

## SERMON BY REV. BENJAMIN POMEROY

(With some added reflections)

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly. . . Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."—I. Thess. v. 23:24.

Five days and more God labored building a home for man. On the sixth day, after He had made the land animals (cattle, reptiles, beasts) came the climax of creation, man made in the image of his Creator, with a body which gave him earth-consciousness, a soul which gave him God-consciousness and a God-inbreathed spirit which gave him God-consciousness, or through which he was capable of communion with God. So created and constituted he was placed in Eden his earth-home.

The ambition to "be like the Most High" had wrought the ruin of angels (Isa. xiv. 9-14); now, filled with jealousy and desire for revenge, Lucifer, with the same bait, "Ye shall be as gods," seduces the race-mother. His fell plan works. There is a horrific crash. Nature groans; storms begin to howl; spasms seize earth and air and sea; volcanoes spout lava; quakes shake and shatter the earth; birth pangs and death pangs now lay hold; lust and murder stir; sin, sickness, disease, sighs, groans and death; hell holds high carnival. Beasts, once kind, now thirst for each other's blood and hunt the weaker ones through thickets of new-springing briars and thorns. And down at the bottom, underneath all the wreckage, the cause of it all, man finds himself, self-estranged from God, depraved, sinful, vile, cursed by sin in spirit and soul and body.

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God's plan is upset, but not his original purpose. Throughout the universe, ringing across revolving spheres, a glad note sounds, "I have found a ransom." Man shall be free; man shall yet be holy. New plans are revealed, but the purpose is still as of old, "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."—Eph. 1:4. God will uphold his law, exact the last stroke of penalty for the breach thereof, be just, and yet justify the ungodly. Hallelujah!

Redeemed! Redeemed! We cannot realize it as we ought. Wonderful plan! Stupendous undertaking! "I will regenerate in man the springs of eternal life. I will renew him in the very spirit of his mind. I will recreate in him the spirit of holiness. I will finally reconstruct even his physical frame. The works of the devil shall be completely destroyed. In all his three-fold nature man shall feel the touches of restoring grace. And when I have finished, I will make for him to dwell in a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. No man shall say to his brother. Know the Lord; for all shall know Me then. Once again man shall be "after my image created in righteousness and true holiness." So ran the new plan of Almighty God. "My trade mark on every pot and bell in Jerusalem shall be 'Holiness unto the Lord.' No more in war shall sword be bathed in blood. No more the strong shall glut his fangs in weaker flesh. Behold, I make all things new. There shall be no more curse. The former things shall be all passed away."

The GREAT OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT I AM must find new terms through which to reveal his new-revealed character to man, this hitherto concealed part of His Nature. New names are coined, and Redeemer, Deliverer, Saviour, are the words carried by bright winged messengers to the ears of sin-

sick, heart-broken, life-awearied men and women. Glory to God on high!

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"The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." Eve hears it. Children soon are prattling around her knee. Perhaps Cain is the promised serpent-bruiser! or Abel! But no! One soon lies murdered, and the other is a fugitive. Night and gloom settle down.

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Gleams of hope and promise soon shine through the dark. Seers and prophets sing of a better day coming. . . A star twinkles out. Four thousand years of unrebuked death-gloom begin to break away as the Star of Bethlehem heralds the day. Angels sing; shepherds wonder; sages adore. The Sun of Righteousness is risen with healing in his wings.

But just when hope is brightest, a storm overspreads the sky. Darkness settles down once more. Flashing, lurid lightning reveals a lonely hill and three bloody crosses. Hell rejoices. Saints mourn. "We thought that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel."

Three Christless days. Heaven is silent. The Father stands aloof. The Spirit is not yet given. Christ, the Son is in the tomb.

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The third day passes. Wonder of wonders! Death cannot hold Him. "He is risen. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Sin's power is broken. Death's grip is shattered. Hell is defeated. Serpent, thine head is bruised. CHRIST IS VICTORIOUS! To all appearances He died like a man; but He rose like the very God that He was. And that mighty working, which shattered the tomb in spite of the Emperor's seal, is now, as ever, dynamic to quicken all who are dead in sin, to raise the man of flesh a spiritual being with old things passed away and all things become new.

Dying, He satisfied law. Rising, He everliveth to justify, regenerate, purify and intercede, restoring to those who trust and obey eternal life once lost in Adam, but now in Christ restored. O the work of God! To halt the streams of sin and death, to reverse the spiritual currents of man's being, to redirect them Godwards in restored, God-imaged holiness. New life! Eternal Life! Abundant life! Life such as I never had before! Pristine holiness restored! HOLINESS! No salvation apart from holiness! Regeneration is holiness begun. The justified life is a life of holiness. Entire sanctification is heart holiness completed; not maturity, however—purity; the being "after God created (again) in righteousness and true holiness." Heaven is holiness triumphant. God's plan was big in its purpose, wide in its scope, radical in its aim, and thorough in its operation.

The heart regenerated still feels the lingerings of the "sin that dwelleth in me." But in spite of its presence, by the grace of God, we live the victorious life, enjoying both grace and glory. No outsider would guess that Old Sin still exists. The Old Man is nailed to the cross, though not yet dead. This sinful nature is what God proposes to utterly destroy when He sanctifies us wholly.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." The Divinely Inspired Word declares that He who called us is faithful and will do this. Let us by faith look over Jordan. The land is just in view. It is for us. It is for us today. Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. Let the Holy Spirit guide us into this

Canaan of Perfect Love. Step out by faith. It may seem a bold thing to do, but step out. You will never wade water. Jordan will divide. The land is yours. Cross over.

"Come over the Jordan's tide the waters will there divide

Come into the land of Canaan, be abundantly satisfied;

And then with joy and gladness go singing along your way;

In fellowship with Jesus be happy night and day."

## WHAT THE WORD "EDIT" IMPLIES

The dictionary defines the word "edit" as follows: "To superintend the publication thereof; to revise and prepare for publication; to select, correct and arrange, etc., the matter of or for publication; as to edit a newspaper." You will notice that one of the meanings of the word "edit" is to "select, correct, arrange" matter for publication. When a manuscript is sent to an editor it is understood that if he finds this manuscript available for publication, he will arrange it to suit his paper. It is unreasonable to write an excessively long article, and then complain if the editor cuts out the unnecessary verbiage. The same thing applies to items of news; often a grain of news is hidden under a bushel of words. No one can seriously object to our seizing the part of the message which only is of interest. Please let our correspondents bear in mind.—*Exchange.*

## PAINTED FIRE

A family in Troy, N.Y., having a false grate in one of the rooms of the house, placed some red paper behind it to give it the effect of fire. On one of the coldest days the dog belonging to the household came in from outdoors, and, seeing the paper in the grate, deliberately walked up to it, lay down before it, and curled up in the best way to receive the glowing heat as it came from the fire. He remained motionless for a minute; feeling no warmth, he raised his head, and, looking over his shoulder at the grate, still feeling no heat, he went across and carefully applied his nose to the grate and smelled it. It was as cold as ice. With a look of the most supreme disgust, the dog trotted out of the room, not even deigning to cast a look at those in the room who had watched his actions, and laughed heartily at his misfortunes.

We have observed some church services that were equally disappointing in the matter of warmth and light.

It is assuring to learn that, in spite of the painted fire, wild fire and fox fire in religion and all other kinds not specifically mentioned here, there is a real fire of the Holy Ghost that operates in the soul—a gracious, soul-comforting flame.—*Exchange.*

## GIPSY PAT'S TESTIMONY.

"The fingers that weaved the rainbow into a scarf and wrapped it around the shoulders of the dying storm, the fingers that painted the lily-bell, and threw out the planets, the fingers that were dipped in the mighty sea of eternity and shook this old planet, making the ocean to drop and the rivers to steam—the same fingers took hold of my tangled life and made it whole, for He came to make the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. The Lord Jesus who loved us is mighty to save."—*Tract.*

"Courage and cowardice are both contagious."—The Free Methodist.