

**The Historical Society
The Bible Fellowship Church
April, 2009**

If I were to title this edition, I would call it, "OUT OF THE ARCHIVES." I am glad we have been collecting items from our past and saving them from a dumpster destination. But, just having these pieces of our past is of little value. I have never been a collector for the sake of having something. So, I like to be able to bring documents that are in our archives out to the light by making them available. Some can be scanned. Some must be typed. It is not always easy to move the text from one piece of paper to another but one way or another it can be done.

The presentations you will read here are part of our archives. I have either typed or scanned them. I believe that most of the mistakes you will notice are what were in the original text. It is not that I do not make mistakes but I tried intentionally to leave original mistakes (Sometimes the computer corrects mistakes for which I take no responsibility)

As a note of interest, someone pointed out to me that Rose Lambert's book, The Armenian Massacre, is for sale on line. It was published in 1911 by Fleming H. Revell. Rose was the granddaughter of William and Anna Gehman. She went to Armenia as a missionary from our church. She was there during this terrible time which, by the way, the government of Turkey officially denies ever happened. Would you like to buy a copy? \$370 is the cheapest you can get it for. We have 3 copies in our archives. Obviously, ours are not for sale but it is nice to know that something we have has some value to someone somewhere. I have begun working on scanning her book in order to make the text available on our website.

The presentations this month are meant to open up to us what people were thinking. The first is the pages of Lucy Musselman's Bible. Her notes are handwritten and probably take us to things she thought were important enough to record and had some special meaning to her. I have typed them as they appeared though I have not reproduced her handwriting. Of some interest is her record of what she had learned about dispensational theology. I am guessing that these notes are ca. 1900 which probably pre-dates the Scofield Bible which became so significant in the formation of our theology.



Jonas and Lucy Musselman ca 1860

L. Musselman, D. L.
Nazareth, Pa.

Dear Holy Ghost

SHEW UNTO ME
THE
THINGS OF CHRIST,
Amen

To do good in whatever way,
At every place and chance I may,
Much or little for thee each day;
Never refuse thee to obey:
Nor trifling throw my time away
And look to none but the for pay.

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Adam which after many generations culminated
in the Messiah

The generations of Adam Seth being chosen in
the Messiah line

The generations of Noah Shem “ “
“ “ “

The generations of Terah Abram“ “
“ “

The generations of Abraham Isaac “ “
“ “ “

The generations of Isaac Jacob “ “
“ “ “

The generations of Jacob Joseph being chosen as
the type of the Messiah

Gen 5:1 the sinners book containing the names
of every member of the first man who is of the
earth earthy 1st Cor 15:47 children of the flesh
Matt 1:1 the saviour’s book, the book of life,
containing the names of those that are born of
the spirit Phil 4:3, Gal 3:26

In one of these books stands the name of every
man, woman or child by nature the children of
Adam, children of wrath Eph 2:2-3 1st Cor 15:22

read

when you have the blues read 27th psalm
when pocketbook is empty read 37th psalm
when people seem unkind read 15 chapter of St
John
if your are discouraged about your work read
126 psalm

People who take time to repine at their own
weaknesses or shortcomings instead of exalting

God’s Grace & mercy, are selfish enough to wait
on their failings at the risk of their own souls
ruin.

God’s promises will never fail ye saints of the
Lord, plant both feet on them and look up,
prayer through until you hear from heaven; then
shout the victory in the face of all opposition.

Grow old along with me

The best is yet to be

The last of life, for which the first was made

Our times are in His hands

Who saith, a whole I planned

Youth shows but half; trust God, see all, nor be
afraid.

Old – are we growing old?

Life blooms as we travel on

Up the hills, into fresh lovely dawn;

We are children who do but begin

The sweetness of life to win

Because heaven is in us, to bud and unfold

We are younger for growing old.

[map – The Environs of Jerusalem]

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Samaritans

*After the captivity of the Israelites Samaria was
colonized by men of Babylon who mingled with
the Jew left there these formed the Samaritan
race that gave the returned captives so much
trouble during the rebuilding of the temple

*Christ’s seven words from the cross

1st His prayer for his murderers Luke 23:34

Christ’s cry to God, “Why hast thou forsaken me
Matt 27:46

Christ’s expression of thirst John 19:28

Christ’s declaration of a finished redemption
John 19:30

Christ’s provision for his mother John 19:26

Christ commending his soul to God Luke 23:46

*for those who think all will be saved at last
Read Rev. 21:8

*Some people say we all go to one place
Will Lincoln & John Wilkes Booth, Garfield and
Giteau, Paul and Nero Herod and John and the
infants he slaughtered sit side in heaven

*Palm tree frequently attain a height of 80 feet
Its trunk is strait and unbroken
Leaves are frequently 20 feet in length
Its fruit is the daily food to millions
Its sap furnishes an agreeable wine
This one tree supplies almost all the wants of the
Arab
The foliage is a perpetual green
Foliage grows as far away from the earth as
possible
And as near to heaven as possible
Bears its fruit in old age, and most when
burdened
The syrien put to 360 different uses

*Enthusiasm a Greek word means the fullness of
divine inspiration

*Taking up the cross means going out to die

*God has nothing worth having that is easy
There are no cheap goods in the heavenly
market
Our redemption costs all that God had to give
And everything worth having is expensive
A. B. Simpson

[Map - Palestine in the time of our Lord]

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*The prophets. The Lord's Revelation of his
plans to his Children.
Genesis, means fall
Exodus, God's Redemtion
Liviticus, Communion

Numbers Wilderness wanderings
Deuteronomy Consecration
Joshua Heavenly places
Judges, the Christian's failures
Ruth Union with Christ
1st Samuel The Kingdom of mans traditions
2nd & first Chronicles The Kingdoms under
David
1st Kings and 1st Chronicles The Kingdom of
Peace
2 Kings and 2d Chronicles The Divided
Kingdom
Ezra Restoration from Backsliding
Nehemiah Faithful service
Esther, Gods Faithfulness
Job the death of self
Psalms the life hid with God Christ in God
Proverbs Guidance
Ecclesiastes the vanity of the world
The Song of Solomon Love of Christ & the
Church

Zachius come first step it is not so much the
higher life as it is the lower
Heaven is only for pardoned sinners

Kingdom of God when we are loyal to God we
belong to his Kingdom

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Christ He is
The promised seed in Eden
The sheltering ark of Noah
The Ram offered instead of Isaac
The Passover Lamb of Exodus
The Perfect Sacrifice of Liviticus
The Life giving serpent of Numbers
The accessible refuge of Deuteronomy
The gracious of Joshua
The mighty man of valor of Judges
The Kinsman Redeemer of Ruth
The Dependent Conqueror of Samuel
The Glorious King of Kings
The vigilant administrator of Chronichles

The prayer Builder of Nehemiah
The wise leader of Ezra
The prevailing intercessor of Esther
The delivering daysman of Job
The patient sufferer of the Psalms
The upright son of Proverbs
The wise man of Ecclesiastes
The attractive beloved of the Canticles
The beautiful messenger of Isaiah
The weeping Prophet in Jeremiah
The glorious one of Ezekiel
The cut-off promise of Daniel
The refreshing dew of Hosea
The resolute Judge of Joel
The raised up of Amos
The satisfying possession of Obediah
The afflicted substitute of Jonah
The cast away sins of Micah
The irresistable stronghold of Nahum
The holy searcher of Habbakuk
The glad singer of Zephaniah
The faithful blesser of Haggai
The smitten shepherd of Zachariah
The coming refiner of Malachi

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My Bible and I

We've traveled together,
My Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather
With smile or with sigh!
In sorrow or sunshine,
In tempest or calm,
In friendship unchanging,
My Lamp and my psalm!

We've traveled together,
My Bible and I,
When life had grown weary
And earth e'en was nigh,
But all through the darkness
Of mist or of wrong,
I found it a solace,

A prayer and a song.

So now who shall part us,
My Bible and I?
Shall Isms or Schisms,
Or, "New Lights," who try?
Shall shadows for substance,
Or stone for good bread
Supplant its sound wisdom,
Give folly instead.

Ah, no! my dear Bible,
Exponent of light,
Thou Sword of the Spirit
Put error to flight;
And still through life's journey,
Until my last sigh,
We'll travel together,
My Bible and I. - Selected

About 850 quotations for the old Testament in the new

In Matthew alone over 100 out of 20 of the old testament Books

In Mark quotations from 13 of the old books

In John 11 out of 6 books

In Corinthians 53

In Hebrews 85, in Revelation alone 245 quotations out of the old books

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*All the rest and gladness and power of our Christian life hinges on one thing, taking God at his word, believing that he really means exactly what he says and accepting the very words in which he reveals his goodness and grace without substituting others or altering the precise moods and tenses which he has seen fit to use.

Pleasure

*They came to a delicate plain called ease where they went with much content but that plain was

but narrow so they soon got over it. Pilgrim's Progress

Jonathan

*Although Jonathan loved David he clung to Saul

He stripped himself and gave all that he had
He delighted and spoke well of David
Promised much and made a covenant with him.
*When David was rejected Jonathan was in Saul's court

When David was in the cave Jonathan was next to the throne
When David was in danger Jonathan was safe in the house
How could he be happy when David's place was empty
He could not even speak of his friend before Saul

To abide with David to much of a cross
The result is such are not witnesses of David's glory
Jonathan died in battle with a God-deserted king
Not many wise not many noble are called
They who share in Christ's rejection, will share in his glory

Christ appeared after his resurrection John 20:14 Mark 16:12 John 20:19 1st Cor 15:5-7-8 John 20:26 John 21:1-2 Luke 24:36
Sin is wrongdoing John3:4
Sin is neglecting to do right James 4:17
Whatsoever is not of faith is sin Rom 14:23

A praiseful spirit moveth quick
A grumbler in the mud will stick

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God has given me a song a song of trust
And I sing it all day long for sing I must
Every hour it sweeter grows fills my soul with blest repose

Just how restful no one know but those who trust

Oh sing it on the mountains in the light
Where the radiance of God's sunshine makes all bright
All my path seems bright and clear
Heavenly land seems very near
And I almost do appear to walk by sight

Oh sing it in the desert parched and dry
Living streams begin to flow a rich supply
Obedience in abundance grows
Desert blossoms like a rose
And my heart with joy overflows at God's reply

Oh sing it in the valley dark & low
When my heart is crushed with sorrow pain and woe
Then the shadows flee away like the night when dawns the day
Trust in God brings light alway. I find it so

For I crossed the river of Jordan. And I stand
In the blessed land of Promise Beulah land
Trusting is like breathing here
Just as easy. Doubt and fear
Vanish in this atmosphere, In Beulah Land

Chorus

Ye you trust in the Lord sing a glad refrain
Raise your song on high his mighty love proclaim
For his promise is sure ye shall not be put to shame
Ye shall never be confounded again praise his name.

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Seven Dispensations

Man's failure 1st Dispensation
1st man innocent from the creation to the expulsion

Man under conscience 2nd Dispensation
Had knowledge of good and evil, imagination of
the from their youth up
God closed the second testing with the flood
Gen 3:7-22 Gen 6:5,11,12 Gen 7:11,12,23

3rd Dispensation Man in authority over the
earth
This dispensation of Human Government
resulted upon the Plain of Shinar, in the impious
attempt to become independent of God, closed
in Judgment Confusion of tongues Gen 9:12,
Gen 11:1-4 Gen 11:5-8

4th Dispensation Man Under Promise
Call of Abraham
Some of the promises to Abraham were entirely
gracious and unconditional othes under
conditions of faithfulness and obedience every
condition was violated and resulted in the utter
failure of Israel and closed in the Egyptian
bondage, The book of Genesis opened with the
sublime words, in the beginning God created,"
and closed with in a coffin in Egypt. Gen 12:1-3
Gen 13:14,17 Gen 15:5, 26 Ex 1:13-14 Gen 12:13

5th Dispensation Man under Law
Promised they would do all that God had
spoken but continually violated the Law were
driven out of promised land, a feeble remnant
returned under Ezra & Nehemiah of which in
due time Christ came, and Him both Jew and
Gentile conspired to crucify Ex 19:1-8 Rom 10:5
Gal 3:10 Rom 3:19-28 2d Kings 17:1-8 2 Kings
25:1-11 Act 2:22,23 Acts 7:51,52

6th Dispensation Man under Grace
Christ's death introduced the dispensation of
pure grace, giving righteousness, instead of
requiring righteousness, salvation offered freely
to both Jews and Gentile upon condition of faith
John 6:29, 47 John 5:24 John 10:27,28 Eph 2:8,9
Luke 18:8 Luke 26-30 Rev 3:15-16.

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Continued

First event in the closing of this dispensation
1Thess 4:16,17 Then follows brief period called
the great tribulation Matt 24:21-23 Zeph 1:15-18
Dan 12:1 James 30:5-7 After this his return to
introduce 7th Dispensation Matt 24:29,30 Matt
25 31:46

Seventh Dispensation Man under the personal
reigh of Christ
After purifying Israel he will reign over restored
Israel, seat of his power Jerusalem Acts 15:14-19
Isai 2:1-4 Rev 19:11,24 Rev 20: 1,6 Isai 11 Satan
bound for a thousand years last dispensation
will close in Judgment of the great white throne
where wicked will be judged then new heaven.

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(part of page is torn away – probably this is a list
of rules for meetings)

(partial lines)

Seat

For the meeting

[?]ger welcome

Do not know one note

Will feel the better for hav[?]

Encourage others

If it is only two words, five

[?] onies are better than a whole

Of nothings

Keep your mouth shut for fear of

[?]ing mistakes, Bless your heart, a hundred

[?]ars from now the fact you used poor grammar

won't bother you a bit, especially if some soul

was saved because you did something.

(full lines)

10. Don't start a discussion

11. Talk the meeting up and not down

12. Don't wait until the last one, somebody will
say just what you want to say, that always
happens.

13. Do not think of the engagement tomorrow
too much world in your heart will act like water
on fire.

14. If the meeting drags, don't you drag also

Make it snap somehow

15. Remember the leader needs prayer sympathy and support

16. Remember long prayers are too good for a good meeting

17. Look just as pleasant as you can it is contagious Remember it is God's service and not the human beings leadings.

Finally take home that part of the meeting that hit you the hardest, pray over it don't pass it over your should to someone else.

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God has nothing worth having that is easy

There are no cheap good in the heavenly market

*Our redemption cost all that God had to give
And everything worth having is expensive

*Covetousness is a desire to have more, it is the spirit that is never satisfied.

*Enthusiasm, a Greek word, mean the fullness of divine inspiration

*Taking up the cross means going out to die

*Gist the main point, * The word girl is found in Zach 8:5 also Joel 3:3

*The trusting children of God will never talk about their troubles except to tell Jesus, and then "give others the sunshine." One of the best things ever said by Emerson was, "If you have slept, or if you have not slept will; if you have nervous prostration, indigestion, liver complaint, leprosy or thunder stroke, in the name of all the good angels do not tell us about it."

*In all unbelief there are these two things a good opinion of ourselves, and a bad opinion of God Horatius Bonar

*Unbelieving prayer is a prayer to an unknown God

*It is not error what man hates, but the truth John 15:25 Bonar

*People hate the truth because they hate Christ

*Election does not hinders us from coming to Christ it is our depravity

*Election is God's way to overcome hindrances

*God is not the fault when we do not come he is not bound to pluck us out of the fire when we are unwilling

Bonar

*All true repentance has it root in faith, Bonar (hand with pointed finger) An old saint said I am always happy because I always have my own way, God's will and mine are always one. (hand with pointed finger) When God speak, man has nothing to do but to believe and submit, we are to come as students not as critics.

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Man lost his life by believing the devil and regains it by believing on the son of God The Garden of Gethsamane, and the Garden of Joseph have undone all the wrong of the Garden of the fall and opened the gates of Eden

Rev 20:11-13 and the books were opened Book of Privileges where the condemned sinner lived and died

The light under which he has sinned
The means of salvation within his reach
The sermons he heard or might have heard
The sinner will be held accountable for what he might have known

Fallen asleep of my family and gone before to meet in the morning

My oldest daughter Emma died Sep 9 1881

Aged 16 years 5 month 8 days

My husband Jonas Musselman March 26 1886

Aged 46 years 4 months 14 days

My daughter Sallie 22d April 1888

Aged 18 years 9 days

My son Allen May 8th 1900 aged

27 months 4 months

These all died in the faith

Blessed are the dad which die in the Lord

From henceforth; Yea saith the Spirit

That they rest from the labors

And their works do follow them.

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*To believe, God, requires no proofs, and no reasonings only a choice of the will, For the will has var more to do with our believing than most people think.

(hand with pointed finger) No man whose life is devoted to God , no worker in city or village, in Home Country or Foreign field ought to lay his head upon a pillow to rest until he is tired out with service.

*John 17:16 Many Christians are spending valuable time and strength in vain attempts to reform the world it is true the world needs reforming but we are not of the world.

My name is Lucy Musselman
My maiden name was Brunner
I was born February 16th 1842
Married Oct 23 1859
W B was born Oct 3rd 1860

Emma was born April 1st 1865
Harvey was born Feb 11th 1868
Sallie was born April 13th 1870
Allen was born Dec 29th 1872
Hattie was born Feb 19 1876

Upon thy word I trust
So strong so sure
So full of comfort blessed
So sweet so pure
Try God that changeth not
That faileth never
My God I rest upon
Thy God forever

To me remains nor place nor time
My county is in every clime
I can be calm and free from care
On any shore since God is there.

These essays are the work of Pastor JC Roth. These were probably sermons which he turned into essays. Perhaps some will recall him and his preaching. What he thought and how he taught it come to life in these short writings.

His obituary from the 1943 Yearbook records:

Rev. John C. Roth was born at Leesport, Berks County, Pa., on July 14, 1876, and fell asleep at his late home in Lehighton, Pa., on October 12, 1943 at the age of sixty-seven years, two months and twenty-eight days.

He was converted when a young boy and was granted Annual Conference License in 1900, being ordained by the Pennsylvania Conference in 1903 at the Annual Conference held in Mount Carmel, Pa.



J.C. Roth and family

During the forty-three years of his ministry he served the following pastorates: Quakertown and Hatfield, Allentown, Bethlehem, Royersford and Spring City, Emmaus, Macungie and Zionsville, Reading, Walnutport, Lehighton and Weissport.

Though being in failing health for several years, he continued in spite of physical handicap to serve his appointed charge until just a few days prior to Annual Conference. He had everything in readiness for his attendance at Conference and was eagerly looking forward to his meeting with the brethren. This privilege was denied him, the Lord whom he served leading otherwise. We humbly bow to the will of our Heavenly Father Who doeth all things well.

During the ministry of Brother Roth, many souls were brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of these a goodly number have been added to the Church.

Pastor F. B. Hertzog who was converted under the ministry of Brother Roth, had charge of a brief funeral service held from the Lamont Zimmerman Funeral Home in Lehighton, Pa., on Friday evening at 8:30 P. M.

Further services were held in Bethel M. B. C. Church, Allentown, Pa., on Saturday at 1 :30 P. M. The Pastor of the Church, B. Bryan Musselman was in charge of the service. Pastor F. B. Hertzog read the Scripture lesson and offered prayer. Presiding Elder H. B. Musselman preached the sermon, using for his text Hebrews 11:10,16. A quartet of Gospel Herald Brethren rendered several selections in song. Most of the Pastors in the active work were in attendance paying a last tribute to one of their co-workers in the ministry. Burial was made in the Moravian Cemetery in Emmaus.

BAPTIZED FOR THE DEAD

1 Cor. 15:29

By J. C. Roth

At Corinth, they practiced the baptizing of a living person in behalf of a friend who died unbaptized.

Paul, without giving the least sanction to the practice uses an argument from it against its practices, some of whom using it denied the resurrection.

What account can they give of their practice? Why are they troubled about them if the dead rise not?

While the Apostle gave no sanction to the practice of baptizing a living person in behalf of a person who had died and while we do not believe in that kind of baptism such as they practiced, yet there are a class of people for whom the Christians should be baptized. I do not mean such who have died a natural death, but such who are spiritually dead, nor do I mean that they are to be baptized with the water baptism, but with love and the Holy Spirit.

The Bible speaks of three classes of people who are dead:

First - The sinner - - see Ephesians 2:1-2

This class of people, the Apostle tells us are dead in trespasses and sins and needs to be quickened and made alive.

Second - The Backslider - - see Revelation 2:1-7.

This class is dead to its dangers. When a man goes wrong, then all he looks at is wrong. When men do not obey and walk in the light which God gives them, then that light becomes darkness, and how great will that darkness be?

Third - Christians - - Dead to their privileges.

How sad it is to see so many Christians in the Church who are living beneath their privileges! They seem to be satisfied with just a blessing now and then when they might have the Blessing with them all the time; satisfied to hang around the shore, when they might "Launch out into the deep"; satisfied with just a part of Christ when they might have a whole Christ; satisfied to have just about enough life to exist when they might have life more abundant; satisfied, they say, to just get inside the gates, when they might have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

Should not the Child of God be baptized with the love of God for these three classes of people? Not with the natural love, for that is selfish and acts like the man who did not go to the help of the sufferers until he heard that his own brother was among them, but with a supernatural love, even the love of God that will cause us to love even our enemies and those that misuse us.

We have a few examples in the Word of God who had this love:

First- Christ has this love - 2 Cor. 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might become rich.

-Romans 5:8

But God commended His love toward us in that, which we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Just think of it whom it was that He loved, not only His friends but also His enemies. (See Romans 5:10.), even praying for those who crucified Him, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do".

So we see, HE LOVED, HE GAVE, HE PRAYED, HE DIED, HE AROSE and HE LIVES, for them. PRAISE HIS NAME!

Second - Paul had this love - - Romans 9:1-3

Someone has said that verse 3 mean, "I am willing to go to hell forever if that will save my brethren". Think of it for whom he was willing to do this, even those who hated him and beat him with forty stripes save one, five times and those who had bended together that they would not acctundil they had killed him. Just think of it, willing to be accused for them if it would save them!

Third - Moses had this love - - Exodus 32:31-32

Rather have his name blotted out of the book of life than have them not forgiven. These people who cause him all that trouble and even made him sin so that he did not get into the promised land - SUCH LOVE -

Have you been baptized for the dead? God give us such love for souls and the Work.

HOW SHALL THE PASTOR PROPERLY UTILIZE HIS TIME?

By J. C. Roth

Someone has said that next to the blood of Jesus, the most precious blessing we possess is time. In Psalm 88:47, the Psalmist calls our attention to "The Shortness of Time". "How short mine time is". In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 5:16 and in [h]is letter to the Colossians, chapter 4:5 we are exhorted to "Redeem the time", he also stating the reason why, "Because the days are evil". Time is divided into three continents. Upon two of them we have already lived. Where we shall explore the third only He knows who holds our times in His hands. Now my subject is, "How shall the Pastor properly utilize his time"? I shall call your attention to only three ways in which he can properly utilize his time; there may be more, but these three I think are the most important.

First: In the studying of God's Word so as to be fully equipped for the work to which he is called.

Second: In prayer and supplication to God, first for himself and second for the people entrusted to his care and for whom he must give an account.

Third: In visiting his flock so as to get in touch with them and find out their needs.

FIRST: IN THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD.

Paul wrote to Timothy, 1 Tim. 2:15. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth". It has been remarked that the office of a lawyer is important because he watches over our property; and the work of a physician much more so, because he guards our health. "For the life is more than meat and they body more than raiment". But even these are nothing to the soothe soul and eternity. The soul and eternity are great. What can equal the mission which we have received of the Lord Jesus, "to testify the Gospel of the grace of God" and to show unto man the way of salvation? No angel ever came from heaven to earth on so mighty an errand as ours. "I send thee" says the Lord Jesus "to open their eyes to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God", "that they might receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith that is in me". Our aim is nothing less than to rescue guilty and depraved sinners from the lowest hell, and conduct them to the heaven of heavens, and to transform them from the resemblance of the devil into the perfection of the invisible God. And when the Lord comes, "What is your hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?" Are not even they in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For they are our glory and joy. Again in the Word of God, we are described as being: -

"A Soldier", "but it is the good fight of faith".

"As a fisher" but a "fisher of men".

“As a laborer”, but “a laborer together with God.”

“As a builder”, but “it is in God’s building.”

“As a watchman”, but “watch for souls”.

So the pastor can properly utilize his time in studying the Word of God, so as to be fully equipped for this great work to which he is called.

SECOND: IN PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION TO GOD.

The life of a Pastor should be eminently a life of prayer. “We will give ourselves continually to prayer”.

It is essential to spiritual life and to growth in grace. Prayer is so much a duty that spiritual life cannot possibly exist in those by whom it is disregarded. As well might they body live without the soul as any have spiritual life without prayer. The sun cannot shine and give no light; a fountain cannot spring up and send forth no stream; nor can a pastor be spiritual and not produce habitual prayer.

A prayerful spirit breathes humility, indicates a sense of want and acknowledges dependence upon God. On the contrary, the neglect of prayer invariably evinces the influence of pride or carelessness or self-ignorance and generally of all these evils combined.

Prayer is the telephone of faith and the pastor should spend much of his time talking to God through this ‘phone.

Prayer is the telegraph of love and the pastor should be kept busy sending messages over this wire.

Prayer is the key of power and the more time the pastor spends in using this key to open heaven’s storehouse of blessing, the more power he will have with God and man.

THIRD: IN VISITING HIS FLOCK.

It has been said that a house going pastor makes a church-going people. Here is where a pastor may utilize a great deal of his time and that very profitably. The closer he gets in touch with his people the better he becomes acquainted with their needs, but great care should be taken in when, how and why he visits. Not only go to those who want him most but to those who need him most. Every pastor must be with the families of his flock in sickness, danger and affliction. He must stand by the bedside when flesh and heart are failing, when earth is receding and the awful portals of eternity are opening, he must accompany many a trembling pilgrim to the

entrance of the dark valley, and as it were, go down and dip his own feet in Jordan while the dying, who cling to him are torn from his side and sink in the cold flood. He must be able to point them to Him who has said that He would go with us even through the valley of the shadow of death and that they need not fear any evil; that He would be with them and that His rod and staff would comfort them. Every hour of the pastor will be well filled up if he attends strictly to the various duties of his office.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

By J. C. Roth

The way of the Cross leads Home – how often we hear people sing and we sing the words that beautiful hymn “Where He leads me I will follow” and “Where His footprints go I’ll follow”; but oh how few there are that realize what they are singing, how few there are that really mean it. Ah yes, it is easy to follow our Lord when all goes well, when the way is smooth.

It is easy to follow when He feeds us with bread and fishes like He did the five thousand and when He tells us on which side to cast the net; like He did the disciples after they had toiled all night and caught nothing and when the taxes were due and no money to pay them. He told Peter to catch a fish and in his mouth he would find money to pay them, yes it was easy then to follow, but, do you know dear reader, there comes a time in your life when He leads a few steps farther and you will be led into the garden where in agony you will pray alone while others are sleeping unconcerned and the burden becomes so heavy you can hardly bear it; but then when you pray, nevertheless not thy will but thine be done; the He will send His angel to strengthen us and you can rise and say, “Come let go hence”. Is that all then. Oh no, you still sing “Where He leads I’ll follow” you will be led before Pilate into the judgment hall, and there alone you will stand forsaken by all.

Where were the thousands Jesus had fed when they were hungry: the many sick He had healed, and even the twelve; they all forsook Him and fled. Poor impulsive Peter, who with his big mouth had said “I will never leave thee” did not know Him; and John, the one who leaned on His bosom – where were they? Not one there to give a kind word, and say a few of the good things He had done; no only accusers. Such a time will come in our life; if we are following Him, are we willing then to still sing “Where He leads I’ll follow” and so on still a few steps farther till we come to the cross and there we hang exposed to the world will we shrink then or will we still sing “Where He leads I’ll follow”? Remember, the way of the cross leads Home, and after the cross comes the crown, after the suffering glory.

A little child while at play ran a large splinter into her finger and crying with pain she ran to her mother and while her mother was removing it she said, “Oh mamma, it hurts so”. Mamma said, “I know darling but it will feel fine when the hurting is over”. So with us, we may think it hurts so and too hard but if we come to Him the pure sinless Lamb of God who went the way before us, He will say never mind, I know all about it, I trod the way before you and it will be all right when the hurting is over

Oh may we just be there where we say not my will by thy will be done and with renewed strength and courage leaning entirely upon Him still sing, "Where He leads I'll follow" and "I'll bear the cross for Jesus, He bore the cross from me" for He is true, He never fails, though we are full of mistakes and failures.

He is the same, He still says, "I am the Lord, I change not". He still says, "Only be thou strong and of good courage and thou shalt possess the land" and His Word is forever settled in Heaven. What He says He will do. He never goes back on His Word.

Theological controversy began to brew in the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church as early as 1930. The Pennsylvania Conference began to take another path with regard to what are today called the doctrines of grace. The point of the division was eternal security. Did justification extend to sins committed after a person was saved? As you know, the issue came to a head when a merger was proposed during the 1940's which was unacceptable to the brothers in Pennsylvania. Ultimately they withdrew. In 1941, W. G. Gehman suffered through a sleepless night and penned a letter to his friend and confidant, E. N. Cassel. He probably did not intend that the letter be for the public but I share it here with the confidence that he won't mind. And when I do meet him, he won't care. It illustrates what he was thinking and the growing frustration.



E.N. Cassel

2/4/41

Dear Bro. Cassel,

Greetings in Him.

Am I correct in my belief when I say that mortality or immortality refer only to the body and never to the spirit or soul?

Was Adam the first created with a mortal or an immortal body? If you can, give me Bible proof for your answers? I sometimes think I have the answer scripturally, then again I'm a little doubtful.

Was Adam the last, or Jesus Christ's body which God prepared for Him and in which he dwelt for 33 yrs. a mortal or an immortal body?

To me it is very important to know in order to have an understanding about the sin and salvation question - full salvation.

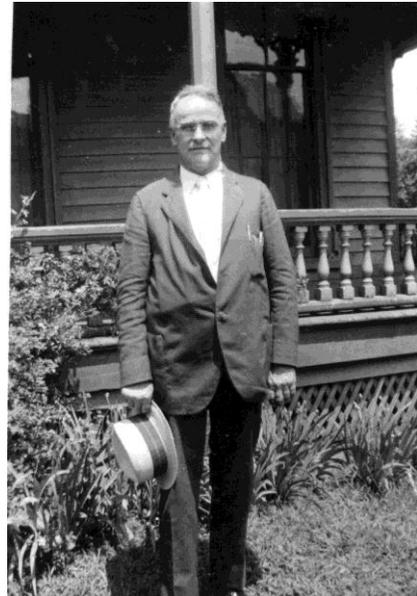
Maybe I am exercising myself in matters too deep. I certainly hope that the Lord will give you messages to write, and that you will write them for the Gospel Banner. I really believe that Bro. Yoder yearns for good original articles and not so many selections. And why don't you and some of the brethren write?

Is it not awful to have so many of the good columns of the Banner filled with such poetry as we get? More than one full page was published on Eddyism in the last issue. This thing should be stopped. We object to such selections as Whately's article and Butler's article from his Editorial and some raw stuff against eternal security, but why don't we use the better method of putting in some thing better? and crowding the other stuff out - the expulsive power of a new and better effective method of procedure.

Well, it is 4am, and I couldn't sleep just now, so I'm letting my pen go freely venting my feelings.

I'm writing off and on and will send articles from time to time as the Lord will direct me. I can't stand some things any longer and not murder my convictions. I don't think all the other brethren are beyond redemption on this line and beyond receiving and accepting the [??] from the Lord.

Very truly yours & His,
W. G. Gehman



W. G. Gehman

C. Leslie Miller began life and ministry in Shamokin. His ability to preach and teach were recognized by W. B. Musselman who utilized him as a writer of Sunday School lessons and other tracts. The following article is an undated tract published by the Union Gospel Press.

For those not familiar with C.L. Miller, the following obituary appeared in the 2000 BFC Yearbook.

Charles Leslie Miller, born September 13, 1908, in Shamokin, PA, grew up in a family of 10 children. His father was a coal miner and things were never easy. Nevertheless, young Charles had the great advantage of a very godly mother who faithfully took her family to the local Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church. Here young Charles gave himself to Christ and responded without reservation to God's call to ministry. He left home at the age of 15 to join the "hands-on" seminary called the Gospel Herald Society. Working in the inner city and helping to plant

churches were combined with study. Upon completing his training, he married his childhood sweetheart, Pearl Esther Arbogast, and began pasturing the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church in Mount Carmel.

Despite the heartbreak of losing their 11 month old son, Charles William, they obeyed God's call, and taking their second child, Marion Esther Miller Mann, they sailed to Africa as missionaries. Settling in a remote area of the Congo they began what was to be almost ten consecutive years of self-giving ministry. They built schools, orphanages, dispensaries, a leper colony, and of course, churches. God poured out His blessing in a unique way as they taught and loved and cared for those in desperate need at the Kamayala Station and the surrounding area. Their family grew. Leslie Robert and Donald Miller were born to them. Then God directed them "home" to America.

While pastoring the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church in Scranton, another son brightened their home, Ronald Charles. Later Charles was called to pastor what became a thriving church in Allentown, PA. These were busy, productive years. He earned an advanced degree through correspondence, helped to start and taught in Berean Bible School, and became involved in many other ministries. He eternally



C. Leslie Miller and family

impacted hundreds. Later he felt led to guide the Union Gospel Press in Cleveland Ohio. This prepared him for his next move which was to Southern California to work for Gospel Light. While there he wrote several popular books and pastored a church in North Hollywood. He also served as interim pastor in other Southern California churches. In recognition of his many accomplishments He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from Azusa Pacific College.

Upon one of his many "retirements," he and his wife Pearl moved to Ventura, CA. Here he became involved in the Ventura Missionary Church. He continued to pursue his writing and editorial work. In 1982 his beloved Pearl passed away. Shortly thereafter, true retirement came but he continued to travel, taking tours to the Holy Land and giving "Prophecy Conferences" nationwide. His four children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are deeply grateful for the example of self-giving service He has bequeathed to them.

In 1983 Charles married Nedra Johnson who with her sons, John and Robert, provided special care for the last 16 years of his earthly journey. Brother Miller entered the Lord's presence on June 29, 1999.

"The Search in the Cemetery"

C. Leslie Miller

Upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, some women came to the sepulcher to anoint the body of Jesus with spices which they had prepared. As they were traveling along the road toward the garden of the sepulcher, they faced in their thinking the question as to what should be done with the stone which barred from their access the body of Jesus. They were wondering who would roll the stone away for them. They came to the sepulcher and found that the stone was rolled away from the tomb. Entering in they found not the body of the Lord Jesus. The little word, "not" is the greatest word in the Bible. They "found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Now, if you were to eliminate that one word from the Scripture, you might as well take the entire Book and tear it to shreds and throw it in the fire. It would not have any more value than a newspaper. It is that one word that assures us that the Bible is God's Book. It is that one word that lifts Christianity up and beyond and above every other religious faith in existence. For only Christianity can say, "We serve a living, risen Saviour."

If, as they went into that tomb, they had discovered the body of Jesus lying upon the slab of marble, and if they had ever so carefully anointed His body with the spices which they had prepared, Paul in I Corinthians 15 says – if that were the case – then every sermon that has ever been preached was foolish and useless. Every soul, who has had a living, real faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, was nothing more than a bigoted fool. If they had found and discovered the body of Jesus in that tomb, then Paul said, "All our preaching is in vain." Furthermore, we are yet in our sins; we have never been saved. He adds to that this sad conclusion – if it were not for the fact that Jesus rose from the dead "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." Probably there is barely a family but what husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister, or son or daughter, has been laid away in the tomb. You have seen them covered with the earth and you have said the last farewell, but if you are saved and they have been saved from sin, you sorrow not as others which have no hope, because you know that some day Jesus Christ shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God and that dead one in Christ, shall rise again, and we shall meet him face to face, and together we shall be like Jesus.

Finally we come to this conclusion: If they had found the body of Jesus, we are of all men most miserable. Then the saddest, most tragic sight you could find anywhere in the world, would be a bunch of fools that believed in Christianity. You see how vitally important the resurrection of Jesus Christ is, when it says, "They . . . found not the body of the Lord Jesus"? Are you not glad that word is in the Bible? That changes everything. Because of that little "not," we have a Saviour who can save the vilest sinner from sin. We have One who can restore us after we are saved if we fall into sin again, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for us. "And so, they found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

It came to pass, as these women were much perplexed thereabout, wondering why the body of Jesus was missing, "behold, two men stood by them in shining garments." These were not

angels. There was one Angel who came down and rolled the stone away, but these were men. Nowhere does the Bible say they were angels. I believe that there is no doubt that these were Moses and Elijah, the same two who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration. The women being afraid, bowed down their faces to the earth, as these two men said unto them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered His words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass."

In this message we would like to paint for you, as God enables us, three pictures: We would like, first of all, to give you a picture of night; the blackest night this world has ever known – midnight; the darkest night the universe has ever experienced; the only night that Heaven has ever known. There has only been one time in its creation that Heaven was dark; only one time when a shadow fell over the entire universe, a shadow so dark and so dense that nothing could dispel its gloom. We would like to tell you this evening about a dawn – earth's brightest, most glorious dawn. A dawn so bright that death fled in terror before it; so bright that the grave itself shuddered until its bars were broken asunder. A dawn so beautiful that it dried the falling tears and healed the broken-hearted and lifted men and women, who were sunken deep into the morass of hopeless despair and raised them up and sent them forth with a flame burning in their hearts that nothing, not even the fires and persecution can quench: The brightest, most wonderful dawn the world has ever known. I want to tell you about a search; a search for something eternally alive, for someone sweet and lovely and fragrant. A search for life embodied that never could face death again and yet a search in the place of death, in a place of stench and dried, decaying bones and maggots and decay. A search for joy and comfort, hope and life in a place where one could only find sorrow and despair; terror and tears.

Let us look at this night. As the day of Christ's ministry drew to a close, the sun set and the glorious Hosannas of the multitude who crowded the streets of Jerusalem and in the fanaticism of their religious frenzy, tore the garments from their bodies and strewed them on the highway. Had you been there, you would have seen the urchins climb the palm trees and cut the branches off and throw them down to eager hands reaching up to grasp them. They spread them on the highway and the roads to Jerusalem, and there came riding, as some great triumphant king, over the garments, the glittering white and brilliant colored garments and the verdant green of the palm branches, the Son of God Himself. The cries of the crowds seemed to rend the air itself and shake that old city to its very foundation, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord!" Thus the ministry of Jesus Christ set in that glorious dusk. Then there came the

threatening darkness of betrayal. In John 13:30 we read that Judas went out immediately and it was night. From the loud Hosannas, the triumphant marching of Christ as the conquering King and Son of David through the streets of Jerusalem, we pass from that brilliant sunset to the threatening dusk of the betrayal. We enter a humble, upper room and there we find Jesus seated at the table and about Him the twelve apostles. He holds in His hands the bread, and there before Him stands the goblet of wine, as He institutes the Lord's Supper. Suddenly there seems to arise from the depths of His soul, I would say from the depths of a heart already crushed and rending and broken, a sigh, such as human ears have never heard. Looking about sadly upon His loved ones there by His side, gathered around Him at that table, He says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me." Immediately there was consternation, confusion and chaos in that upper room. One turns to another and says, "Who do you think He means? Do you think He possibly could mean me? Is it I, Lord?" Judas said, "Lord, do you mean me?" Judas knew who Jesus meant. Jesus, turning to him, said, "Now what you do, Judas, do quickly." The disciples never got the drift of that statement. They thought that because Judas was the treasurer, Jesus meant that Judas should go out and buy some food and prepare for the Passover feast. The Bible says, "He (Judas) . . . went immediately out: and it was night." It was the "dusk of betrayal.

We are coming now into the hours of night, the most awful night the world has ever known. Then the hours speed by- We come at nine o'clock in the life of Christ, to the gathering shadows of denial. Supper is ended. Judas has gone. Already he is discussing the method of betrayal. The disciples leave the upper room and make their way through those winding narrow alleys and thoroughfares of Jerusalem outside the city wall to the brook Cedron. There was a lovely garden that Jesus oft times resorted to, just a public little park and great gnarled olive trees and cypress trees, and some great, massive boulders thrown up there in some geological age of the past. As they come to the outer limits of this park or this garden, even as they had been in the upper room and were traversing the streets of Jerusalem, and approaching the garden, there was an approaching shadow, a gloomy shadow that seemed to press with oppressive force upon them, for Jesus, just as they left the upper room, had turned to Peter and said, "Peter, listen, before the cock crow thrice thou shalt deny Me." So He comes to the nine o'clock hour of denial.

The hours speed by and we come to eleven o'clock and it is the dark evening of rejection (John 18:40). Jesus now stands before the multitudes. By His side is Pontius Pilate, the proud, arrogant, Roman governor. The slave kneels humbly before him and proffers the golden basin filled with sparkling water, and over his arm is drooped the towel. Pilate dips his hands in the water, and daintily dries them on the towel that the slave proffered to him. Turning to the multitude, Pilate says, "His blood be upon you. I am not guilty of the blood of this Man." There came, as the roar of an angry lion, from the throats of that multitude, "Not this Man, but Barabbas! Crucify Him! His blood be upon us and upon our children." There was fulfilled the statement made in John 1:11: "He came unto His own." Those who should have received Him

with open arms and loved Him and followed His feet in abject worship and humility, received Him not. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." The dark evening of rejection.

Then comes the hour, the dread hour of midnight – twelve o'clock. We have the black midnight of separation (Matt. 27:46). Jesus now hangs upon the Cross. The wrath of men had been expended in its maniacal fury upon Him. He was transfixed, nails driven through His hands and feet. No matter which way He would move His head, it only shot a fresh pang of agony into His body, for there was pressing into His scalp that crown of thorns. His back was raw, bleeding and torn almost to shreds from the Roman scourge, and with every writhe and movement it seemed that that rough cross dug deeper into those open wounds. He hangs there, suffering and bleeding and dying upon the Cross of Calvary, when suddenly the skies become black. The sun hid its face – my friend, I want you to get this – not because nature was in sympathy with the Son of God hanging upon the Cross; nature joined with God that awful day in bitter anger, not at what man had done to the Son of God, but anger at sin because He hung there not as an innocent man. I want you to remember that. Jesus Christ was not a martyr as He hung upon the Cross. He hung there as a guilty murderer, adulterer, whoremonger, libertine, thief, liar and every sin that man had ever committed was borne by Jesus upon the Cross. God made Him to be sin that awful day – for us. Literally God robbed Him of His righteousness, and purity and innocence and hung our sins upon Him, so that we might receive His righteousness and purity and holiness. I can only describe that awful hour of midnight in these words, "He died for me."

Years later, the Apostle Paul dipped his pen in the ink of inspiration and scratched upon the parchments these words, "Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Oh, my friend, no matter what your attitude may be toward Jesus – you may despise Him and every second word that issues out of your mouth may be a word of blasphemy, every sentence you speak, you may take His precious Name in vain – but He loved you and He gave Himself for you upon the Cross of Calvary.

The hour of midnight was brought, not by the nails, not by the crown of thorns, not by the agony of His torn back, not by the pangs of an intolerable thirst, but that awful hour of midnight was brought when suddenly God in His anger, because of the sin that Jesus bore, turned His back. For the first time in all eternal history the Son of God found Himself separated from His Heavenly Father, and in the agony and despair of that moment, there came from the depths of a broken heart, the cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" The midnight of separation: the darkest night the world has ever known.

The hours went by. Four o'clock in the morning – the hour right before the dawn, the darkest of all hours. We read in Luke 23:46, "When Jesus had cried with a loud voice. . . He gave up the ghost." He died! My friend, let me tell you something: When Jesus Christ cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit," and gave up His life and His head fell forward in death upon His chest; when He died, my friend, healing died, and wisdom died. Should He die as He did and should those women have discovered His body upon that marble slab in the Tomb, never again would a blind man come groping his way through his darkness to the Son of God and feel that tender touch and find the brilliant sunlight bursting upon his vision for the first time. Never again could a leper come and say, "Oh, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me," for healing died when Jesus died. Hope died when Christ died.

The day of His resurrection two disciples were on their way to Emmaus. You can imagine what they were talking about, when a stranger drew near and joined himself to them and now three walked down the highway toward Emmaus. The stranger, turning to them, said, "Say, what are you talking about anyway? You seem so interested. What's the subject of discussion?" "Why," they said, "are you a stranger? Haven't you heard about Jesus of Nazareth, mighty in word and deed?" Listen to what they said, "And we hoped that it had been He that should have redeemed Israel, but He died. He is dead." When Jesus died on the Cross, hope died there. There was a time in my life when God took a little baby from us, and when he died I wanted to die with him. When Jesus died, hope died. Sometimes God must stoop down and pluck these little tender lilies of ours. We have no time to think of God. Sometimes God must come down and take that little boy or girl from us, so that we look up and have an investment up there, someone to meet some day. God had to do it in my life, but when Jesus died, hope died and if He had remained dead, the world would have no hope whatever for time and for eternity. When Jesus died, love died. Had He remained dead, never again would a poor, fallen, outcast prostitute, despised and kicked and spurned and spit upon and ostracized and shunned, hear those tender words of forgiveness, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." When Jesus died, light died. He was the Light of the world. Suddenly the Light was extinguished. There was no Light. Yes, all that was beautiful and tender and lovely and good, died when Jesus died. Nothing was left, but night – dark, hopeless night.

Then there came the dawn. In Luke 24:1-8 you have it. Christ is dead! Hope, life, light, wisdom, healing, all have died with Christ there on the Cross, but then on the third day there came the first ray of dawn from a pilgrimage of devotion. "Very early in the morning, they" – Who? Just a couple women – They came unto the sepulcher. But, I want you to note that they were not just women; they were not just ordinary women. They were women who had come into contact with a force, a personality, a life that had transformed them completely. I find Peter, hiding in the shadows, trembling before a little girl as she pointed her finger at him and said, "Truly, you are one of His disciples." I find that all the disciples forsook Him and fled. But, I find these women right there at the Cross when Jesus died. They stood by Him. When those big, strong he-men fled like a bunch of craven cowards the women were there. Where do you think Jesus

got the clothes for His back? From these women. Who do you think prepared His food? I believe they did. They followed Him, ministering to Him wherever He went. They gave up everything for Jesus' sake. I have an idea that Peter and James and John and Andrew and Thomas and Nathaniel and all the disciples were home in their beds, soundly sleeping, snoring away. Not the women; they were up all night. Over the hot cook stove they were preparing spices to anoint the body of Jesus, and very early in the morning, they were the ones who brought the first ray of this wonderful dawn we are talking about. As they came to the tomb, they made a startling discovery. They found the stone rolled away. The dawn becomes brighter now. The first ray of light we have is the coming of these women to the sepulcher. There is a little light there. Then the shadows become just a little bit thinner; less dense, as they come and find the stone rolled away. There is hope now. For an angel sent from God, had descended from the heavens down to the tomb. This angel had come all the way down to that tomb, and the stone was rolled away from the sepulcher. Now the shadows begin to flee. The night is beginning to get dispelled, for God's angel shattered the darkness. As we go into that sepulcher, I want you to notice, very carefully, the following statement: We have emphasized it before, we want to say just a few words about it again, "They . . . found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Now listen, when those women came to the sepulcher, they found the stone pushed to one side, or probably lying shattered upon the ground. Peering in they found not the body of the Lord Jesus. If He were not there, then He was not dead, for there was no man who would have dared to break the Roman signet and pull that stone away and steal the body of Jesus. If the body of Jesus was not there, it could only mean one thing, He was no longer dead; He was alive! If He lives, then there could be no night. Oh, soul, lost in sin, dead to God, dead in trespasses and sins, in spite of all your churchianity, in spite of all your profession, in spite of your splendid record of catechism, baptism, reformation, confirmation, communion and all that, unless you have found in Jesus the living One, who comes and dwells in your heart by faith, and quickens your soul and makes you alive to God; unless you have had that experience, you are dead in God's sight, just as dead as though you were six feet under the ground and your body already moldering to dust. He was not in the grave and that could only mean one thing: He was living! Because He was living the night is finished and the dawn has arrived. When they found not the body, they saw two men there and these two men asked the question, "What are you looking for here? Why do you women conduct your search for what you are looking for in a cemetery?" That is actually what they meant. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" They were looking for Jesus, a dead man, a corpse. These two men said, "Don't be foolish. Do not look here. You are looking at the wrong place. Why search in the cemetery for a living man? He is not dead. He is not here. He is risen!"

This world we are living in, my friend, every square inch of it, in every country, in every clime, in every continent, every square inch of this earth we are living upon is a cemetery. It is a morgue. God looking down from Heaven upon this earth, says, "It is dead. It is dead. It is a world populated, a planet populated by dead men and women." Deadmen and women go in the offices, in the factories, walk the streets. The children play in the playgrounds and attend the

schools, and God says, "Every one of them is dead." This whole world is nothing but a cemetery. God asks the question, "Why are you looking for something living among the dead?"

I would like to ask you three questions in closing this message, "Are you looking for peace in the graveyard of sin?" You are putting on a good bluff. You face the world with your shoulders thrown back, a big grin upon your face, and everybody says, "My, what a happy, contented family that is." The neighbors look enviously at you probably and they say, sometimes in their family conclave, "Why can't we be like the Jones' are? Why, they always get along so well. They are so prosperous. Everything seems to go fine for them," and you may be that Jones. You are putting on a big bluff and you are going down through life with a great big smile on your face and you whistle as you walk down the street to your work in the morning, and the world does not dream that in your heart there is a cancer eating away. You are miserable. They never hear those sighs. They never see those tears that stain your pillow at night. They never know how you toss miserably and restlessly upon your pallet through the long dreary hours of the night. Oh, how wretched and miserable you are! And perchance you again and again have come to that same place as that great man of Europe did, as he walked through his palatial, luxurious palace and gardens; his faithful dog trotting by his side, when suddenly he stopped in his tracks, turned to his dog and said, "Nero, I'd give everything I own if I could change places with you." He said that to his dog. Great men of the world, men of prosperity and success, go down through life, and the world acclaims and cheers them. They tell young men and youth today, "Why don't you be like Mr. So-and-So is? Make something out of yourself." The next morning you pick up your paper and open it up and there in screaming headlines, "Mr. So-and-So, shot his brains out last night." Suicide! But, friend, listen, why are you looking for peace in the graveyard of sin? You will never find it there. Go where you want to in this world; try anything you care to try; make your experiments in life, and yet that cancer of unrest is gnawing at your soul. Oh, how miserable you are. You have no peace. God said, "There is no peace ... to the wicked." You can never know what peace is until you get right with God.

Are you searching for satisfaction in the cemetery of worldliness? You, young fellow, young girl. You say, "Oh, if I could only have a bigger party, a better date, a better dance, another good evening; another good time," and you are going out into the world and are trying to wring from it the last drop of pleasure in your mad quest for something that will satisfy you. You will never find it in pleasure, for the pleasure of sin endures but for a season. There is more than one man lying like a beast in the gutter. He does not know his name anymore. He could not walk a straight line without falling over. He is so stupidly drunk. There is only one reason he is drunk. In most cases, not because they like the filthy stuff, not because it tastes good, they are trying to forget. They are trying to drown it all. That will not satisfy. Tomorrow you have the same thing to face, and on top of it, what you did the night before.

Are you groping for an assurance for eternity in the mortuary of dead religion? You say, "I belong to one of the finest churches. Yes sir, we have the biggest membership and we have a very fine group in our church. I was brought up as a baby in that church. My parents, my grandparents have always been members of this denomination and as a little baby, I was carried there and I was baptized. I was dedicated. That's my religion and nothing in the world will ever make me change." Who is trying to? I was visiting a woman recently. Now understand, I did not say a word to her about joining our church. We do not want anyone in our church unless he is born again. Unless he really knows that God has changed him and translated him from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son, there is no place for him in our church as a member. We are glad to have him come. But we do not want him as a member, until he is really born again. I did not even have in my mind that that woman should ever join the church. I went in and began to talk to her, read a little Bible, bow my head in prayer, and ask God to bless her and help her, and the moment I opened my eyes, she said, "I like you all right, but I'll never join your church." I said, "Who in the world asked you to join our church?" She said, "Whether we are wrong or not, I'll never change my religion." Poor soul!

My friend, listen. More people are riding to hell on the express of religion than any other way. I say that because I believe it is the deadliest danger that we face. I am not afraid of Communism. Crooked politics are not a menace to our churches. The forces of gambling and crime, tragic as it is true, are not the menace we face. The greatest menace we face is a religion having a form of Godliness and denying the power thereof. There are thousands who are going to hell because they believe that since they were baptized as babies, they are children of God. Think I am a fanatic. If you do not believe me, go out on the streets and stop anybody, and I will guarantee you that out of ten, at least five will answer you, when you ask them if they are Christians, "Of course I am. I am a church member. I was baptized when I was a little baby." They are placing their hope for eternity upon religion. Dead, lifeless, hopeless religion. Why look for life in dead religion? Why seek ye the living among the dead? Oh, my friend, listen, religion will never give you peace. Just religion will never satisfy the craving of your soul. Religion can never bring that assurance, "I am ready to meet God, now." No indeed, religion can never do that. But I will tell you something, the resurrected Christ can! Yes, He can, and He wants to do that. This is God's message for you.

Jesus, God's Son, died on the Cross to save you from your sin. He took your place. All the wrath of God against your sin was poured out upon Him and He died for you and He gave Himself for you and He came out of that grave in order to bring from the Cross into your heart and into your experience the powers of redemption, eternal life and fellowship with our Father. Come to Christ, will you? You have been trusting in religion. You have been looking in the world for peace. Come to Jesus!

You have come to the end of this "Out of the Archives" edition. I always prepare these publications with the hope that you will find what you read to be interesting and even informative. If any of these articles sparked a memory or a thought, I would be glad to hear whatever went running through your mind. I will be glad for anything you would share.

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Zionsville Church



Horace Kauffman



Rose Lambert



Allentown Men - Boys Brigade



Mizpah Grove



Fellowship Community - Ground Breaking



Missionary Reunion - Zook, Feldges, Snyder families