to burn or otherwise destroy, and who appeal to him for reimbursements. Uncle Sam is kind enough to restore lost money when he is satisfied that it is actually out of existence, and the treasury department has to look after this branch of his financial affairs. Hardly a day passes that the Secretary is not appealed to make good money destroyed, and he often receives remittances of bills more or less recognizable, with queer tales of how the work of destruction was wrought.

One of the latest applications was from a Vermont farmer, who sent a mass of remnants of bills that approached the condition of pulp and asked for \$180 in return, which, after some delay, he received. He said he had very carefully hidden the money under the rafters of his barn, and somehow it had got into the hay and bran fed to one of his cows. The cow was chewing the green feed when its nature was discovered.

Another farmer from Kansas has sent a lot of chopped bills that he says represents \$40. According to his story they were in the pocket of a vest that was hung on a feed cutter, and when it was being operated the corner of the vest that held the money got between its knives and, with the money, was torn in shreds. The claim is now in process of adjustment.

A Boston man took from his pocket what, he says, he thought was a piece of paper and burned half of it in lighting the gas. The gaslight revealed the fact that he had used a \$20 bill as a lighter.

A Washington man a couple of weeks ago went in person to the Secretary to get \$35 for some badly mutilated bills that his playful pup had been exercising with for an hour.

A Wisconsin woman has sent a lot of tinder that, she says, was once \$90. Several months ago she hid it in a stovepipe hole, into which a pipe from a laundry fire was recently placed. As the pipe rested on the bills tinder was the result.

Another woman, this time in Indianapolis, got \$10 in greenbacks mixed with greens she was preparing for dinner and boiled them into an almost unrecognizable mass.

A loving Philadelphia papa has asked \$20 for a few strips of greenish paper and a score of pellets of the same material. He says they once constituted a twenty-dollar bill, which his pet boy had torn to pieces, rolled into balls and blown through a glass tube at a cat, canary bird and nurse maid.

An Ohio man wants to sell the treasury department a mouse for \$100. He says he had that amount in bills in a bureau drawer, and that the mice appropriated it in bits to build a home in which to rear their family.

This list is continually growing, and the communications giving the remarkable details are so frequent as to cause no smile or comment in the department. Each one is simply a new case that follows along a line of red tape until it is adjusted.

Not the Conventional Woman.

"But I don't know you, madam," the bank cashier said to the woman who had presented a check.

But this woman, instead of saying haughtily, "I do not wish your acquaintance, sir!" merely replied, with an engaging smile:

"Oh, yes, you do, I think. 'Tis the 'redheaded old virago' next door to you, whose 'scoundrelly little boys' are always reaching through the fence and picking your flowers. When you started down town this morning your wife said: 'Now, Henry, if you want a dinner fit to eat this evening, you'll have to leave me a little money. I can't run this house on the city water and 10 cents a day.'"

"Here's your money, madam," said the cashier, pushing it toward her and coughing loudly.

— Together they were looking over the paper. "Oh, how funny," said she. "What is it?" he asked. "Why here is an advertisement that says, 'No reasonable offers refused.' " "What's so odd about that?" "Nothing, nothing," she replied, trying to blush, "only those are my sentiments."

Have you a sense of fullness in the region of your stomach after eating? If so you will be benefited by using Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They also cure belching and sour stomach. They regulate the bowels, too. Price, 25c. Sold by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

— Massachusetts has prohibited the use of the United States flag for advertising purposes. The flag-makers will feel the blow, but the people will commend the law, and hope to see other States adopt it.

The most dainty and effective pills made are DeWitt's Little Early Risers. They are unequalled for liver and bowel troubles. Evans' Pharmacy.

— "Do you suppose she rejected you because you were not rich enough?" "Well, she gave me to understand that I was a man of no interest and not much principle."

When you want a pleasant physic try the new remedy, Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They are easy to take and pleasant in effect. Price, 25c. Samples free at Hill-Orr Drug Co's. store.

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LAND SALE. WILL sell Saturday in October at Anderson Two Thousand Acres of Land, divided into eleven Tracts, known as the Wm. Watkins land, in Garvin Township, on Three-and-Twenty Creek. For any information call on me or address me at Autun, S. C. J. B. DOUTHIT, Trustee. Sept 5, 1900 11

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For particulars apply to the Company at Charleston, or any of its authorized agents in the State. Competitors must register their names not later than December 1st, 1900. Three prizes offered: A Reaper and Binder. A Wheat Drill. Two Tons Standard Ammoniated Fertilizer.

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CHLORO-NAPHTHOLEUM! CHEMICAL LABORATORY, DETROIT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, J. E. CLARK, M. D., Director, DETROIT, MICH., July 2. WEST DISINFECTING CO.—Dear Sirs: I have made a careful analysis, and have made a series of experiments with West's Chloro-Naphtholeum, and have found it to be a potent disinfectant and deodorizer, and to be possessed of antiseptic qualities that render it a valuable agent in all conditions where it is necessary to use such material. It is especially to be recommended in all cases where odors are prevalent, as it acts by combining with the cause of the smell, and rendering it inert, as well by its germicidal action in destroying micro organisms, and thus prevents the development of gases which give rise to foul odors. In itself, it has a pleasant odor, does not simply supply an odor to mask offensive exhalations, but strikes at the cause and removes it. In my opinion, its employment will aid and assist the sanitarian in his laudable endeavor to check disease, and to eliminate the unhealthy influences of the omnipresent microbe. JOHN E. CLARK, M. D. CHLORO-NAPHTHOLEUM heals sores and wounds on both man and beast. It is invaluable for the treatment of horses and cattle, for hog and chicken cholera, as a sheep dip and animal wash, as an insecticide for the destruction of bed-bugs, cock-roaches and other pests, and for destroying all kinds of insects which infest vegetation. EVANS PHARMACY, Agents.

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