

## TEMPERED TRUTHS

Rev. F. A. Dunlop

"Where there is no vision the people perish." Webster defines vision as the "Act or power of perceiving mental images." I suppose what an artist sees before he takes up his brush, or what the composer sees before he stamps the notes on paper; or, what the sculptor sees before he strikes a blow on his chisel. The finished product stands before the man. His paints have not been mixed; a note has not been jotted down; the granite has not even been ordered from the quarry, but the vision is there, and with the vision, the urge to achieve. This mental aptitude is stronger in some than in others, but wherever and whenever it becomes sufficiently strong, an artist is born.

Something of this same thing carries over into the moral realm where spiritual faculties operate—and here, as well as elsewhere, men become artists of their craft. Their souls ablaze with wondrous vision affords sufficient inspiration to paint, to compose, to design. Not on canvas, not on paper, not in stone, but in radiant, holy living.

The writer of the text suggests that visions are indispensable to human living—without them men perish. Industry will perish, governments will perish, nations, kingdoms and civilization itself will go under unless carried along by the strong tides of mental pictures, clearly seen though not yet realized.

The Christian Religion is tied fast to visions. Her hopes have ever rested in her visions—visions of God, visions of Heaven, visions of men, "crying in the night," visions of the "kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ." The Pentecostal era is to be characterized by visions. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith the Lord. I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." "And I will shew wonders in Heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath!" Hence, visions are a planned and promised part of the church age.

The extent of our visions should be as broad as the eternities; the content of our visions should be, and can be blessedly practical. Our visions should begin where the ground-work of our Christian faith begins, viz., in God. "In the beginning, God." "He that cometh unto God, must believe that He is." Since such a vision can be had, we should all "wait for it." Such a vision cannot be other than helpful and practical. To safeguard us against mysticism and fanaticism God has given us a means of seeing Him. Paul writes: "But we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Here, we have God revealed; the means by which He is revealed; and the effect of the revelation upon the beholder. The means is the Word of God—the Old and New Testaments. In this mirror, men may have a vision of God, a vision which excites, and puts within us an urge to reach for our brushes and begin painting that which we have seen. Here, the Trinity is revealed—"God in Three Persons." We see first, God the Father. In this we have the "Determining" God. This is in keeping with the word

"Father." The mind at the head of the family, planning, determining, etc. This is God the Father, as revealed in the Word." In the beginning, God." "Let us make man in our own image." "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth." "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world." "Him being delivered by the Determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God." "Lord, thou art God which made heaven and earth, and the sea and all that in them is, who by the mouth of Thy servant David hast said, why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? For a truth, against Thy holy child Jesus, whom Thou hast anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and people of Israel were gathered together for to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done." God, all powerful, all wise, planning, determining, working out His eternal purpose, is the vision we see everywhere. "In the fullness of time, God sent." This is the creed of the Eternal Father. Nothing ever gets beyond His control. No circumstance can long hinder. "Whom He will He puts down, and whom He will He sets up." "His Word is forever established in Heaven." "I have spoken and I will perform it, saith God." Let this vision strengthen our faith. We are a part of an Infinite design. Best of all, the God that moves the masses, moves also, within the masses. He has a personal hook-up with each individual life. Israel was Israel, and Egypt was Egypt, and God had His hand on both, moving them towards His eternal purpose. But Joseph, the individual, whether in Israel or Egypt, was never lost sight of by the eternal Father, not even for a moment. Interpreting dreams in the prison to a mere butler, or wearing on his hand the king's signet, one as well as the other, a part of the Divine plan. Man, woman, you may be walking today where few flowers grow, or the prison walls that surround you may rise higher than you can see over. But when you cannot read the riddle, nor understand the meaning, remember that His promise, "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee," still stands, and the God who controls the masses is so intimately acquainted with you that He knows "what you have need of before you ask Him." In the final outcome of things God permits us to decide but one thing, really—That which makes His glory known in our complete redemption, or that which makes known His wrath on "vessels fitted for destruction." In this, our decision determines which it shall be. But God's determining counsels move toward their fulfillment. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or, who hath been His counsellor? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen."

"Lord, shew us the Father."

### THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS MONEY

Believers in a momentarily returning Lord, who amass treasure, stultify their testimony before both God and man. George Muller, after \$7,500,000 had passed through his hands for his orphans, died, with \$590.00 in the bank—his entire personal fortune. One secret of Wesley's power was his superb divorce from money. "I fling money out of my hands,"

he said, "as quickly as possible, lest it find a way into my heart." It is estimated that he gave away during his lifetime \$150,000 (an equivalent of \$500,000 today), derived principally from gifts and the proceeds from the sales of his books and pamphlets; and, dying, he left behind him, as someone has put it, "a library, a well-worn clergyman's gown, a much-abused reputation, and—the Methodist Church."—Selected.

### UNRATED MERCIES

The Lord's mercies . . . are new every morning. Lam. 3:23.

Rations of bacon, and rations of cheese,  
Rations of sugar for afternoon teas;  
Point for our marmalade, points for jam,  
Points for our biscuits, and points for ham.

'Tis whispered around, "The grocer has dates,  
And the shop next door their quota of plates."  
Priority milk for the babies' gruel,  
And drastic cuts in the ration of fuel.

Coupons for dresses, and coupons for shoes,  
"Austerity" suits, and "Utility" hose;  
A zoning for sweets and chocolate, too,  
While the "Sunny South" is banned to you.

Unrationed still, in these days of strife,  
Are all the very best things of life,  
When we turn our backs on man-made towns,  
And walk abroad on the wind-swept downs.

Unrationed sunshine, unrationed breeze,  
Unrationed flowers, unrationed trees,  
Unrationed mercy from God above,  
Unrationed peace, and unrationed love.

Unrationed Bread on the Heavenly board,  
Unrationed milk of His Holy Word,  
Unrationed meat—these are offered free  
To all who will come, and taste and see.

Unrationed help at the Throne of grace,  
Unrationed patience to run the race,  
Unrationed, too, the garment of praise,  
Unrationed shoes for life's dusty ways.

Unrationed fuel when the cold heart prays,  
Unrationed comfort for lonely days;  
The Mansion prepared in Heaven for thee,  
Is bomb-proof for all eternity. B. M. A.  
Submitted by J. A. J. Wood, Vancouver, B. C.

### QUARTERLY MEETING OF DIST. NO. 3

Quarterly Meeting of District No. 3 convened with the Church at Calais, Maine, Sept. 6-9.

The opening message was brought by Rev. G. R. Symonds from II. Peter 1:10.

On Friday evening Rev. J. A. Owens spoke from the 23rd Psalm. One seeker came to the altar to be reclaimed.

On Saturday afternoon the usual business session was held.

Sunday morning the Love Feast was in charge of Rev. G. A. Rogers. He brought us an inspiring talk from John 4:4-42. Following this service Rev. F. A. Anderson brought a message from Isaiah 1:18.

On Sunday afternoon Rev. J. A. Owens delivered the message. Four seekers were at the altar at the close of the service.

Closing message was brought by Rev. H. S. Wilson. He spoke from Joel 3:13. Six young girls sought the Lord at the end of this service.

We wish to thank God for the continued presence of the Holy Spirit during this Quarterly. Jesus is still able to save, sanctify and keep. Praise His Holy Name.

MARY LILLEY SABINE, Secy.