

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Rev. G. R. Symonds*

The day of the Lord is very terrible: who can abide it?—Joel 2:11.

This old world has experienced some difficult days in the past, and during this war has, and still is in many places, been passing through terrible times. But the day spoken of in the text will be more terrible than any day the world has yet known. That day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the world.

The day of the Lord will be terrible for:

1. The sinner. All who have not accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, regardless of their morality, social standing, or good works, are, in the light of the Bible, sinners and must be born again. Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." St. John 3:3. The words here spoken to Nicodemus apply to every unregenerate soul for "All have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God." Rom. 3:23.

Failure to accept Christ is sufficient to condemn us before God and leave us unprepared for "the terrible day of the Lord."

2. The backslider. All who have at one time been living in the enjoyment of an experience in grace, and have failed to "walk in the light," are backsliders, and must do their first works over or be eternally lost. There are many today who look back to better days in their Christian experiences and also many others have turned their backs upon the Lord of Glory and have crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh. Hosea tells the backslider to "take with you words and turn to the Lord" with the promise: "I will heal their backsliding." Hosea 14:2-4. Backsliders are not prepared for "the terrible day of the Lord."

3. The unsanctified: All who having been converted, have continued in obedience to the place where they have recognized that for them to go on would mean to seek heart purity, and then have rejected the truth, are not ready for the terrible day of the Lord. Unless such people conform to the requirements and obtain "the blessing," they will surely make shipwreck of their Christian experiences. The Word tells us: "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. I. John 1:7. Failing to "walk in the light" renders a Christian unprepared for "the terrible day of the Lord."

This terrible day is drawing near, the conditions prophesied as indicating the last days are being witnessed by those who have eyes to see. Let us briefly notice a few:

In II. Pet. 3:3-4 we read: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in **the last days**, scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, **Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." Were there ever so many professing Christians who disbelieved in the personal and literal second coming of the Lord as there are today? In many churches this subject is seldom if ever dealt with. The Bible in speaking of our Lord's return in I. Thess. 4:18 tells us, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." It does not bring comfort to professing Christians who are

loose, cold and worldly (and many are) to mediate and talk about the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ. But if we are living in the enjoyment of a genuine experience of grace we will thrill at the thought of His soon returning.

In II. Tim. 3:1-5 we read: "This know also that in **the last days** perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Do you not feel, dear reader, that these conditions are existing on every side? Space will permit us to mention but a few. We all will agree that there are perilous times existing in the world today, with the awful destruction and terrible loss of life caused by this global war. "Men lovers of their own selves." Pride and selfishness are in evidence all about us. People will bedeck themselves with all sorts of jewelry, make-up and immodest apparel, and then behave as though they owned all that their eyes look upon. "Disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." Young people today are largely doing as they please, with the awful results that are known to those who have "eyes to see and ears to hear." Those who are truly thankful to God for all His numberless blessings and benefits are certainly in the minority. "Unholy," all who disbelieve in the possibility of a person being holy certainly must be unholy themselves. "Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." We will agree that people who put forth more effort and expend more money in the pursuit of worthless amusement than they give to the Church of Jesus Christ are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Many today who profess to be followers of Jesus deny His power. They do not believe in the possibility of a sinner being transformed instantaneously by the grace of God, so that old things pass away and all things become new. They have ceased to believe in the old-fashioned revival and in the power of prayer that will cause the sinner to be mightily troubled because of sin. They also disbelieve in the power of God to sanctify the heart of the consecrated and seeking child of God. But Heb. 13:12 tells us: "Wherefore Jesus also that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate."

Do you not feel, dear reader, that these conditions spoken of as existing in the last days are upon us? Then the all-important question is: Am I ready for that day? The text asks, "Who can abide it?" Those who can abide it are those who have—

1. Repented of their sins and have looked to God in prayer until they have received the witness that God has forgiven and accepted them as His children. Acts 3:19 tells us, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

2. Continued in obedience to the known will of God, which results in advancement being made and more light being received. Sooner or later such persons will be led to see that God has a deeper experience for them to receive and enjoy, namely, the cleansing of their hearts from the principle of sin. In Rom. 6:6 we read, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body

of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

In the light of these truths are **you** ready for "the terrible day of the Lord?" If you are not, may God help you to put yourself in the way of receiving help and start doing the things you know to be the will of God. It is gloriously possible for everyone to be ready for this "terrible day of the Lord," for the Word says: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. And Paul was reminded that "My grace is sufficient for thee." II. Cor. 12:9. Let us by the grace of God live in readiness for whatever the future may bring!

* Pastor, Seal Cove. N. B.

SAM JONES ON THE "SECOND BLESSING"

"And speaketh the truth in his heart." (Psalm 15:2).

A man is never better than his heart. A clean heart is the need of every Christian man and woman.

This should be the cry and plea and the earnest object of every believing child of God "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Thank God that this is our privilege. Thank God that many people seek and obtain it.

I don't care what you call it, whether the second or third or thousandth blessing, it cleans out and then cleans up—purifies the heart, cleans up the life, and, thank God, so benign and wondrous and so needed a work of grace can be possessed by men and women! I welcome it under any name, and have profound contempt for the spirit that would depreciate the people who possess it or the great grace which has come to them.

You may say what you please about the holiness people, but I want to say this: I have never seen a holiness man that wasn't a Prohibitionist from his hat to his heels. I have never seen one who didn't fight liquor, card playing, and every phase and form of worldliness in the church. I have never seen a second blessing man or woman who believed in or gave card parties, indulged in punch slinging, went to the theater, or dancing parties, or engaged in or encouraged any form or phase of the devilry that is cursing the Church today. I have never seen a second blessing man or woman who wouldn't pray anywhere and everywhere when called on, and who was not ready to stand up and testify for the Lord whenever opportunity offered. I never saw a second blessing person in my life, man or woman, at the head of a family, who did not get right down night and morning and pray for the children in that home, and for God's guiding hand in all things pertaining to their sacred home responsibilities.

I will tell you another thing: I never saw a preacher in my life that was fighting the holiness crowd that was not a dead dog in his own pulpit—can't bite! You may watch it. Every little preacher that you hear fighting the holiness people is a fellow that hasn't had a revival meeting or a conversion in his ministry for years, unless he got somebody else to hold his meetings. God just won't honor any such a preacher.

You never see a man in the church who fights the holiness people but if you will search down far enough you will find him wrong in his life or rotten in his character.

I will tell you another thing: whenever

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