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No 7

LOVE & TRUTH

GOD IS LOVE

JOHN IV. 8

GOD IS LIGHT

JOHN I. 9

Newtownards Baptist Church MONTHLY MESSENGER

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"Till He Come"

"Till He come!" Yes, he is coming!

Jesus, our ascended Lord;

Coming back as He hath promised,

Coming to fulfil His word;

Coming not in lowly fashion

But in glorified array,—

Coming back, oh Hallelujah,—

Welcome to that gladsome day!

"Till He come!" Yes, He is coming,—

Coming midway first to air;

Then, oh then, how blest the rapture

Which His blood-bought saints shall share!

In a brief,—a twinkling moment,—

Loved ones, parted long, shall meet,

In that sweet and blest re-union

Round the dear Redeemer's feet!

"Till He come!" Yes, He is coming!

Coming back to earth again,

Coming back, and with His sceptre

O'er this earth to rule and reign.

Coming back to take dominion,

Then to rule as King of Peace

When this earth from Satan's bondage

Shall have welcome, glad release.

J. D. SMITH.

Misunderstood Scripture—No. 5.

He went and preached unto the Spirits in prison.—I Peter, iii., 19.

With what avidity the second chance and larger hope people pounce upon this verse and declare that here is a sure foundation for their Hellish invention of future Salvation and hope beyond the grave.

For say they with such cocksureness: "Didn't the Lord Jesus spend His time between Death and His resurrection in preaching Salvation to the Spirits in prison."

This is not the teaching of the lesser lights only, but such scholarly men as Dr Bullinger, and Canon Farrar say the same. We heard the former say it and read the latter teaching it in his "Eternal Hope."

We make no attempt to deal with this Scripture in detail. Our limited space forbids; but we ask our readers to consider a few facts briefly stated:—Chapter I., 10-11. The prophets searched diligently what or what manner of time the SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHICH WAS IN THEM did signify.

Reader isn't this clear? The Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit was in the prophets of old, and these Holy Men of Old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost—II. Peter, i., 21, and it is in Genesis vi. 3, these words are found: And the Lord said—*My Spirit shall not always strive with man.* With these verses in your mind now, consider this much perverted scripture. Christ was put to death in the flesh,

quicked by *the Spirit* by which He preached to the Spirits in prison, which were disobedient in the days of Noah. Clearly Christ was the preacher by His Spirit through Noah, and because of their disobedience then, they are in prison now. They disobeyed, despite the warning:—My Spirit shall not always strive with man—Gen. vi., 3.

All this is clear to every honest, unbiassed reader, but to the advocates of the larger hope and a second chance, no scripture nor common-sense counts. Their mind is made up. We have proved this again and again. We ask every reader a plain question: Does the Scripture say that Christ preached to the *Spirits in Prison*, or *in Prison to the Spirits*? "*To the Spirits in Prison*," says the Scriptures; "*In Prison to the Spirits*," says Canon Farrar and Dr Bullinger, and alas! alas! thousands accept the lies of these men, and reject the plain truth of God.

Surely every honest reader must see the difference. Suppose the Bishop of London preached to 1000 people in St Paul's Cathedral one day, and twelve months later they were all in prison, couldn't the Bishop quite truly say: I preached to *those people who are in prison*; but wouldn't it be a wicked perversion of his word to say he preached *in prison to those people*?

This is an illustration of what is being done to-day to deceive precious souls. Once more we say: Beware of Men. J. M'KENDRICK.

He Had No Song

Several years ago, a lady asked me to go and see her husband who was sick. She told me he was anxious about his soul. After a few words about his bodily sufferings, I asked him about his soul; did he think his sufferings would end when death came?

He said, "I think my chances for heaven are pretty good."

I said: "Do you believe heaven is a reality?" He said "Yes."

"Is it true there is a hell?" He replied, "Yes, I believe it."

"And you have an immortal soul that will soon be in one or the other of these places forever." "Yes," he said, earnestly.

"You just now said you thought your chances for heaven were pretty good. You must have some reason for it. Will you please tell me what it is?"

His voice was weak. I waited for his answer as it came slowly. It was this: "Well, I've always been kind to my wife and children, and I have not intentionally wronged my fellow men."

I said, "It is nice to be able to say that; but tell me, what kind of a place do you think heaven is, and what do they do there?"

"Well," he said, "I think there is no sin or sorrow there. It must be a happy place, and I think they sing there a good deal."

"Yes, they do sing there, and I'll just read you a song they sing. It is this: '*Unto Him*

that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.' You see, they are praising their Saviour, the one who loved them and died for them. I'll read it again. 'Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.' I want you to take notice; they have not a word to say about what *they* have done. It is all about what He has done. He loved them and died for them. Now, suppose you were up there and had got there in the way you say. There would be one sinner in heaven that had never been washed from his sins in the blood of Jesus; you could not join in the song they sing, could you?"

His head had dropped and his eyes were turned to the floor. He was now coming face to face with eternal realities and his only reply was: "Well-I-never-thought-of-that-before."

But I said: "God has and He has written a verse for persons just like you. It is the 4th verse of the 4th chapter of Romans: 'Now unto him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace but of debt.' Let me explain this: When you were well and could work, you received your wages because you had earned them. You were under no special obligations to the man that paid you. You would come home to your wife and say, 'Here is what I made to-day.' That is just what God means by that verse. 'Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.' If you could get to heaven by what you have done, there would be no grace about it. You

would know nothing of God's love as shown in Jesus. You could not sing 'Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,' for you would be there without a Saviour and you would have no song.

He was now ready to give up his ground, and owned that he was anxious about his soul, and wanted to have the question settled. He confessed that in spite of all the good he claimed, he was a sinner and needed a Saviour. With joy I read this Scripture (1 Tim. i:15) "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*" He repeated, "To—save—sinners!—to—save—sinners!"

"Yes," I said, "to *save sinners—not to HELP sinners to be saved*, but to **SAVE** sinners. He is not a helper, but a Saviour, and God's word is to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly; his faith is counted for righteousness. And again, '*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*'" He did believe. I left him that night, after reading other scriptures to him, with a new hope—not based on what he had done, but believing what God says about what Christ has done.

I called the next morning to see him. As I entered he looked up with joy on his face and said: "Oh, I'll have a song now. It will be '*Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.*'"

J.H.W.

Newtownards Baptist Church

SERVICES

LORD'S DAY (D.V.)

Ministry of the Word and Breaking of
Bread, 11.30 a-m
Schools and Bible Class, ... 3 p-m
Gospel Meeting, 7 p-m

MONDAY

Bible Study, At 8

TUESDAY

Prayer and Open-Air Meetings

WEDNESDAY

Pastor's Bible Class, At 8

THURSDAY

Junior Bible Class, At 8

SATURDAY

Prayer Meeting, At 7

Minister—Pastor JOHN RAVEY.