

## "The Changeless Christ"

by Rev. M. W. Bagley

Text: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8

The writer of the Hebrew epistle gave us a very clear and concise statement about the Christ when he said "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Then immediately following he throws out a warning lest we should be carried about with divers and strange doctrines. Many sincere Christians are being tempted to embrace new and strange doctrines relative to the Christ, which usually attack His Deity. But He is just the same for He changes not. We can learn more about Him but He does not change.

Present day advertising has done much to condition our thinking. Housewives used to demand products which had been tested and had proved their worth over the years. For this reason a certain household cleaner came on the market with the name "OLD DDDDD CLEANER". Now, however, advertising techniques have changed a bit and most everyone feels he must have the latest, newest and most modern. That household cleaner now sells in a package with the label reading, "THE NEW OLD DDDDD CLEANER". The Christ of God does not change nor does his plan of salvation. There is no need of change since the primary problem of man is sin and there is only one cure-faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

There are three thoughts from the text which I would like to bring to your attention. First, that Jesus is still man's physical healer.

The earthly ministry of Jesus was quite extensively to the physical needs of his fellowmen. I am well aware of the fact that many believe healing of the sick was only for those who were fortunate enough to be alive during the earthly ministry of Jesus. But we have Biblical accounts of Divine healing after the ascension of Jesus and our text states that he is the same yesterday, today and, forever.

I am also aware that Divine healing has been often mis-represented and that there have been many counterfeits. But, simply because margarine is offered on the market as a substitute for butter, we are not so foolish to say that there is no such a thing as butter.

There is a Scriptural formula to be followed if one is to experience the healing; touch of Christ today, it is found in the epistle of James. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

Christ does not change. He who healed sick, the lame and the blind, is still abundantly able to heal.

Secondly, this changeless Christ is also able to heal the mind.

The Gadarean demoniac, after being healed by Christ was so sane and sensible that those who beheld him marvelled at the great cure.

Psychologists of our age speak often of the great need of having an integrated personality. This is not altogether a new thought or idea, for the Bible states, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Man was created for fellowship with God and if we allow sin in our lives we deprive ourselves of that quality for which we were created. When we possess the mind of Christ we then will have fellowship with Him. No wonder

the Bible urges "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus".

Thirdly, Jesus Christ is man's moral healer.

He forgave the sins of the woman taken in adultery and told her to sin no more. Matthew and Zachaeus, who had been unethical in their business dealings both found pardon and deliverance from the life of sin in Jesus.

The primary reason of Christ's visit to the earth was to save us from our sins.

It is self-evident that the conversion of Saul of Tarsus is an outstanding example of Christ's power to save. He is just the same today. You may be either inwardly or outwardly opposed to Christianity yet there is sufficient power in the changeless Christ to transform your life and make you a new creature in him.

The same plan of salvation still applies for the Bible states "if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It is not only God's plan to save men from sin but also that they sin not, or as the Bible puts it, confession and forsaking of sins. And that is not all, there is a blessing for those who will walk in obedience, namely, "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin".

Jesus, the changeless Christ, is abundantly able today to heal the body, mind and soul.

\*Pastor, Amherst, N. S.

## THE GOSPEL THAT SAVES

by Rev. R. G. Flexon

in "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

We do not want a mutilated gospel which fills the churches with unsaved people. Of what value is it to count numbers attending either Sunday school or church unless we are communicating to them divine truth with effective, transforming power. We may even lead them to give an intellectual assent to a creed, but that would be a poor substitute for truth that grips the heart and produces fruit in one's life. Only truth that goes deeper than the intellect, burns like fire in the conscience, pulsates with action in the will, and moves a man's emotions will bring salvation.

The gospel deals in specifics and not generalities alone. To be effective it must have a definite presentation. It loses its effect when it is no definite, specific, unqualified, and personalized.

One may preach on repentance, regeneration, or sanctification in an indefinite way for months or years with very little effect or results. It is like sheet lightning, beautiful, but it strikes nowhere. A preacher who deals in indefinite generalities should not be disappointed if his ministry yields no fruit.

Preaching that constantly qualifies the sharp edge of the gospel with phrases which sound like the preacher is hedging will never commend itself to thinking men.

That the gospel might be effective, it must have a personal thrust and a personal appeal. Men are saved as individuals and not en masse. Therefore, the gospel must be personalized if it is to move men to action. The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation if it is properly interpreted, honestly presented, and purposefully and rightly applied. Unless it is presented with power and in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, it is nothing more than the letter, and the letter killeth. It is the Spirit which giveth life.