

The Gospel

Ambassador



THE PROFESSOR'S CONFESSION

Gaston Frommel was a theologian. One of his courses on the History of Dogma had led some of the students at Geneva to regard Christianity as a mere product of evolution. To correct this misapprehension he judged it necessary to offer a "frank explanation."

"To the question, How do you succeed in maintaining the affirmations of your religious consciousness over against the frequently contrary affirmations of science? . . . the reply is easy. My religious consciousness, in its sources and its contents, is independent of my scientific consciousness. And I add that, in my case, it was a long way anterior. I was a Christian before I was a theologian: I did not become a Christian because I was a theologian: I became a theologian because I was a Christian."

Then he described the crisis in his spiritual history and the result: "That day now lies a long way behind me in the past; but it shines there as the day of a new birth. And, in fact, all things thenceforward became new to me. Doubtless, alas! there have since been many failures, many defects on my part, many interruptions of my consecration, many breaches of Christian fidelity, many faults and those very culpable. They have not effaced the fact that I belonged to Christ. It was but a first starting point which needs to be followed by many others. For that which Christ then became for me He has been ever since. The assurance of forgiveness, the certainty of salvation, the inward witness of His grace, He has faithfully bestowed day after day. They are the strength of my life and the sole reason of my ministry."

— G.J.

FRONT COVER PICTURE

A HAPPY OCCASION

A time of happy relaxation
Needs some thought and preparation.
So, that every tribe and nation
Might rejoice in full salvation,
Christ endured our condemnation
In supreme humiliation —
On the Cross.

Danger Signals

It pays to take heed to danger signals. The red lights at the busy intersection might frustrate the impatient motorist, but they function for his benefit, as do the warning signs he meets along the highway. Accidents are sure to happen when such warnings are ignored. Travelling by train would be a hazardous business if there were no signals along the railway track. Many a mariner has been saved from being wrecked on a rocky coast by means



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

of the warning beam shining forth from the friendly lighthouse on the shore; and none but a fool would neglect to fasten his or her seat-belt when instructed to do so by the commander of the 'plane in which they were travelling. Even our bodies give warning signals of approaching sickness, often entailing a visit to the doctor. "Beware of the dog," is a warning generally treated with respect.

On the other hand there are warnings which are largely ignored. For instance, how few, comparatively, have heeded that solemn statement found in the book of Job, chapter thirty-six, verse eighteen: "Because there is wrath, beware lest He take thee away with His stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee."

Very little publicity is given to the subject of the wrath of God. Next to nothing is heard of it from pulpit, platform, or press; yet there is such a thing. "Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" This was the question asked of the Pharisees and Sadducees by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:7). A time is coming when He that sitteth in the heavens shall speak unto some in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure (Psm. 2:5). We read of some who treasure up unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God (Rom. 2:5).

Now the very fact that we are warned of coming wrath is an indication that we can escape it. "Beware lest He take thee away with His stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee." Evidently deliverance is to be had this side of the grave, and the danger lies in leaving it too late. Thank God for the great ransom paid by the Lord Jesus Christ to deliver us from wrath to come. "There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:5,6).

"Thy wrath lieth hard upon Me, and Thou has afflicted Me with all Thy waves . . . I am afflicted and ready to die from My youth up: while I suffer Thy terrors I am distracted. Thy fierce wrath goeth over Me: Thy terrors have cut Me off" (Psm. 88:7,15,16). Such was the experience of the Son of God when He hung on the Cross during those three hours of darkness. He suffered the wrath of a holy, sin-hating God that we might escape it.

God is love; but love cannot operate at the expense of justice. However, love found a way to satisfy justice. "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (1 Pet. 3:18). "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe

are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. BEWARE therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work that ye shall in no wise believe though a man declare it unto you" (Acts 13:38-41).

Dear reader, have you been delivered from the wrath to come, or are you still exposed to it? "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). Have you got eternal life, or does the wrath of God abide on you? That all depends on what you do with Christ — whether you believe on Him, or whether you don't.

Take heed to God's warning, accept His Son to be your Saviour, and join the company who have been delivered from the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10).

— W.M.A.

.....

Let God Be True!

.....

Wicked! Do you mean to tell me that God looks down on decent, respectable, hard-working people like me and says we are wicked? Doing my very best to do right, and to be right, and yet I am wicked! It's a lie! These are the thoughts that pass through the minds of so many people today, and these are the words actually expressed by a dear man one Sunday afternoon in a little mining town in the Midlands of England.

Some Christian workers had just had an open-air meeting in one of the streets, and had, after inviting the listeners to come to the Saviour, also given them an invitation to a Gospel Meeting. One of the workers held a text-board high, so that all could see. The text was — "God hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked." It was this that brought out the dear man's complaint.

Is it true? That is the question; and if I am, what about it? — what am I to do about it? In the Scriptures, God declares that it is so. He says, for instance: "The heart of man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9), and again, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was

only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). In the Roman epistle, too, we learn that all have sinned (3:23).

Yes, beyond a doubt, God says that I am wicked. All are wicked in His sight. He says so. It is not what we see in each other, it is what He sees.

Think of another verse — "I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity" (Isa. 13:11). Not only does God uncover our wickedness; He warns us also that there



INDELIBLY SPOTTED

is punishment due to the same. It is true that man's thoughts have changed on these matters, but God's Word remains the same. Listen again to what He says in yet another passage — "The wicked shall be turned into hell" (Psm. 9:17). What a hopeless, helpless condition to be in. Wicked and subject to His judgment.

Is there no hope for me at all? Am I hopelessly lost? Yes, I am, but for God's grace and love, as shown in the gift and in the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. He, the Son of God, loved me and gave Himself for me. He hates our sins and our wickedness, but He loves us in all our hopelessness. By His death on Calvary's Cross, He met and satisfied all God's claims

against our sin, that we, the guilty ones, might go free. "He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

That's it! We are wicked, but we can become righteous through Him, if we accept and acknowledge Him as our Saviour and our Substitute. Listen, in closing, to the words of Isaiah again: "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God for He will abundantly pardon" (55:7).

— J.G.G.R.

"That Word Conversion"

"I hate that word 'Conversion'; one would think, to hear some folk talk, that a person had to undergo some great change." So said a certain man. Evidently he had not undergone any change, for it is a great change to be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. It is a great change from rushing down to Hell, on the broad road, to marching on the narrow road to Glory.

Conversion is a real thing. The Apostle Paul before his conversion was a blasphemer and a persecutor and injurious. After his conversion he became a most devoted servant of the Lord, and strengthened his brethren.

Do you, dear reader, hate that word "Conversion?" Scripture says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). Why, we love that word "Conversion," and would not be unconverted for all the world.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul" (Mark 8:36,37). Conversion is an absolute necessity if you are to be saved. Are you converted?

— W. and W.

A FRIEND IN NEED

is a friend worth having and, although we may not realise it, there is such a friend who is able and willing to meet the deepest and most desperate need we have. We may have been blessed with friends who have lovingly undertaken for us in times of need, but no other could meet our tremendous need as sinners on the broad way to destruction. It

IS A

fact that "there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23); that "the wages of sin is death" — eternal death (Rom. 6:23). That means to suffer eternal judgment with the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). But Jesus, the sinners Friend is a

FRIEND INDEED!

He died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6); He "gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6); "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). Accept this Friend to be your Friend and be for ever blessed.