

THE LORD GOD, A SUN

(Continued)

In our previous discourse we drew an analogy from the text found in Psalm 84:11, and tried to show that man holds about the same relationship to God as the earth to the sun. We considered the solar system and treated the zones. We spiritualized these zones, likening the Frigid Zone to the Zone of Sin, the Temperate Zone to that of Regeneration, and the Torrid Zone to that of Sanctification.

The Torrid Zone is the central zone of the solar system. To travel from the Frigid to the Torrid Zone one is obliged to go through the Temperate Zone. In order to get from sin to holiness it is necessary to travel through the Zone of Regeneration by the route of the new Birth. The Torrid Zone is the hottest zone of all and for that reason some people prefer to remain in the frozen regions of the Frigid Zone, or in the cool belt of the Temperate Zone. This is true concerning sinners and many lukewarm professors of religion. They choose to remain in the world or so close to it that they never get beyond the cool belt of the Temperate Zone. The boundary line of Sanctification is a complete consecration of self to God for time and eternity. Take that step, believer, and get within the Zone of Sanctification where God's blazing, transparent rays will cleanse and illuminate your soul. The central line of the Torrid Zone is the line of the Equator, and there the vertical rays of the sun are about the same every day. The central thread of the gospel is holiness of heart and life, and here God is ever ready to pour out His vertical rays of Divine sunshine every day in the year. Reader, are you enjoying this glorious experience? Why not move into this Zone today? God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt that He might bring them into Canaan. He has brought you out of sin that He might bring you into holiness. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

We stated in our last message that the Torrid Zone was the most abundant zone and was known as the Zone of Palms. The Psalmist said: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree." When does the palm tree flourish? The palm tree flourishes in Torrid Zone or Zone of Palms. Likewise the righteous man flourishes and thrives under the vertical rays of God's blessed sunshine in the Sanctification Zone. Isaiah tells us in chapter sixty-one what Christ did in order to have some righteous trees planted for His glory. Christ suffered without the gate for our sanctification or for the purpose of planting righteous trees in the Zone of Full Salvation. We are agreed that if the righteous are to flourish like the palm tree, that they must get within the proper zone. Then they should have characteristics resembling those of the palm tree. The palm tree is straight. This is true of the man that is truly planted of the Lord. The palm tree is evergreen, and so is the holiness man in his experience. There is nothing stale or dead about the experience of holiness. The palm tree bears fruit as far from the ground and as near Heaven as it possibly can. The sanctified man doesn't mix his fruit with corruption of sin and with the wicked devices of men, but he is bearing "fruit unto holiness," and in the end shall receive everlasting life. The fruit of the palm tree is used to feed hungry tribes in the desert. When I was in sin I was made hungry by the fruit that the holy man possessed. The tobacco-user, theatre-goer and

half-hearted professor of religion (all members of some church) never did get me hungry in my soul, but holiness men that preached and lived in the one of Sanctification got me so hungry that nothing else could satisfy my longing soul until I got the blessing of holiness. Come, hungry believers, this experience is for you too. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification."

There are some other conditions that modify the temperature. The height of a place cools the temperature, for the higher place has cooler temperature. We must get down low to get the blessing of holiness, and we must keep down low in order to retain the blessing of holiness and to keep from cooling off. The ocean currents influence the temperature. The Atlantic Ocean carried down a floating mountain of ice that caused the Titanic to sink, sending many souls to a watery grave. The church cannot sail the ocean of worldliness without striking a berg that will cause the damnation of many souls. The Pacific Ocean is known as the Ocean of Peace. The only rough place is right close to the shore. Let souls leave the shore of this old world and launch out into the ocean of God's love and peace. Mountains prevent showers. The Rocky Mountains prevent the rains from coming upon acres of land. Mountains of unconfessed sins in your life (and they will be like the mountain until confessed) will prevent your soul from getting saved. Mountains of doubt or of failing to walk in the light will keep your soul from the blessing of heart cleansing. The nature of the soil changes the temperature. A crowd of unbelievers can make it hard for the preacher to get his message across, but the hearts that are touched and melted by the power of God can produce a wonderful spiritual atmosphere. The winds also have their effect upon the climate. We shall liken the cold north winds to the false doctrines that have been so prevalent, and to those that are still blowing. England had her Deism, France her Infidelity, Germany her Rationalism, and America her Modernism in a new garb. When Modernism is examined it is not so modern. Evolution denies creation, and the best it has to offer us is a guess. Why take a "Guess" instead of a "Know So?" Unitarianism denies the blood and by so doing cuts off its only salvation, because "without the shedding of blood there is no remission." Time will not allow us to mention all. We need the warm wind of Pentecost in the Church today to counteract the winds of false doctrine.

Reader, what zone are you living in and how is the atmosphere? If you confess the mountains, God will remove them. He will set your heart aglow and keep it on fire if you get humble and keep there. He will so satisfy you with His ocean of Love and Peace that you will never long for the Ocean of Worldliness. He will give you the Word as your chart and the Holy Ghost as your Instructor, so that you can withstand the blasts of false doctrine. Thank God it is the privilege of all to move from the cold and temperate regions into the one of Sanctification, and there "flourish like the palm tree" and "blossom as the rose."

G. A. ROGERS

People laugh at the saying of the colored man: "I 'specks I'se broken every commandment since I'se been away, but I thanks de Lord I hasn't lost my religion." But this is **much like the average prayer meeting testimony.**

WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

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side and said, "Thank God for so many things I don't want." He had all of them he wanted, and so do you and I. And when we are in the full enjoyment of things that are our own by purchase, we can say, "O Lord I rejoice in Thee far more than in any of these material things, and take them as from thy loving hand."

But the sad thing is that today, we are overestimating the material and the intellectual and the social, and are seeing too little of the spirituality that God intended we should enjoy. The sad thing is that the carnal heart is perverting and misusing the good things that God has given and the tendency is to make us selfish and worldly, forgetting the good hand that has given us all things richly to enjoy. Our very prosperity has become our national menace. We worship things instead of worshipping God. It is only by a mighty out-pouring of the Holy Ghost that we can withstand all the temptations that come along with this prosperity, and make us thankful and humble before the good God who has given us all.

The Good Book says that Ephraem waxed fat and kicked. Yes, he kicked over the traces and that is what people are doing today. They are kicking against the authority of God's law, and the integrity of his divine revelation. They are deifying humanity and humanizing deity. They are emasculating the gospel. They are making a God that suits their own carnal passions, and are saying, "we are rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing." What are some of the ominous conditions, and symptoms that we find today in the Church. Can we make a true diagnosis? Just before General Booth died, he was asked his opinion of the dangers of the twentieth century as to spiritual progress. He replied, "I see that the most eminent dangers will be Christianity without Christ, salvation without regeneration, and religion without the Holy Ghost." We purpose discussing these three phases of our religious problem.

(To be continued)

The saintly Fletcher, while principal of Lady Huntington's College at Trevecca, used to say to the students after delivering his lecture, "As many of you as are athirst for the fulness of the Spirit, follow me into my room." Many would instantly follow him, and there continue to pray for hours, that the baptism of the Holy Ghost might come upon them. Oh, for such earnestness today! Let the prayer of Wesley be ours:

"Oh, that the Comforter would come,
Nor visit as a transient guest;
But fix in me his constant home,
And take possession of my breast:
And fix in me his loved abode,
The temple of indwelling God."

—Sel

If the devil is after you, it is a sure sign that he has not got you.—Rev. Joseph H. Smith.

Perfect love is not a soft sentimentality. Those who have it are not mere "softies." But even if they were, it is better to have softening of the brain than ossification of the heart.—Rev. E. F. Walker.