



## — Editorial —

### TREES OF THE BIBLE (2)

Trees may be beautiful or ugly. Some trees are both beautiful and ugly. This is especially true of the TREE OF REDEMPTION. The "Tree of Separation" robbed man of spiritual blessing. The "Tree of Redemption" makes it possible for man to regain blessings lost through the fall. It is this aspect of the Tree of Redemption which makes it beautiful.

To those who look upon the cross of Christ merely as an implement of torture, the cross is an ugly instrument of death. But for those who look upon it as a work of atonement, it possesses exquisite beauty. This beauty is seen in the fact that God chose the shedding of blood as a medium to remove sin. He even chose the blood of His Son, "who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross".

The apostle Peter says of Christ, "He bear our sins in His body on the tree." This is the Tree of Redemption. On this tree He was, in Isaiah's words, "wounded for our transgression . . . bruised for our iniquities . . . by His stripes we are healed." One wonders what would hold Christ to this tree. Yet, one immediately concludes that it was the cord of our sin and the cord of His love.

Christ said, I come not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Thus while there was a Tree of Separation which distanced man from God, there is also a Tree of Redemption which makes it possible for man to get back into fellowship with God. It is this fact which makes the cross beautiful. Love spending itself that we might have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by faith. It is the acceptance of this love which makes it possible for us to have a right to the TREE OF LIFE. The Tree of Life also has benefits for the believer who keeps the commandments of God.

His Holy word gives us to understand that "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they might have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city." It was probably with this in mind that Jesus said, "If it were not so I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you." It is by partaking of the fruit of the Tree of Redemption which gives us the right to the Tree of Life; and the enjoyment of the fruits of everlasting life.

### PERFECTION OF LOVE

The Bible describes perfect love as follows: And the Lord thy God will circumcise the heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live." Deut. 30:6.

To love God with all the heart can only occur when the heart is circumcised—purified from all sin.

"And thou Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him He will be found of thee, but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off forever." 1 Chron. 28:9.

It is not the perfect mind, but a perfect heart and a willing docile teachable mind . . ."

Christian perfection was Paul's constant theme in preaching and writing. So it ought to be of every gospel

preacher. (and we add, every creature) There are two kinds of perfection—One is perfection in glory in the future, the other is perfection of love which he had . . .

This is not God's perfect love to us, but His love perfected in us. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:17, 18.

Perfect love fits us for judgment; it destroys the fear of man, of calamity and death. Amen.

—Holiness Manual

### PONDER THIS

In a famous Cathedral in Lubeck, Germany, there is the following inscription:

"Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us:

Ye call me Master, and obey me not;

Ye call me Light, and seek me not;

Ye call me Life, and desire me not;

Ye call me Wise, and follow me not;

Ye call me Fair, and love me not;

Ye call me Rich, and ask me not;

Ye call me Eternal, and seek me not;

Ye call me Gracious, and trust me not;

Ye call me Noble, and serve me not;

Ye call me Mighty, and honour me not;

Ye call me Just, and fear me not;

If I condemn you, blame me not."

—Selected

### ANCIENT WISDOM

To talk with God no breath is lost;

Talk on!

To walk with God no strength is lost;

Walk on!

To toil with God no time is lost;

Toil on!

Little is much if God is in it.

Man's busiest day not worth

God's minute.

Much is little everywhere

If God the business doth not share.

So work with God, then nothing's lost;

Who works with Him doth best and most.

—Unknown

### YOU WHO ARE YOUNG

Mary Carolyn Davies

You who are young, it is you, it is you

Who must make the dreams of the world come true.

You who are young have a world to build,

The future shall be what you have willed.

Learn and practice, plan and do;

Hold to a vision and shape it true;

And you'll find at last that a dream or two

Because of you, because of you,

Has, out of the mist and the dark, come true!

Heed what you build, with hand and tongue,

You who are young, you who are young.

—Beams of Light