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*Holiness Writers*

**THE LAST GOOD-BYE**  
(Selected Chapters)

By

*William Moses Tidwell*

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without  
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

**Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World**

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# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

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# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

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## **Preface To The Electronic Edition**

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# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

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## **CHAPTER 1 THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

In Matt. 25:46 we read, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal." Also in Rev. 18:14, "And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee. . . and thou shalt find them no more at all." These statements declare there will be a last farewell.

We are sure the saddest sight this side of the gates of the damned is the death of a Christless soul. A good man relates that he was sitting up with his very sick brother one night. He was also sin-sick. He states that very late at night, he was weary, and fell asleep. While asleep he had the following dream. He dreamed he saw his brother die, and as the spirit departed the body, for death is the separation of spirit and body, he beheld a horrible, unearthly monster, in the room which began to chase the soul of his brother. He said, "in the dream, I saw the soul of my brother dart out the open window, chased by this fearful monster." He said, "I could see my brother's soul fleeing, chased by this fiend. Finally, in the distance, this doleful creature overtook the fleeing soul and with his fiery fingers laid hold of it. At this moment I heard the most pitiful, unearthly wail from the disembodied spirit of my brother. This shriek awoke me. It seemed to chill my very being, and now being awake, while beads of death-like perspiration stood on my brow, I looked across where my brother was lying and HE WAS DEAD. And as I looked upon his distorted features, I realized he appeared just as I saw him in the dream, as he died." This is the interpretation this good man gave this most unusual occurrence: He said, "I fully believe God permitted me to fall asleep, that my eyes might be closed to material objects, in order that I might behold just what took place." Whatever construction you may place upon this, one thing is sure, I do not want to die the death of the wicked.

"There is no pleasure, saith my God, in the death of the wicked."

So we would say kindly, to every BACKSLIDER and SINNER, who will go on and live and die in sin, "When you come to the end, there will be some things you will never taste, hear, feel or see again. It will be "good-bye forever." I would make, if you will permit, this kindly suggestion, "Enjoy them all you can for this will be the last." Often at the state prison, when a man is to be electrocuted, and he comes to his last day on earth) at his last meal, he is told to order for it anything he likes. He is told to enjoy it for this is his last. So, careless soul, if you go on and die without Christ, we would suggest that on your dying couch you enjoy all you can, for this will be your last. Just here we would mention a few things that we appreciated, but to which we must say "Good-bye forever."

FIRST, WATER. If you are without Christ when you come to depart this life I would suggest that you have some kind friend bring you a glass of clear, fresh, sparkling water. Look upon it, sip it. Drink fully and freely. Enjoy it to the full and then say "Good-bye water!" Remember this is the last. You say, "That is too materialistic." No, not any more than Jesus made it. He spoke of the rich man

who, "In Hell lifted up his eyes and cried and said, Father Abraham, send Lazarus that he dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am tormented by this flame."

He was rich here but could not secure so much as one drop of water in Hell. Who could think of a smaller request, but no favors in Hell. Careless soul, you are on your way to a waterless world. A worldly woman when dying, held on to a glass of water and said, "This is the last I will ever see."

SECOND, LIGHT. This is a world of light. Thank God for light. May I suggest, unsaved friend, that when you are crossing the "Great Divide," if it is day, have them push up the window shades and push back the curtains. Let the light shine in. Enjoy it fully for this is the last you will ever see. Heaven is a day without a night and Hell is a night without a day. Some time back we were driving across the state of Kentucky and passed Mammoth Cave. We had a little time and decided to see this one of the "Seven Wonders of the world." We went to the office, with a number of others, and secured tickets for the trip. We told them we wished to take the route that led to "Echo River," as we had heard much of that. Tickets purchased and the guide secured, we began this momentous trip. The cave, at first, is not so prepossessing. At times very low. You may have to stoop to walk. Then suddenly you enter a great spacious cavern. The guide admonishes you to be careful for there is great danger if you make a wrong step. Finally we came to the "Bottomless Pit." The guide took a piece of cloth and saturated it with some combustible material and threw it over and down into this darkened pit. Ample room in this black hole to drop a skyscraper. Finally we reached "Echo River." While in a little boat on this river, Mrs. Tidwell sang almost in a whisper, "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me." Then we knew why it was thus called. After she ceased to sing, there was the most weird sound. It seemed to echo or reverberate for almost a minute after she ceased singing. Then the guide asked us if he should put out his light. This he did, and oh, the darkness. One could no more find his way out of this place than he could fly to the moon. But we were not alarmed for we knew the true and tried guide would lead us out. But while in this blackness of darkness we thought of the darkness of Hell. Hell is a place of "Blackness and Darkness forever." They told us of a man who had gotten lost from a party some time before. When he was finally located, about three hours afterwards, he was jammed up between rocks, seeking to climb out. His shoes were off, his feet and hands were bleeding and he was a raving maniac. His effort to escape was in vain. This was the effect of being lost in Mammoth Cave for three hours, What will it mean to die in sin and take a leap in the dark and have it dawn upon us that we are lost in Hell FOREVER. I think I hear some lost, damned soul in Hell cry out piteously, "How long till morning?" And I hear ten thousand hoarse voices answer, as it reverberates through the corridors of Hell, "Morning will never come. This is Hell." It will be, "Good-bye light, forever."

THIRD, FLOWERS. Who is it that does not appreciate God's beautiful flowers. Such a variety as we have, none but a loving God could create. But, when a lost soul departs this world, no matter how much he loved flowers that will be the last he will ever see. You say, "Will there be flowers in Heaven?" Well, the Bible speaks of the "Tree of life which bears twelve manner of fruits." And we have never seen fruit without first blooms, flowers.

There will be heavenly flowers. But remember there will be no flowers in Hell. It will be "Good-bye, flowers, forever." So when you are taking your departure from earth, sinner, have them

bring a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Look upon them. Enjoy their fragrance to the full for this is the last.

Then in the fourth place, it will be FAREWELL MONEY. Many love money more than they love God. The facts are money is their God. Whatever is preeminent with us is our god. Whatever that may be. And God knows. Many say, "I do not have time to read the Bible, pray and serve God. I have to live." No, you do not have to live, you have to die. This is God's appointment. It must be met. If you love money, sinner, backslider, when dying have them bring some gold or silver or some new, crisp bills of large dimensions. Handle it. Look upon it and enjoy it to the full, for that is the last dollar you will ever own or see. You may be a millionaire here but will be a pauper in Hell. Dives was such a miser, was dying and the only way they could pacify him was to keep his hands full of gold and silver. When this was removed he was like a damned soul. Finally death came and his hand relaxed. Death is a relaxation. We will relax our hold, no matter how tenaciously we have held on to the things of this world, when the end comes. So it will be "Good-bye, money, and Good-bye forever."

In the fifth place, it will be "GOOD-BYE SMILES." Who is it does not appreciate a friendly smile? It helps to brighten and cheer. But remember, if unsaved when leaving this world, that you will never see another smile. Let your friends stand around your dying couch, and do not consider it rude if they should greet you with a friendly smile. You should enjoy it and appreciate it, for that is the last smile you will ever see. Heaven is a place of happiness and cheer but Hell is a place of frightful grimness. There has never been a smile in Hell and there never will be. It will be "Good-bye, smiles."

In the sixth place, it will be GOOD-BYE, MUSIC. Thank God for music. Who does not love music? So we would suggest, careless soul, as you are taking your departure from this earth, that you have the friends come and stand around your bed and sing some beautiful hymns. Your favorites. Have some instrumental music, if you like that. Have the choir sing. Have some special numbers and then as you depart, say "Good-bye Music." Remember that is the last. Heaven is a place of music. I like the old song, "There is singing up in Heaven, such as we have never known, where the angels sing the praises to the Lamb upon the throne. Their sweet harps are ever tuneful and their voices always clear. O that we might be more like them while we serve the Master here." The chorus is "Holy, holy, holy is what the angels sing, and I expect to help them make the courts of Heaven ring. But when I sing redemption's story they will fold their wings, for the angels never felt the joy which this salvation brings." Yes, the redeemed can sing a song which the angels cannot sing. They can sing about having been redeemed by the blood. The angels will have to remain silent while redeemed saints sing this song. But, while Heaven is a place of music, there will be no music in Hell. Hell is a place of discord. There has never been a song in Hell. Never a note in that dismal Land of the Lost. So don't forget, sinner, to have some music at the end for this will be the last you will ever hear.

In the next place, we would state that it will be GOOD-BYE, REST. Have you ever been real tired? We believe we have been. We were reared on the farm where we just about observed the eight hour system. That is eight hours before noon and eight after! As a boy, working on the farm, we have been so tired it seemed we would never make it. However, we knew the time would come to rest. Then, since we have been seeking to do the Lord's work we have been tired. We are the most

unworthy of all, but we have visited and prayed in fifty homes many a day. We have driven tent stakes and preached in tents till our throat would bleed and then drive more stakes and preach again. But it encouraged us to know the time for rest would come. We like to think of Heaven as a place of rest. Job said, "THERE the wicked cease from troubling and THERE the weary are at rest." Charles Wesley sang, "THERE I shall bathe my weary soul in seas of heavenly rest, and not a wave of trouble roll across my peaceful breast." Think of taking a bath in a sea of heavenly rest. But in Hell there is no rest. In Rev. 14:11 we read, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever; and they have no rest."

We can imagine some lost soul inquiring, "Where can I find some rest?" To this plaintive wail we may hear a hopeless response, from the damned, who have been there longer, "This is Hell." "There is no rest in Hell." So, unsaved friend, don't forget to seek a little rest as the end of the journey comes, for this will be the last.

Then we would have you remember it will be GOOD-BYE, LITTLE CHILDREN. Be sure and have some little children stand around your dying bed. Put your hands upon their heads. Listen to their prattle. Enjoy them for this is the last little child you will ever see.

Jesus tasted death for all. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Every little child who dies before the age of accountability, through the atoning blood is cleansed, sanctified, and goes to be with Jesus. There is not a little child in Hell. So do not forget this as you leave this world. Have them come and then bid them a final farewell, for you will never see another. It will be Good-bye, little children.

Then last of all it will be GOOD-BYE, LOVE and CHRISTIAN LOVED ONES. Heaven is a place of love. Everybody there loves everybody else. You say, "But I can't love everybody." Yes, Jesus can expel every form of ill will and fill the heart with perfect love. We can't get to Heaven unless we do. Don't forget unsaved friends as you leave this world to have your good Christian friends to stand around your dying couch and extend to you their love and friendship, for this is the last you will ever experience. In Hell everybody hates everybody else. Your friends can't be found in all that dark domain of the damned. So don't forget to have them come and then say to them, "Good-bye, love and Christian loved ones." It will be "Good-bye, Mother, Good-bye minister, Good-bye friends. Good-bye FOREVER.

But now in closing, we would say that we need not say "Good-bye." We can have it all fixed and be prepared for the good world. And instead of this, we can go to the world where flows the River of Life, and where grows the Tree of Life; where the streets are pure gold. Not just PAVED with gold as we so often sing. We can go where the angels sing and where all the little children are. We can go where all our saved loved ones have gone and where we shall be at home forever. It is the Christian's home in Glory. A city not made with hands, nor hoary with time. A city whose resources have never been appraised. A city that has love for its law, perfection for its standard, and Jehovah for its God. A city without grief or graves. Without sins or sorrows. A city that God built that shall never pass away. MY ETERNAL HOME!. A good man was dying. His Christian wife and son and daughter stood by his bedside. After some words of council he said to them, "Good night." His unsaved son also came and after some sad words, he said, "Good-bye, my son, Good-bye." It touched



the young man and he said, "Papa, you said 'Good night' to the others, but you said Good-bye to me. Why the difference?" The dying man said, "My son, your mother, brother, and sister are Christians. To them I said 'Good night,' for I will soon meet them again, but to you I must say 'Good-bye,' for I can never see you again." It touched the heart of the young man, and he fell upon his knees by the bedside of his dying father, confessed his sins and prayed through. Then arose, while penitential tears flowed down his cheeks, and he said, "Father, I am a Christian too." Then the dying father put his arms around his son, and with fast declining strength he said, "Good night, my son, Good night." If the end should come to you or to me just now would it be 'Good night' or 'Good-bye'? May the Lord grant that we may be fully saved from sin and when this brief pilgrimage is over go to a world where Good-byes are never spoken.

"On the happy golden shore,  
Where the faithful part no more,  
When the storms of life are o'er,  
Meet me there.

Where the night dissolves away,  
Into pure and perfect day,  
I am going home to stay;  
Meet me there."

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## **CHAPTER 2 NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE**

In Hebrews 11:35, we read, "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. As we press the Devil, so he opposes us. God put enmity between the seed of the serpent (the Devil) and the seed of the woman (primarily Christ, but includes true Christians). The seed of the woman bruises the serpent's head, but the serpent bruises the heel of the seed of the woman.

Suffering can be escaped, often, by accepting deliverance. Just let up; compromise. This is true denominationally, congregationally and individually. That clears up the matter about the general tendency to compromise.

Notice a few examples of those who did not accept deliverance: Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. One time, when that murmuring, fussing crowd vexed and provoked the Lord, the Lord proposed to blot out the whole throng and raise up a new race from Moses. Quite an opportunity to escape, but Moses refused to accept deliverance. (See Num. 14:1-16)

Elijah could have compromised with poor old backboneless Ahab and carnal, painted-faced Jezebel, who is probably the most wicked woman who ever lived, but Elijah did not do it. He and the Lord slew 400 (and maybe 800) false prophets, and ran for his life when threatened by Jezebel a bit, and wound up under a Juniper tree, depressed; but the Lord got him out and finally took him to Heaven in a chariot of fire. It paid him not to accept deliverance.

Good, praying Daniel refused deliverance. He well knew of the wicked scheme which these conniving politicians had concocted. He knew he was headed for the lions' den if he refused, but he prayed in full view, before the open window, and wound up in the den of lions. He had a good night, and maybe used a lion for a pillow. In the morning the King came and said, "Is thy God whom thou servest continually able to deliver thee?" Then, Daniel's strong, clear testimony, from the den, "He is able." I like that. A testimony from the lions' den. He refused to accept deliverance.

Jesus is a graphic example. The Devil took Him to an high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a moment of time. Think of the kingdoms of the world. Egypt, Babylon, Rome, and all. Satan tempted Jesus to just fall down and worship him and He need not go to Calvary, with all that would mean. "Just worship me." Just notice the two diabolical temptations that confronted Jesus. First, doubt of His sonship. "If thou be the Son of God." Then the second, to worship the Devil. So, if Satan tempted Jesus to doubt His sonship and worship the Devil, we need not be surprised at any blasphemous temptation that may come to us.

But time would fail us to mention such illustrious characters as Enoch, Jeremiah, Joseph, John the Baptist, Paul, the early Christians who were murdered by the tens of thousands. One of the favorite methods of torture was to put the body on a wheel; a chain around each wrist and each ankle, and then to turn the wheel until arms and legs were torn from the body, telling them that if they would recant they would be delivered.

Take John Bunyan, John Huss, John Knox, John Wesley, and the early Methodist and holiness movement. They could have compromised and escaped suffering but they all refused deliverance. They could have but would not ACCEPT. It is sad about the modern, compromising holiness movement now; they have accepted deliverance.

What was the incentive for all these to refuse deliverance? The answer is, "That they might obtain a better resurrection." There are two resurrections. The first will be when Jesus comes for His saints, just before the great Tribulation of seven years, and calls them to meet Him on the glassy sea before the rainbow throne in the air. "This is the first resurrection."

These heroes and heroines wanted to get in on that. And they will. It pays not to accept deliverance. To accept deliverance and compromise will mean part in the second resurrection at the end of the thousand year millennial reign; in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, then brought out of the pit, or Hell, and stand before the great white throne and there be consigned to the Lake of Fire eternally.

Woodrow Wilson is quoted as saying, "It is better to be identified with a small minority that seems to be losing now, but will ultimately win, than with a gigantic throng that seems to be winning now but will ultimately lose." Thank God for His winning minority. Hear the testimony of dying saints and sinners and you will see that it pays to go with God and not compromise. Look into that sinless, nightless, eternal Heaven and you will see that it pays not to accept deliverance.

Behold the gigantic, compromising throng in that lost world, where they weep and wail eternally and you will see that it is bad to accept deliverance. Where am I? In which resurrection shall I be?

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## **CHAPTER 3 BUILDING WHAT WAS DESTROYED AND THUS BECOMING TRANSGRESSORS**

In Gal. 2:18 Paul said, "If I build again the things which I destroyed I make myself a transgressor." "Trans" is a latin prefix which means "across." For example; transatlantic, transcontinental, transfusion, transgression across God's law. This nefarious practice is common all through the Bible and is now destroying and then building.

Israel destroyed her idols and then set them up again. Saul destroyed the witches and then sought one the evening before he committed suicide. In Acts 15 some thought they could not be saved without circumcision. Again, this contention broke out at Antioch (Read Gal. 2) and even Peter was disturbed and good Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulations. Paul said Peter feared them of the circumcision and he (Paul) withstood him to the face because he was to be blamed. (Gal. 2:11, 12)

Building again what was destroyed. The early church and early Methodism did this and today the holiness churches are no exception. Most of our leaders were frozen or driven out of the old apostate churches. They were "come-outers" and "independents." They adopted, without compromise, a Holy Ghost program. They discarded all apostate innovations. But now, by leaps and bounds, we are turning again to that which we destroyed. Unbelievable! We taught, correctly, that "The Blessing" made us one; thus eliminating all strife, divisions, and splits, but right now there are enough among us to make heaven blush. Paul said the cause of all this is carnality. (I Cor. 3:3)

We denounced oyster stews, soup suppers and kitchens, but now we are building again. We cried out against church socials and banquets, but now we are about to supersede the Methodists. A pastor of one of the leading holiness churches said he got his crowds largely by banquets. Many of our holiness choirs are bedecked, and hair cut like men, until we put old sister Jezebel to shame. Once we STRIPPED for the race by discarding rag roses, feathers, rings and make-up was not tolerated. Now vulgar shorts and wicked nude craze are common. No wonder the outsiders are not coming much now. This hypocritical performance has disgusted them. Once we discarded the lodge business but now we are returning to it. One of our ministers informed me the other day that in a large church every member of the board, with one or two exceptions was a member of a lodge. If all the holiness denominations, congregations, and individuals are building AGAIN what they once DESTROYED, we have a PITIFUL SITUATION.

You say, "I see no harm in this." There may be a reason. As long as we are in the light, spots are visible, but when we get in the dark it is different. First convictions are safest. I would rather trust the convictions of the sainted founders of Methodism than some little modern, theatergoing, smoking, Methodist preacher now. Also, I would rather trust the convictions of the founders of the

present holiness movement than some little modern dude or dudeen, though they profess holiness, who do not know what it is all about.

It is dangerous to go to sleep in the light. If one goes to sleep in the dark you can turn on the light and wake him up, but if he goes to sleep in the light what can be done? That is exactly where we are now. Dr. Godbey said, "Large numbers around old holiness churches have rejected light and have grieved the Spirit away." One can preach on the dangers of TV and all kinds of worldliness, but they say, "I see no harm in it," and they do not. They are "past feeling, twice dead, plucked up by the roots." (Jude 12)

Are we, as denominations, congregations, and individuals, building again that which we once destroyed and thus becoming transgressors? Laodicea is a graphic picture of Christendom as the age closes (Rev. 3:14-22). They said that they were rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing and DID NOT KNOW that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked — a lot of carnal boasting just as we have now. Christ was on the outside and refused admittance. Organized Christendom and the holiness movement especially have become transgressors by BUILDING AGAIN what they ONCE DESTROYED. Christ is completely excluded. But He turns to the individual and says, "If ANY MAN hear my voice and open the door I will come in TO HIM." There is only one hope now, THE BLESSED HOPE (Tit. 2:13).

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## **CHAPTER 4**

### **THE PERSECUTED BECOMING PERSECUTORS**

This seems like a paradox but it is really true. Of course some great radical change, while often denied, must have taken place before the persecuted could become persecutors. But change, deterioration seems to be the order in this world. Nebuchadnezzar's image reveals this. Head of gold, breast and arms silver, abdomen of brass, legs of iron and feet and toes of iron and clay. FROM GOLD TO MUD. Blasphemous Post-Millennialism to the contrary. Degeneration seems to be the order of this world politically, morally and religiously.

The Bible, as well as history, makes this clear. The old homespun adage, "The old gray mare is not what she used to be" contains more truth than poetry. Often a religious movement starts out in glory and winds up in a grave; like Saul from Gilgal to Gilboa, she begins in the upper room and ends in the supper room; she is filled with the Holy Ghost and then finally with beef roast, "She begins with a storm and ends with a form."

This decline has been true all down the ages. A movement begins small, poor and humble. Then becomes strong and powerful numerically and financially and then becomes independent and arrogant. "Jeshurun (Israel — the upright people) hath waxed fat and kicked . . . thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness . . . then he forsook God" (Deut. 32:15). So it is now. Even the holiness movement, in some instances, has done this. Strong, powerful. "We are no longer a mere 'sect' but a strong, influential, popular denomination and have taken our place among the sister religious bodies." That is the way one great leader puts it. And so we have ecclesiastical regimentation (Rulership from Headquarters) dictatorship. A lot of "kicking" from the FAT ONES THESE DAYS.

It is possible to lose God and not know it. This is true denominationally, congregationally and individually. This was true of Samson. "He WIST NOT that God had departed."

Samson said, "I will go out and shake myself as before." Up till this time his enemies did the shaking but this time he was the only one that shook. Reminds us of today.

Backsliding and apostasy come on so gradually that one may be unconscious of change. You can put a frog in warm water and turn the heat on gradually and cook him and he will never stir. Or you can put him in nice warm water and freeze him stiff and he will not budge. But put him suddenly in hot or ice cold water and watch him jump! One can be identified with a radical, redhot holiness church and the apostasy creeps on so gradually that some fail to detect it. For instance one says, "I am a Methodist." "A Methodist till I die." No you are not a Methodist. Only in NAME. John Wesley said, "Methodists are humble, you are proud, Methodists are holy you are not, Methodists are unworldly, you are worldly." "You are no more Methodist than you are Archangels." There you have it.

Then if some in the apostate denominations have sufficient spiritual discernment to detect the situation and seek to call attention, or to withdraw many have been in so long and have lost their spiritual insight, and are frozen so hard and dead that they can't see it and become bitter at those who do. And then start a campaign of slander, bitterness and persecution. They fail to detect the apostate change that has come in the denomination. Reminds me of a few sad instances I have seen where a husband or wife has betrayed the other. Unholy relationships. But the husband or wife is unconscious of it and to try to show them and help them means a storm. They go right on thinking they are the same as when married when in reality they are an adulterer or harlot. We have seen that. Then as far as past history is concerned no denomination has ever been restored. Many said they would do this and made a hard fight but they fought a losing fight. We can mention many such. Now we give a few examples to illustrate what I am saying.

I. ISRAEL. Israel was greatly blest. Israel was a Theocracy. A government of God. God was their king. But they, in order to be like other people, desired a king. God gave them their request but sent leanness to their souls. He gave such leaders as Abraham, Moses, Joshua and David. The climax of glory was reached in Solomon. But finally God was rejected and Babylonian captivity was the result. God gave them up and did not speak to them for 400 years.

II. THE CHURCH. Finally John the Baptist the fiery preacher from the wilderness came and soon Jesus, the promised Messiah, appeared. This was an entirely NEW MOVEMENT. But Israel had become powerful, but spiritually blind, and failed to recognize this new order and slew Jesus and John. Soon Pentecost, in full blast was on, but Israel was blind. They would have nothing to do with it. They said, "We have Abraham to our Father and Moses is our leader" Stephen said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost as your fathers did. . . Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted?" Then they gnashed on him with their teeth, like a gnashing, grinning dog, and murdered him as he prayed for them. Yes, Israel had been persecuted in her early days but now blind Israel becomes persecutor.

But finally the Church became powerful. The dark ages of 1000 years came during the Catholic reign and God raised up the reformers, Knox, Luther, etc., and finally the Wesleyan revival. This was an entirely NEW MOVEMENT and the Church was blind and dead and she, who had been so persecuted by the Roman and Papal persecutions became persecutor. Wesley had to go to the graveyard and preach on his father's tomb.

III. THE HOLINESS MOVEMENT. But God will not leave Himself without a witness. When the Methodist compromised and opposed the very doctrine the Lord raised them up to preach, and filled the church with apostate innovations God raised up the various holiness bodies. This again was a NEW MOVEMENT. But, as always, the Methodist were blind and dead and failed to recognize this new movement. And they became embittered at these who could not go along and dared to call attention or withdraw. Personally I know about this. About 80 of us in our Methodist church got sanctified. Our pastor and many of my brethren became embittered. After the holiness revival led by a fiery sanctified Methodist, a prayer meeting broke out. Our Pastor became so enraged he had the church doors locked and he himself became insane and went to the asylum and died. They said, "We are Methodist and will be till we die." They lacked spiritual discernment and became embittered at those who dared to withstand the apostasy and withdrew. How well do I remember the great fixed

gulf that came between my Methodist friends and myself. So the once persecuted Methodist became persecutors.

But finally much of the holiness movement began to let up, cool off and let the bars down. Yes, a change has come in much of the holiness movement. Some deny this but it is a fact. I have been over much of the U. S. the last years and know. Look at the apostate innovations filling some denominations. I have a list of near 30 of them. I have shuddered as I have seen them in holiness churches. I could name these but space will not permit here. Pardon this personal word but I could not accept possibly one call in 20 that came for revivals, preachers meetings, holiness conventions. But something happened. I did not change. Preached exactly what I had preached for over 50 years. This preaching no longer acceptable. Calls fell off, cancellations began. I had 10 revivals cancelled in a very short time. The pastors stated to me they were demanded to do so by officials.

A host of others found themselves in the same predicament. Not so much we left the church but the church left us. We could preach theoretical holiness. Preach the theory. The two blessings, but to preach ethical holiness meant to bring the wrath of the powers that be down on us. Preach the theory of second blessing holiness, preach against lying, stealing, drunkenness, (Go light on the downtown movies, the same as the TV home movie) but stay off kitchens in the church, church ball games, haircut like men, jewelry, jeans for women) shorts etc., etc. To warn against these apostate innovations in the holiness church meant you were on your way out. I know whereof I speak. The Good Book says, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Also it says, "Be not partakers of other men's sins." This was enough. Had to withdraw to be true to God.

So many withdrew and many more are doing so constantly. Two fine young ladies said to me, "I am so glad I took this step when I did. Had I remained the light might have gone and I might have been lost." This is a new movement. I have preached for 55 years that if we let up God would get another crowd. That time has come. So just now, as has been all along, the majority cannot see it. Often a reason for not seeing. It has cost me 50,000 friends and thousands of dollars. But as Bro. Spencer Johnson says it is not a question of "Convenience but of Convictions." It would have been much more CONVENIENT for Paul to have gone on with the big old, established order of Judaism. Saved him much suffering. But Paul was not dominated by convenience but by convictions. "I count all but loss . . . that I may win Christ." "It cost Luther, Wesley, Bresee and a host of others but I am glad they paid the price." As my friend Rev. S.D. Herron, Wesleyan Methodist says, "WILL I have sense and spiritual discernment enough to recognize this when it comes and to keep my hand off." The Lord save us from denominational blindness and may we be true at any cost. May we not be among "The once persecuted and become persecutors."



# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 5 CHILDREN OF THE APOSTASY**

In Second Thes. 2:3 we read "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed the son of perdition."

This is a description of the apostasy of the last days. Paul declares just prior to the return of Christ, and the revelation of the "Man of Sin," or Anti-Christ, there will be a falling away. Of course, there have been back-slidings, and apostasies from the first. The "mystery of iniquity," or the leaven of sin, was working when Paul wrote (II Tim. 2:7) but as the age closes and we near the return of Christ we will have the great apostasy of the last days.

Of course, some will deny this and insist the age is to close, if it ever closes, in a "blaze of glory." However, God's inspired word is clear that such will not be the case, "Evil men and seducers will wax WORSE AND WORSE," (II Tim. 3:13). Iniquity will abound and the love of many will wax cold (Matt. 24:12). They will deny the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction (II Pet. 2:1). "Let no man deceive you."

We are, beyond question, in this apostasy now. This falling away is visible everywhere. Moral standards have not been lowered, but destroyed. The boastful spirit of the age is getting possession of the Church. There are two spirits in the world. The Holy Spirit, who is a Divine Person, and the "spirit of the age." These are contrary the one to the other. The Holy Spirit seeks to separate us from the world, while the spirit of the world seeks to unite us with the world. This rule will help us to determine the prophets of the Lord from the "Ministers of Satan." Also, whether or not a church is of God or is a "SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN." In Revelation 2 we read about "The depths of Satan," also in the Church at Pergamos of "Satan's seat" (Revelation 2:13). Not only do we learn Satan had come into the Church and seated himself, but we also read of his "synagogue." Because a body of people call themselves a church does not necessarily prove that it is a church. It might be a "synagogue of Satan." We do not want to be identified with such an institution.

The Spirit of the age now, largely dominates church activity. An institutional church is a veritable synagogue of Satan. Sad day for us Nazarenes if we forsake the old paths to which God has called us and the founders of our church suffered for, and adopt the God-dishonoring methods of the apostasy. May the God of heaven forbid that the "God of this age" should so blind us till we shall not have sufficient spiritual discernment to differentiate between the baneful schemes of the spirit of the age and the divinely instituted plans of the Holy Spirit, for the propagation of the work of God. It is reported that questionnaires were sent to five hundred Protestant ministers asking their belief relative to certain fundamental Bible doctrines with the following results: 69% do not believe there is a Hell. 54% do not believe there is a personal Devil. 41% do not believe there is a Heaven. 48% did not believe there is a judgment day for the wicked. 74% did not believe God kept a record of

individual sins. The following is reported in a statement published by the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism: "Much as we dislike modernists because of their illogical compromising, we must recognize that for many, modernism is but a step over on the road to Atheism. Perhaps we should have a little more patience with these our weaker brothers, who are unable to go straight from orthodoxy to Atheism without resting in the camps of liberalism along the way. Modernism being no abiding place for the reasoning mind, some of them will yet arrive."

But this brings us to our subject: "Children of the apostasy." By children of the apostasy we mean conditions, methods, plans etc., that are born of the Apostasy. They would never have existed had it not been for the Apostasy. The Apostasy makes it possible and necessary for them to exist. They are the direct offspring or children of it.

When an individual or a church has God there is no need for any substitute. When Saul was in touch with God he did not need the witch of Endor. But when God answered him "NO MORE," he must seek a substitute. When God's people are in touch with Heaven they do not need fortune tellers and spiritualistic mediums but when they lose Him they seek these satanic agencies. As long as a Church has God she is equipped for every need. Dr. Bresee declared, "If we would keep the Glory down," all would be well. Of course if this is lost substitutes must be sought. In the early church when the Holy Ghost was upon the people the unsaved were convicted. "They were pricked in their hearts and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The Holy Ghost upon God's people brought conviction upon the unsaved. It will do the same today. There was no trouble about the attendance. Now, when this was "NOISED ABROAD THE MULTITUDE CAME TOGETHER," (Acts 2:6). They did not need fairs, feasts, socials, footshows, broom-drills, oyster stews, ice cream suppers, picture shows or any such like to get a crowd. NO! God was there and the people came, but now in many places God is crowded out and some "child of the apostasy" must be substituted in an endeavor to get the folks.

We are informed of a missionary society, composed of the older ladies of the church, where cigarettes are passed and freely used. In our city a few days ago, there appeared, in one of the papers, in black headlines, an announcement of a "vaudeville show" at one of our largest churches. It is a church, which in the past stood for Old Time Religion and separation from the world. In it the man, whom we consider one of the most outstanding in the Holiness movement, has conducted revival meetings. The multitudes came. One of the members of this church whose membership extends, we are told, into thousands, informed me around fifty attend a Sunday evening service. Children of the apostasy have been adopted, in a frantic effort to take the place of God, but all in vain. It will not be necessary, if we keep God, to observe Father's day, Mother's day, Home-coming day, Young Folk's day, Old Folk's day, Armistice day to get the people to attend. Like David, they will be glad when they say "Let us go into the house of the Lord." It is a place where they love to go for it is a place where they meet God.

Again, when God is on the scene "finances come easy." A spirit-filled people are a liberal people. When they were filled with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, we read: "They sold their possessions and goods and parted them to all men, as every man had need" (Acts 2:45). Recently a church was behind with its finances and a curtain was hung and the ladies of the church sat behind it, putting their feet under the curtain, so that only the foot was visible. The "brethren" came paying twenty-five cents

and selecting the foot and the lady to whom it belonged, taking her to the "Church supper." This was their method of raising funds. We believe, all this kind of thing is an abomination to God. Christ said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." It is a child of the apostasy. God's consecrated, spirit-filled people will bring all their tithes into the storehouse (the church) on the first day of the week, and it will not be necessary to resort to these children of the apostasy. It will not even be necessary to "Assess" them or "pledge" them since they know that tithes and offerings are God's DIVINELY INSTITUTED PLANS, and they have voluntarily and eternally put all on the altar, and made their vow to God. This is sufficient. The Fire burns within. No external rally or assessment is required. They can say "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold." They would no more think of robbing God of His tithes and offerings than they would of robbing a bank.

Yes, the apostasy of the last days is unquestionably on. It is becoming more far-reaching as the age closes. Its children are being adopted more and more. God has been crowded out and these substitutes are sought to take His place but there is no substitute for God. Satan's COUNTERFEITS may be substituted but they will miserably fail. Not only fail, but these substitutes of Hell will prove a curse. They are delusions, they deceive and damn. Satan's COUNTERFEIT church is a curse and will damn more souls possibly than a saloon. A worldly church member, who was relying upon church membership, instead of a personal experience of grace, was dying. Her pastor, who had charge of a church given to worldly social functions, and who insisted these things were all right, came in. When she saw him she screamed, "Out of that door, you deceiver of men." "I am lost, and going to Hell." "You told me I was all right, and I am damned. You deceived me."

We must have God. Moses knew this. Israel had sinned. God informed Moses that since sin had come in, he could no longer journey with them. Moses insisted that God should go, insisting that God's presence was indispensable. Finally, God agreed to send an angel along in His place and it would seem if there could be an adequate substitute for God it would be one of His angels. But no! Moses said "If thou go not with us carry us not up." In other words, we must not go unless God goes along. We cannot accept an angel or a substitute of any kind for God. After this earnest prayer by Moses, the Lord announced, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." God declares, "Them that honor me I will honor." May we as individuals, and as a church, realize the indispensability of God. May we see to it, if we fail in everything else, that God is with us, as the age closes and the shadows deepen, and then we shall not need to adopt any of the children of the Apostasy.

In Rev. 3:14-17 Christ portrays the destiny of the church of the Laodiceans. Laodicea represents christendom, or the PROFESSED church as the age closes. They said they were rich and increased with goods and had need of nothing. They made money, or material things, which is the tendency today, THE TEST. Some insist that our greatest need is money. We resent it. Our greatest need is God. While this church was rich and had need of nothing they did not have sufficient spiritual discernment to know that they were wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, and that they were neither cold nor hot, but LUKEWARM and God was about to spew them out of His mouth. Whether we like it or not, this is the description given by the glorified Christ to His servant John, of the destiny and doom of the Apostasy of the last days.

O that we would give heed to the Divine admonition, given seven times over, "HE THAT HATH AN EAR let him hear what the SPIRIT SAITH unto the churches." God forbid that we should be among those who have eyes and SEE NOT, and have ears and HEAR NOT, and finally be ENMESHED in the fearful Apostasy of the last days.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 6 REMOVING THE LANDMARKS**

In Prov. 22:28 we read, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." There are both MATERIAL and SPIRITUAL LANDMARKS. They can be removed secretly and fraudulently, but it is a wicked, dangerous business. They were set correctly by the fathers. Sad to see a man slyly, cunningly removing the marks set to mark off boundary lines. Only one thing worse and that is to see some one cunningly removing the spiritual landmarks set up by our fathers.

"This know also in the last days perilous (dangerous, hazardous) times shall come" (II Tim. 3:1). "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:27). Those were days of WICKEDNESS, HARDNESS AND UNBELIEF. Compare this with NOW. Noah preached righteousness for 120 years and had seven converts. Thank God for the few. As we near the close of the age there will be a small minority, which God designates "The CHURCH at Philadelphia." Contemporaneously with this there was a multitude of professors, which God calls "The Synagogue of Satan." Not recognized as the church at all. The church at Philadelphia NOW includes all the blood-washed and sanctified, wherever found. These will compose the Bride to be raptured just PRIOR to the great Tribulation (Luke 21:36, Isa. 26:20,21).

But now a word with regard to the PRESENT DAY SITUATION. Christendom is largely apostate and God has raised up the holiness movement for such a time as this. The question is, "Will we weather the gale?" Or will we permit the same Devil that wrecked Eden, Israel, the Early church (the dark ages of 1000 years coming after Pentecost) and the early Methodist to cause us to let up and adopt the various SUBSTITUTES for the old-fashioned Holy Ghost program? Some insist that there is no danger and it is DISLOYAL to so insinuate. They are like the prophets that prophesy "SMOOTH THINGS." Any way there are TRENDS today that are alarming. God has set denominations aside who were once more spiritual than we are.

Now a question. Were our fathers, who set the landmarks, WRONG OR ARE WE WRONG? Can't both be right. They were pushed out or frozen out of the old apostate churches, and they DISCARDED and DENOUNCED, with a vengeance, the old club, play, social, recreation, "Cook stove apostate" program. Now with leaps and bounds we are returning to the very things we denounced. Little similarity, in many places, in the landmarks our holiness fathers set and what we are embarking upon NOW. Were our fathers mistaken as they set up the Holy Ghost landmarks or are we in removing them? FIRST CONVICTIONS are safer. This is true INDIVIDUALLY and DENOMINATIONALLY. Shall we rely upon the in wrought, Holy Ghost convictions of our sainted fathers or the NOTIONS of some little second or third crop holiness professors, who would remove the landmarks of our fathers, and set up apostate SUBSTITUTES? God gave a program for the Old Testament worship. Also a New Testament plan for the church. Wicked to seek programs from apostate churches and not from God's word.

The recreation craze has hit us with avalanche momentum the last few years. No one objects to any recreation in the HOME, COMMUNITY or SCHOOL, that is in harmony with the beautiful experience of holiness. But when the church launches upon a mission of military, industrial, political, even reformatory and social functions she has missed her calling, and is FALLEN. Now we are having church banquets, ball games, bowling, skating, mixed bathing and about all else, either in the church or SPONSORED by it. Possibly the modern, RECREATION CENTER hard by the church, which is about the same as the old Methodist "Parish House" where they dance and about all else is carried on, will prove to be the greatest curse of all. "An evening of fun" has been reported where brethren dressed up in their wives' clothes. A regular "Tacky party." Our holy fathers, who set the landmarks, never dreamed that in a few short years we would come to this. They would weep today if they saw it. Plays and parties are brazenly announced now.

Often we are asked, "Are you for the WHOLE PROGRAM? That depends. If by the whole program they mean the Bible program as set up by our fathers, we say, "YES." If they mean a lot of this apostate abomination as put on by some modern landmark-remover, then we say, "NO" with a vengeance. We are familiar with the CATCHY theory that it is an age of recreation and we must put on Christian recreation in order to offset the others. We also know that for the church to undertake this unscriptural program, which has helped to sink the older denominations more deeply into the quagmire, is wrong, and to put our REASON OVER AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD IS BLASPHEMOUS. We prefer to stick to the Holy Ghost program and leave results with God. The shadows are deepening, but the Holy Spirit is still doing business in the world. Let's be busy, watch and pray, so we shall not be ashamed before Him at His coming. "Remove not the landmark, which our fathers set." Dangerous. If our fathers were RIGHT, all this modern recreation program for the church is WRONG. Right is right if nobody is doing it; and wrong is wrong if everybody is doing it. Henry Clay said, "I had rather be right than president."

"Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire" (I Cor. 3:13).

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **BUILDING THE TOMBS OF THE PROPHETS AND MURDERING THOSE WHO DID WHAT THE PROPHETS DID**

Jesus spoke of such a hypocritical procedure when He said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, and say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets . . . ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers" (Matt. 23:29-32).

"History repeats itself." That is exactly what is being done this very day. Look at Martin Luther. He was a devout Catholic, carefully observing all its heathen, idolatrous rituals. But after all his rigorous fastings, doing penance and torturing himself, his poor soul was lost and the burden almost unbearable. But one day as he was praying on the steps of the cathedral, hoping to get peace when he reached the top, suddenly the Holy Ghost flashed the truth upon his poor benighted soul, "The just shall live by faith." Suddenly the burden rolled away and peace like a river came. Immediately he began to denounce all the damnable heresies of Rome. The pope and all his dupes were enraged and sought to murder him, but by the grace of God he continued. When all the threats and intimidations had failed they sent the committee to buy him off with gold. But all in vain, they returned and declared "the fool does not love gold." Now we honor Martin Luther and build monuments to him but if one shall arise, denounce all the sham and hypocritical performances of the day, he is criticized, ostracized and excommunicated. He is a criminal. Building tombs for Luther and killing those who are doing what Luther did.

John Wesley is honored and almost worshipped. Wesley churches, songs, schools, educational centers, etc.. Wesley and his workers precipitated a revival that saved England and America. I think the old fashioned Methodist Church was the greatest church since the days of Pentecost. But now making most apostate with all her apostate abominations in her churches. I saw a big ad in a city paper which said, "Dance at the First Methodist Church tonight." The church is filled with modernism and blasphemy of all kinds but if one rises up and opposes these abominations he is branded as disloyal and a traitor.

Look at Dr. Bresee as he came out of the apostate Methodist church and "set in order" his congregation and preached with holy fire and zeal until the throngs came and police had to be stationed around the tabernacle to keep order. Salvation flowed. I have heard dear Dr. Bresee preach till heaven and earth came together. Such power and glory but now largely different. I will not enumerate the innovations that fill the church Dr. Bresee "set in order." But if one cannot go on with all this and raises his voice against it and is forced out and does exactly what Dr. Bresee did he is now considered a criminal. I trust it will not be unethical to mention just one example. Take my very greatly esteemed friend, Rev. Joe Cook, of Duncan, Oklahoma. I have known him intimately for

many years. He is a graduate of Trevecca College, has an unexcelled personality, knows the Bible as few men do, has preaching ability that few have, is one of the most humble and Christlike men I have ever known and is a Christian gentleman of the first magnitude. But now he is branded as "Liar, thief, communist." But what is his crime? Just one thing. He could not go on with the apostate program and has sought to remain an old fashioned Holy Ghost preacher just as we began. He preaches and teaches just what the founders of the holiness movement taught. He has not changed but the change has come. Oh yes, they still build tombs of the prophets and murder those who do exactly what the prophets did.

We could mention scores who are thus treated now. "History repeats itself." But God is still on the throne. "Truth upon the scaffold; wrong upon the throne, but the scaffold sways the future, and amid the shadows, keeping watch upon His own." God sees it all and it will all come out one day. So "look up and lift up your hearts for your redemption draweth nigh." Jesus is coming. That is the only hope. Be busy winning souls. "Occupy till He comes."



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(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **ANCIENT AND MODERN BABEL BUILDERS**

In Gen. 11:1-9 we have an account of the ancient Babel builder, (Read this scripture.) We would note a few points of similarity between the ancient and modern Babel builders.

I. The word Babel means "confusion" As they began to build God came and confounded or confused their language so they could not understand one another. Up until then there was just one language.

What do we now have but confusion? World, national, political, industrial, ecclesiastical (church), racial and home confusion. Frantic efforts being made to solve these in vain. Worse and worse, destructive teenagers have taken over.

II. JOURNEYING, TRAVEL. "As they journeyed from the East." What do we have now? Daniel said, "Many would run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." Look at this restless age. Every possible means of conveyance.

We read "They journeyed from the EAST." Now hear about the "Middle East, the near East, the far East." But much about the EAST.

III. They found a suitable place for their endeavor. They found a plain in the land of Shinar (Babylon) and they DWELT THERE. (Verse 2). Here they had a CONFERENCE. "And they said ONE TO ANOTHER let us make brick and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone and slime for mortar. Babylon was famous for its slimepits. (Verses 3, 4). Many conferences now. Nothing like it. Just look and listen. Too numerous to mention.

IV. Came to a definite CONCLUSION. PLAN. "Let us build US a city and tower." Lots of "US" there.

In Gen. 4:16,17 we have an account of the first city. "And Cain went out from the PRESENCE OF THE LORD. . . and he builded a city." Cain was a murderous reprobate. From then till now cities have been centers of wickedness. So they began their rebellious project. So it is now. Now burning brick and gathering slime. Brick burners and slime gatherers BUSY. Each nation seeking to outdo the other. Bitter competition between Russia and U. S.

V. The purpose of this rebellious, man made, project.

1. UNION, AMALGAMATION. Get together and stay together (verse 4). "Lest we become scattered abroad upon the face of the earth." God said "Replenish the earth." Fill the earth but man, rebellious man says, "No we will not."

2. MAKE A NAME. "Let us make us a name." What about now? In all the world did you ever hear so much name making. Nations, cities, churches, individuals. Each seeking to outdo the other. Contest is the order of the day. Such NUMBERING even at the cost of the truth at times. Church membership and Sunday School Rolls Exaggerated. But making a name.

3. DEFYING GOD. "God sent a flood at one time and destroyed the world but we will outdo him if He undertakes this again." God said: "No more floods like this," but what did God's word mean to this rebellious mob? It was really an insult to God. What about now? These ancient Babel builders could not hold the modern Babel builders a light. They said, "We will build a tower whose top may reach to heaven." Tower that would invade the heaven which God had RESERVED FOR HIMSELF, defying God. Right now, they are planning to take the weather over and control elements. Think of the committee controlling old Hazel. Better take over before she gets started or else she might blow the whole committee off the earth."

But this very day these Babel builders are doing the same thing the ancients did. All of this space invasion is defying God. All of this airplane business is God defiance. Some will sneer but what of that? Babelites have always done that. All of this rocket, sputnik and explorer business is Babelism. Defying God.

It is said 233,600 miles from the earth to the moon requiring an airplane at the rate of 300 miles per hour about 33 days to make a trip from the earth to the moon, but would require one of the lightning like rocket missiles at the rate of 17,000 miles per hour only about 14 hours to make the journey. God made the birds to fly in the air and the fish to swim in the sea, but presumptuous men, with their inventions in the air and submarines, have INVADDED BOTH THESE ELEMENTS. Imagine some giant eagle contacting an airship or some denizen of the great deep bumping into some submarine they would say, "Get out of here, you devilish intruder, this is my territory."

They claim we will have missile stations down town where we may get a ticket to the moon. Either one way or a round trip. I would want a round trip! They insist all the important conventions will be held on the moon about ten years from now. Am not sure but God may not restrain them. I know their difficulties, but with all of this devil-inspired invention, who knows what the Babel constructionists will do.

VI. GOD'S INTERVENTION. These Babelites, it seems, got a good start before God took a hand; "They left off to build the city." Before the flood it is said, "God looked." But this is not all. He took a hand. Here not only does he look but He said, "Let us go down." Who is this Divine Us? It is the Holy Trinity. So God came down and confounded their language and cursed the whole project, and they left off to build the city.

What about now? God sees all this blasphemous defiance and He will take a hand. All of this is the most graphic evidence of the second coming of Christ. When you see these things come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh.

We read, "at midnight Behold the bridegroom cometh." With all the world's satanic inventions they call it "Midday." But God called it "Midnight." Midnight scientifically morally midnight. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools (Rom. 1:22).

That describes the diabolical situation now. But don't be discouraged there will be DETHRONEMENT and be ENTHRONEMENT. Jesus will come and all the saints and holy angels with Him and He will dethrone the devil and the Babel builders and He will be king of all the earth. So let the sputniks sputter and the explorers rage on but neither for long. So be true to Jesus and soon join Him in His glorious reign.

In Isa. 2 you will find a graphic description of how God will destroy the modern Babelites. "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the Lord shall be exalted in that day; and every one that is proud and lifted up shall be brought low . . . and upon every high tower and He shall utterly abolish the idols." Yes, God blasted the ancient Babel builders so He will the modern ones, and all of this must be very near.

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(Selected Chapters)

By

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## **CHAPTER 9**

### **THE DANGER OF DENOMINATIONAL IDOLATRY**

Deception is the Devil's most diabolical delusion for the damnation of souls. This began in Eden and will continue till the Battle of Gog and Magog when he is released for a little season, after having been for a 1000 years in the Bottomless Pit, and goes out to deceive the nations. We think his most deadly delusion for the present, in Christendom is to make his dupes believe that loyalty to the denomination, the leadership and church program is loyalty to God. This is plain idolatry.

But not only do they insist that to be loyal to leadership is loyalty to God but they insist that if any one does not go along, no matter how blasphemous the program, he is an enemy. Dangerous! Take the ship for example. The ship has the captain, the pilot, the sailors and the passengers. The Captain and the pilot manage the ship. They direct the crew. The passengers know little or nothing of what is going on. They simply ride or sail. The Captain might die, the pilot go crazy and the crew drunk and the ship simply drifting but they might feel all is well. If any one on board should discover something badly wrong and sound an alarm he is a calamity howler.

It is said that the hulk of an old disabled ship was sighted in the frozen arctic regions and, on investigation, was found that everyone on board was dead. Frozen stiff. Had been drifting for about ten years according to data found. Many insist that they must stay on the old denomination ship regardless of dire results. Denominational slavery.

This diabolical deception of denominational loyalty has been true since the old Catholic hierarchy came into vogue. "Peter was the first Pope." "He was the rock on which the church was built." "The church built on Peter." "He was the foundation," they say. Well if so the foundation was pretty shaky. Peter denied Christ three times and then cursed and swore. Paul had to "Withstand him to the face because he was to be blamed." No, Christ is the foundation on which the church is built. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST." Christ is the Rock not Peter.

Then when Catholicism became so wicked and brutal and God raised up Luther, Knox and the glorious reformers they were considered wicked, traitors. Probably two million were brutally slain by these murderous "inquisitors" in the days of the martyrs. But to see the danger and sound an alarm and not go right along was wicked. Again when Wesley and his brave associates could not go along with the old state church and proclaimed the truth and OPPOSED the apostasy they were traitors. Wesley had to go to the graveyard and use his Father's tomb for a pulpit. And when Methodism lost God and such men as Dr. Bresee and his immortal associates, such as Bud Robinson and a host of others could not acquiesce they were considered traitors. When Dr. Bresee left the Methodist and built the First Church of Los Angeles out of those who came out with him, he was considered traitor. An enemy to the Methodist. And finally when a number could not go along with the new and

changed program (Tragic to deny a change has come.) and set in order the Bible Missionary Church they are considered traitors. The same old delusion of disloyalty to leadership. Church history reveals that as a rule apostasy begins in denominations after about fifty years. Methodist lasted longer. In I Kings 22:48 we read, "Jehoshaphat made ships to go to Ophir for gold, but the ships went not." "They were broken at Ezion-geber." Many denominational ships broken at Ezion-geber.

Finally just a glance at Christendom. The professed Church. Christ is on the outside. Rev. 3:20. This great ecclesiastical monstrosity is called, "Laodicea;" "The great whore," "Babylon," "The Synagogue of Satan." All this is in the Bible. She is finally to be "Spewed out," and "Thrown down like a mighty millstone is cast into the sea." God says, "come out of her." Some say of the Devil to change denominations. Untrue it is, this has been done from the reformation until now.

You say all of this leadership idolatry is a dark picture. True, but there is a brighter side. Many a day has been filled with lightnings, thunders and storms but all this passed away and there was a glorious sunset. While Satan has his "Synagogue," God has His church. She is represented by the Sun clad women in Rev. 12. She is clothed with the sun (Heavenly Clothing) and the moon (The world) under her feet. She is called "Philadelphia." Little Philadelphia is composed of every bloodwashed, redeemed soul found in any denomination or in no denomination. And Philadelphia will make it in. They shall come from the East and the West and the North and the South and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the "Old ship of Zion." "She has landed many a thousand and can land as many more." The Lord deliver us from the Devil's gullibility, that loyalty to denominations, leadership and apostate program is loyalty to God, and may we be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and finally make it in with the true (Church) Philadelphia.

Dangerous to believe a lie. The world was wrecked believing a lie. God said: ThOU SHAL SURELY DIE. The Devil said: "You shall not surely die." Eve SAW and she DESIRED and she TOOK.

All the suffering, crime, death and finally Hell, the result of Believing a Lie.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **THE DIFFERENCE IN EVIL SPEAKING AND TRUE WARNINGS**

In Eccl. 3:7 we read, "There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak." The problem of when to speak and when not to speak is a problem with which we are continuously confronted. To speak when should not is often a sin and to fail to speak when should is likewise a sin. Two kinds of sins, omission and commission.

Some feel it is always wrong to reveal sin. This is untrue. To expose sin and evil principles in order to save people from wreckage and damnation IS NOT EVIL SPEAKING. But how are we to know? By the motive. If the motive is selfish and a desire to harm some one we dislike, we know that is evil speaking. If it is done in order to save some one from the wicked, slanderous tongue of some talebearer that is NOT WRONG BUT RIGHT.

Now we give a few Bible references of evil speaking. Prov. 26:20, "Where no wood is the fire goeth out: so where no talebearer the strife ceaseth." Then Prov. 18:8, "The words of the talebearer are as wounds that go down into the innermost parts of the belly." Then in Prov. 6:16-19, God catalogues a fearful list of the things He abominates, closing with these words, "And he that soweth discord among brethren." Then James declares, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." Jesus locates the origin of all of this, "Out of the abundance of the HEART the mouth speaketh." The conversation is a sure index to the heart.

Thus we learn that while malicious speaking is horrible and will damn in Hell, that to divulge a secret in order to save some innocent soul is not evil speaking but it is right.

### **NOW SOME EXAMPLES**

FIRST, MORDECAI. Much of the Book of Esther is given to this. When that wicked Haman concocted a murderous plot to slay all the Jews it was shown to Mordecai. What did he do? Did he hold his peace concluding, as many insist, that to reveal it would be evil speaking? Never. He made it known to Queen Esther and thereby saved himself, the Queen and all the Jews. Was he an evil speaker? No. Just had good sense and good religion.

SECOND, PAUL'S NEPHEW. Acts 23:12-24. There was a wicked plot among more than 40 Jews who had bound them selves together under a fearful oath that they would not eat or drink until they had murdered Paul. But when Paul's nephew learned of this he made it known to Paul. Then Paul had this young man taken to the Chief Captain and revealed to him who delivered Paul out of their hands. Thus divulging that treacherous plot was not evil speaking, but saved Paul's life.

Then we learn there is a place for rebuke in the church which is not evil speaking. Paul said, "Them that sin rebuke before all that others may fear." I Tim. 5:20. Again we find that Paul wrote to his son Timothy and warned him against that traducer Alexander. He said to Timothy, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil and greatly withstood my words, the Lord reward him according to his works." (II Tim. 4:14). The Lord will do just that.

Then we glance at ABSALOM THE "KISSER." All this found in II Sam. 15. Absalom murdered his brother Amnon and then fled to Geshur where he remained for some time. Finally through the cunning subtilty of Joab he was permitted to come home. Doubtless he was brought home too soon. Matthew Henry thinks he had treachery in his heart a long time to usurp the throne and kingdom of his Father David. Finally the time was ripe for this. We doubt if there is an example in all history that equals this cunning plot. He stood by the gate and when one came with a matter to be judged Absalom would say, "Your cause is just and right." Flattery, which is plain lying. If he were made judge, you would get your due. The Bible says, "Absalom stole the hearts of the people." Then the next verse says, "After 40 years" he went to his father and asked permission to go to Hebron to pay a vow he had made while there in exile. Doubtless the indulgent father was happy at the thought of his son doing something religious. While treachery had been in his heart for a long, long time, this kissing episode was the climax.

But now the rebellion breaks out in full blast, and we read the people INCREASED TOWARD ABSALOM. David had been their faithful King so long, but now this proud, wicked, subtle, treacherous Absalom appears and they forsake their old and true friend for him. Many a time we have seen this. Then we read how artful this traitor was. He secures 200 of David's special friends in Jerusalem. To have David's friends with him would add support to his rebellion. It is said, "These men went in their simplicity. They knew not any thing." Gullible! Pitiful! How often will "The hearts of the simple" be thus deceived. Often have we seen good, but gullible people deceived and led to destruction; but for one to seek to disillusion them and thereby save them, one is accused of "Evil Speaking." But one of David's friends, learning of this murderous plot and revealing it to David may have saved his life and the lives of many others. No this messenger was not a talebearer.

But now the most striking example of all — GEDALIAH. When the king of Babylon took the Jews captive and carried them to Babylon he left many of the poor of the land and made Gedaliah governor over them. Gedaliah set up headquarters at Mizpah and Jews from many lands came unto him and great progress was being made. But there was a man named Ishmael (Not the Brother of Isaac of course) who, it seems became jealous, and sought to betray Gedaliah. This was known by Johanan, who was loyal, at that time, and came to Gedaliah and informed him of the murderous plot of Ishmael, but poor, gullible Gedaliah did not believe him. Johanan himself proposed to slay Ishmael but Gedaliah said, "Never." Gedaliah said, "Untrue, thou speakest falsely." Johanan wanted to help him but he would not let him. Only a few days later Ishmael, with a number of men, came and wickedly slew Gedaliah and all the Jews that were with him. Too bad, if he had only listened. Then a few days later some men came bringing a present to Gedaliah, and Ishmael said, "come unto Gedaliah," when he had already murdered Gedaliah and cast him into the pit. Thus he deceived them and slew them.

Horrible, but was Johanan an evil speaker when he came to warn Gedaliah? If Gedaliah had listened he would have saved his life and all with him. I have known of some, when one came to reveal something to them to say, "Shut up," and pride themselves in this. I would not want to listen to slanderers, but I am to be courteous, until I was sure, lest I should "Play the fool."

We read that on one occasion here that "Ishmael went forth **WEeping**. "He put on a **WEeping SHOW**." God takes note of genuine tears, but He abominates crocodile tears. Some folk can turn on the tears, when they will deceive, just like turning on the water spigot. Lord give us wisdom to differentiate between the real and the spurious tears. Many are thus deceived. Several times in our little ministry we have exposed some deceivers in order to save souls from destruction and Hell. There are some who think this evil speaking, but we do not think so.

Now a final word: It seems that Ishmael and Johanan, at the beginning of Gedaliah's work, were true leaders. But soon we notice the treachery of Ishmael, probably the leading man, one on whom Gedaliah relied. Then after the death of Gedaliah, and the prophet Jeremiah was directing affairs, some, and among them Johanan, felt it was better to go to Egypt. To this faithful Jeremiah protested, but in spite of all his warnings they went and perhaps carried Jeremiah bodily. Here Johanan became a traitor. You can never tell. The two leaders of this new setup turned traitors. We have known this in a denomination and also in congregations. Those upon whom you rely most become traitors. Not only do they become bitter, but do not leave a stone unturned and many, in their simplicity, not knowing anything will go with them. When Arnold betrayed Washington, in that trying hour, Washington said, "Whom can we trust now?"

Then the saddest of all is to find vacillation among the people. They said in substance, "When we were back in the old days and burned incense to the Queen of heaven (The Sun to them was the King and the Moon the Queen), when we worshipped the moon, we had plenty but now since we have come out and ceased to do this we have been in **GREAT DISTRESS**." Vacillation. They remembered the onions, the leeks, the cucumbers and the garlic. "Then Jeremiah rebuked them for the very thought of going back into idolatry, but carnality is dangerous. May the Good Lord give us grace and sense enough not to engage in or give countenance to evil speaking, but at the same time, sufficient discernment to accept true warnings in order to save ourselves and others from destruction and maybe damnation."



# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 11 COSMOS AND CHAOS**

In Isaiah 30:26 we read, "In the day when the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." This refers to Israel but seems to include the entire world. The word cosmos (world) means order and the word chaos means utter confusion. For example, a home is in perfect order, but vandals enter leaving everything topsy turvy. From cosmos to chaos. Or a cyclone sweeps over the beautiful countryside, uproots trees, demolishes everything. Cosmos to chaos.

In Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This is not the creation that took place 6000 years ago, but the original creation which took place in the dateless past. The earth was then in perfect condition. Isaiah 45:18 says, "He created it not in vain. He formed it to be inhabited." But in Genesis 1:2 we read, "And the earth was without form and void. Scholars tell us the word "was" in the Hebrew is became. It was created in perfect condition as Isaiah tells us, but something took place and it became without form and void. No form and void or vacant. It became TOHU and BOHU as the Hebrew scholars put it. From cosmos to chaos. This probably happened when Lucifer with some of the angels fell and God cursed him and the earth over which it seems he ruled.

How long this chaotic condition remained when the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters is not known. Probably long ages. Plenty of time for the formation of all geologic rocks and etc. which seems to confuse scientists and cause them to doubt the Genesis account of creation. The Bible does not say the earth was created 6000 years ago, but in the dateless past; and that only the wreck that took place, which may have been millions of years ago, was repaired 6000 years ago. This removes all the ravings of the so-called scientists. There's no contradiction in God's Word and true science.

But now we come to the present world situation and its final outcome. We think any person who knows anything of existing conditions today will admit they are desperate. Leading statesmen and scientists feel conditions as they exist cannot go on much longer. And while all thus agreed, they are sharply divided as to the remedy. These panaceas are legion.

Look at the world as a whole. Sickening. She reels to and fro as a drunken man. Oh sin! fearful results of one sin. If only Eve had known! River of Sin, with all its diabolicalness which ends in Hell! The whole creation animate and inanimate groans to be delivered (Romans 8:23).

Look at the nations. As Lloyd George said, they are like wild beasts licking their paws ready to spring. Glance at the world-wide political situation. Maddening. Look at the military condition with its deadly bombs. Our colleges are often brainwashing institutions where young men go believing

in God and come out blaspheming atheists. Look at the industrial situation. Union bosses rule. If one refuses to become identified with wicked atheistic confederations, his home is liable to be vandalized.

The religious situation is bad. Chaos is everywhere. If one does not know his Bible pretty well, he had better be careful about the radio. Enough false doctrine there to damn a world. Money is back of much of it. "Write me a letter, not a post card for you can't put money in that." Poor gullible people bite, and fork over the cash. They tell us the Communists are liable to take over unless we send them money so they can keep them off of us. And maybe I'd better say just here that if Jesus tarries, God may permit this. He permitted the heathen nations to punish Israel.

These radio artists with their suave psychology deceive the hearts of the simple and money pours in. Some of the reformers tell us that if they can get sufficient funds, and that is enormous, they will end the cold war, reform Christendom and just about bring in the Millennium. If they said the cow jumped over the moon and the world is made of green cheese, some would believe it, say amen, and send an offering, while these reformers live in fine hotels, eat expensive steaks, and live in luxury.

The F.B.I. tells us that in the United States, one out of every 16 has been arrested. One out of every 3 has been convicted of crime. 78% of girls are not virgins when they marry. Over half of the married women have been untrue since they married. Children average about 30 hours weekly watching vile T.V., thus producing a crop of criminals that staggers the law. Hordes of wicked, vile, murderous gangs of criminals, largely from schools, roam the streets defying the law and God. All this fills the land. Some of the reformers tell us we must "Keep America free, religious and strong." But since when did America get to be religious? We shudder when we see the motto, "God bless America." God has already blessed America and she has spit in the face of God and blasphemed Him. America has some fearful judgments coming to her.

Just a further word about the church situation. Some tell us we are to look to the church. "The church will do the job." But who will convert the church? She has joined the world. It is impossible to differentiate between the so-called church and the world. The iceberg cut an ugly gash 300 feet long in the Titanic. The sea entered and she sank. God calls Christendom the professed church, "the synagogue of Satan." She is to be spewed out and thrown down like a "mighty millstone." Jesus is outside Christendom (Revelation 3:20). Banquets (God describes Belshazzar's impious feast as a banquet), plays, games of all sorts, dances, fill the so called churches.

Perhaps the worst situation of today is mental. Mental institutions are running over. They tell us that right now if one is judged by appointed committees to be mentally unsound, he may have an examination of the brain and be committed to an institution. If one does not go fully along with the administration, he is in grave danger. Better be careful!

But now, as was suggested, there are the two theories relative to the cure for this world situation. First theory is that we can do it with reformation. Efforts will do it. But to what or to whom can we look for this? We see no hope anywhere. The second theory is just one hope — the personal bodily, visible coming of Jesus.

The Bible is clear that at the age end there will be a horde of false prophets, the worst of whom are the ones WHO HOLD OUT A FALSE HOPE. They make the Bible a hoax and God a liar. Blasphemous. They are telling us everywhere many remedies. "If world-wide revival does not come then chaos will come." No, we do not believe it will come. It is here NOW. If we do not have chaos, then what do we have? False prophets preach otherwise.

But this word. While Jesus tarries, what must we do? Join the Millerites, put on white robes, and sit and wait for His coming? No, never! We are to work 'til Jesus comes. Preach whether they will hear or forbear. Give for missions and occupy until he comes. Get one here and there. "Pull them out of the fire." The mission of the church is not to convert or reform the world, but to be used of the Holy Ghost. "To take out of them a people for his name," prepare the Bride, then He will come (See Acts 15:14-19).

There IS a solution for the ills of the world. Just one. Not the blasphemous suggestions of men, but the glorious Biblical hope. In Isaiah 42:4 we read, "He shall not fail." Thank God. One day He will ride forth on the white charger (Rev. 19) with all the saints and holy angels. The same white horse and rider as seen in Rev. 6:2. Don't let any make you believe this is the anti-Christ. Never. There is plenty Bible proof if space would permit my giving it.

Christ and this glorious throng will come to earth. His first act will be to cast the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20,21). Next, He will lay hold of the devil and bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit hell (Rev. 20:1, 2). Then, He will sit on His glorious Millennial throne in Jerusalem and reign for a thousand years.

"Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks . . . neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). This is the time when the Lord binds up the breach and heals the wounds of His people. This is the time when chaos will be turned back to cosmos and holiness and righteousness will fill the world. Let's not be deceived by false prophets, but work, pray and watch for His return. He said He would return.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 12 SMOKERS AND THE OLD SMOKING WOMAN**

We were going from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Anderson, Indiana. We found the bus schedule was better and the fare less, so we decided on the bus. We left Chattanooga at 9:30 P.M. We were tired, nervous and not feeling well at all. We entered the bus with some fearful misgivings relative to the "smokers" that we were apprehensive might appear. We did not wish to be selfish but sought a seat a little toward the front of the bus, thinking perhaps this might be a little better. In getting our seat we glanced across the aisle and saw an elderly woman. We chose our seat near her thinking we would certainly be safe from smoke as far as she was concerned. Soon the bus was pretty well filled and pulled out for Cincinnati.

The driver was a fine young man with a kindly face. With about all the speed the law would allow we went north on Market Street; in a few moments we were crossing the old Tennessee river, rounding the curves, and were hurrying on the way. We tried to fix ourselves comfortably in the seat and hoping that we might, as much as possible, be delivered from the smokers of whom we were having some evil forebodings. But, in a very few moments, all our hopes of any deliverance from this smoking brigade vanished. Matches began to strike. Smoke began to pour out from practically every seat. Foul, sickening, death-like odours filled the bus. The night was chilly and windows were closed.

The smokers were certainly on and now operating in full blast. We glanced across the aisle at the old woman from whom we thought we would be safe and to our surprise great volleys of the most offensive smoke we ever contacted were issuing from her nostrils. What on earth she was smoking we cannot imagine. It was the worst we were ever compelled to breathe. Whether it was a different "brand" than that used ordinarily, and the Lord knows all are bad enough, or whether it became more vile as it passed through her lungs and nostrils, we were never quite sure.

Anyway, the bus sped on and the night wore on, and the smokers smoked. They smoked constantly. They smoked, it seemed, to wake themselves up. They smoked to enable them to sleep. They smoked when they were hungry and they smoked when they had eaten. They smoked in the morning and they smoked at midnight. They smoked in Tennessee, they smoked clear across Kentucky. They smoked while we were in Ohio and they smoked in Indiana. They smoked constantly and they smoked violently. They smoked as if life depended on their smoking. They smoked selfishly. We have met a few unselfish, considerate and respectful smokers, all honors to them, but none of these were on THIS bus. They seemed to have forgotten every rule of consideration and had only one desire, and that was to gratify their own perverted, depraved craving for smoke. As the night slowly passed, probably around one-thirty or two, and the atmosphere in the bus, from the smoke passing through diseased lungs and nostrils, became desperately vile, we found a strange, sticky, sickening perspiration on our brow, and we felt it all over our body. Soon we found ourselves

deathly sick. The bus must have been making around sixty and seemed to have no intention of stopping soon. We wondered what in the world we would do. Mrs. Tidwell had prepared an unusual supper, as I was to be up all night she admonished me to eat plenty! But now I solemnly wished I had not eaten a bite. The one question was how to dispose of this good meal. Finally, we drove up to a "Peggy Ann" station and the bus stopped for fifteen minutes. Never in my life was I so glad to see a bus stop! While I felt every moment I would fall, I soon managed to get myself out in the dark and what happened I would not like to describe just here! Anyway, we felt relieved and hoped we would then make it all right.

At this stop most smokers had gotten off the bus. I saw the old "smoking woman" through the window in the lunch stand eating and drinking "cokes." I hoped this would satisfy her and she would not smoke so much. But now we are all on again and on our way. Immediately all my hopes, if I had any, vanished. Matches flashed. Smoke, vile and stinking, filled the bus. The old "smoking woman" was leaning back in her seat and puffing away with new inspiration. It seemed, if possible, that her smoke was more sickening than ever. I thought what in the world is she smoking? We tried to imagine. And honestly, to the best of our ability to discern, it seemed the brand she was using must have been made from rotten eggs and flavoured with polecats! We leaned back in our seat with fear and trembling wondering just what we would do. Soon the fearful sickness returned and it was absolutely necessary to repeat the performance of getting off the bus. Our good driver, who seemed quite sympathetic, informed me that if at any time I desired or found it NECESSARY to get off the bus for a repetition of what had happened, he would be pleased to accommodate me. This we were compelled to do several times. We wondered if any one would die from sheer sickness derived from smoke, and felt that surely if any ever did we would surely pass out. Once or twice later in the night, when the bus would stop, we would get a little orange juice or something of the kind, but the tempest in our stomach was too tempestuous and it was not long retained. Finally, we stopped at a drug store and the kindly man gave us something which seemed to help us a little and he also armed us with a little bottle of camphor. This we resolutely held to our nose and it seemed to, in a small way, counteract the deadly perfumes of the smokers.

We finally arrived at Cincinnati. I watched the old "smoking woman" get off and sincerely hoped she would not return. But I had only been on the bus for Indianapolis but a few moments till in she came. Seemed to have gotten anew zest for smoking and immediately started in. However, I was equipped with my camphor and I used it freely and seemed to get along some better though I was quite sick. They smoked constantly from Cincinnati to Indianapolis. I saw the old "smoking woman" here for the last time, and sincerely hoped I should never, in time or eternity, see her again unless she changed. We soon left Indianapolis for Anderson. Only a few on this bus and while they smoked it was not quite so bad.

We had a while to rest before service for which we were very thankful. We prayed and the Lord seemed to undertake so we could preach. But we saw the smoke and tobacco evil as we had never seen it before. We found ourselves shivering and shuddering as they would begin to smoke. We saw women had lost all sense of modesty and refinement. They would smoke and throw the ashes and stubs on the floor till it looked worse than a pig pen around them. We saw mothers with babes on their laps smoke and blow it in the faces of their helpless babies. Some of the babies looked very pale and sick. One mother smoked constantly for about two hundred miles. She was very thin and pale.

Looked like a skeleton. She had a small baby on her lap that cried nearly all the time. It made the strangest noise when it cried. Seemed like a rat squealing. When it would cry the passengers would turn around on their seats to see what it was. The old "smoking woman" would take violent coughing spells. Some one asked her what was the cause. She replied, "cigarettes." They asked, "Why don't you quit?" The answer was, "I can't." Poor slave. She lived in Detroit, we heard her tell some one. Talked as if she were wealthy. Said she had been to Miami. Said she had no obligations and could just go where she pleased. We pitied her. We knew in a very short time, unless there was a change, and there seemed little hope that this poor, old, proud, boastful woman would be where she could not go where she pleased. Hell is a fearful prison. We wondered what she would do there. The Bible seems to intimate that the lost in Hell will retain their desires and nothing there to gratify. In Rev. 15:14 we read, "And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee . . . and thou shalt find them no more at all." Pitiful! Lost and damned in Hell seeking something to gratify these perverted desires, but all in vain. Better get saved now and go to be with Jesus where every desire will be granted.

We would say to every smoker, for the sake of God's fresh air, for the sake of poor innocent victims, for the sake of humanity and for Christ's sake come to Him and let Him break every fetter. We are told the slogan of the tobacco trust is, "A cigarette in the mouth of every man, woman and child in the world." All who smoke are helping to fill the coffers of this selfish, greedy, godless bunch and make their wicked plot come true. Christ loves each of these poor smoking victims and wants to save them from this enslaving habit and give them a home in Heaven.

On the billboards we see pictures of strong young men, with steady nerves made so, according to the wicked tobacco trusts, by smoking some popular brand. All know this is a LIE. Cigarettes do not give steady nerves, they are "coffin nails." Then in South America, we are told, you can see the pictures of Jesus and Peter walking together and Peter smoking some popular brand, and he is made to say, "If I had this, naming the brand, I WOULD NEVER HAVE DENIED JESUS." Then Judas and Jesus, likewise, as Judas is made to say, "If I had had this I would never have betrayed Christ." Can you imagine! Wicked blasphemy! But these unscrupulous, selfish, soul and body destroying tobacco venders will do this to fill their pockets with bloody money. Then all who buy a single "pack" helps to PAY FOR THESE BLASPHEMOUS ADS. I would not do it. I would die first! Jesus, the great emancipator, can deliver. Come to Him.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **SINNING RELIGION OR BIBLE SALVATION**

There are two classes of liquor mongers. One is known as the "bootlegger." He refuses to take out license. He is known as the enemy of the community and the government. He is hated and scorned. Then there is another class who secures his license. In his OWN ESTIMATION he is engaged in a perfectly legitimate business. He is an excellent citizen. He secures the finest corners on the most prominent streets. In his place you see beautiful glass fronts. It is the respected "package house." But to all who see the truth, know he is in the same diabolical soul and body destroying and damning business the bootlegger is. It is the same old hag, only dressed up.

Also we find a somewhat similar situation relative to sin. There are the two classes. First there is the non professing, outbroken sinner. He makes no profession. He is a known outlaw to man and God. He is known to be vile and dangerous. Then there is another class who have made a PROFESSION of Christ and joined the church. They have accepted Christ, they claim, and been born again. However, they do not claim to have given up all sin PERMANENTLY. Possibly they made some such claim at the time of their profession, but if so they understood often that it was only a TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT. They were to return to their sin and sinning immediately, but they are NOW UNCONDITIONALLY AND ETERNALLY SECURE. They have taken out, as it were, LICENSE TO SIN. They look with disdain and pity upon the poor, old non-professor, or BOOTLEG SINNER. He is a sinner and sins and for this God will damn him in Hell. But as for themselves, they are highly respected citizens of Heaven. To use their own terminology, they are "SINNING SAINTS." They have accepted Christ, which, according to their theory, is about equivalent to OBTAINING LICENSE TO SIN, which forever, renders them certain for Heaven. Jeremiah (Chapter 7:9, 10) states this situation. He says, "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods, whom ye know not; and come and stand before me in this house, and say, we are delivered to do all these abominations." In other words, "We have taken our stand and accepted the Lord, which gives us LICENSE to do all these abominations. This is not salvation from sin, as we must have to get to God's holy heaven, but it is simply license to sin. They are simply "saved sinners." And now stand in God's house and preach this, as the Bible puts it, "Damnably heresy" (II Pet. 2:1).

We give a few quotations from these sinning religion advocates to show that we are not overdrawing the picture. One, who is a very prominent and popular advocate of this heresy says, "How ashamed and heartsick will many a child of God be when Jesus comes unexpectedly, and the Christian is found in sin. Some may be found in the THEATERS, some in TAVERNS, and some engaged in BUSINESS that will horribly embarrass them before Christ. Do not say no Christian ever goes where he should not. Many a David, after God's own heart in other matters, may be with some Bathsheba when Jesus comes. Many a Peter will be warming by the Devil's fire and DENYING the Lord. So we expect the roofs of picture houses to need repair, broken by RAPTURED but shamed

Christians at the rapture, when Jesus comes for His own. FOR HE WILL TAKE HIS OWN.. Christ will not seize an arm and leg of His bride and leave the body here. It will be a RAPTURE AND NOT A RUPTURE."

In other words, all who have trusted Christ, at some past time, regardless of how they are living, at that time, will be taken. Imagine the above crowd of crooked business RASCALS, ADULTERERS, CHRIST-DENIERS and VILE PICTURE SHOW fiends meeting on the sea of glass at the marriage supper. We must keep in mind that death does not, in anywise, change the moral nature. Just as we die so we meet God. Or just as one would be raptured so he would be at the marriage supper. With an outfit like this at the marriage supper we should be fearful lest Hell would break loose! One of these advocates says, "There will be adjustments at the marriage supper." But carnal pandemonium might break loose while the adjustments were being made. They rejected salvation from sin, which is the great adjuster down here, and it must be done there, they claim. This is an unscriptural and damnable heresy, which is damning multitudes. Still other quotations from a booklet which lies before me: "The moment you accept Christ, in that moment you are saved, instantly, completely, ETERNALLY." Another, "If a Christian sins does he lose his salvation . . . the answer is HE CANNOT." Again, "God has only one kind of salvation, that is eternal." Then he says, "SALVATION IS THEREFORE UNCONDITIONAL." Of course he means after you are saved. Then he goes on, "It is (that is unconditional) regardless of the deeds of one's life." Then he gives an example. He says, "Suppose you should kill a man?" "There can be no difference between this and any other individual sin in relation to salvation." Then he declares, "You are in no more danger of being lost, no more danger of missing Heaven, than if you were in Heaven now." We could fill a volume with just such blasphemous rantings as these, but we forbear. This gives us an idea of this diabolical teaching.

It is not salvation FROM sin and sinning but salvation IN sin and sinning. It is POSITIONAL salvation. It is imputed righteousness only. One of these advocates puts it like this, "The heart is like an old barn yard. The barn yard is full of filth and refuse, but a beautiful white snow has fallen and covered up all this vileness so that only the snow is seen." "So it is with our hearts, they are full of corruption but this is all covered up with the white robe of Christ's righteousness." Horrible. We declare Jesus did not come to cover up sin, but to take it away. "Behold the Lamb of God which TAKETH AWAY the sin of the world." They claim that our STATE, or experience, may change, but our STANDING never. That is all IN CHRIST and therefore perfect. It is, they claim, "broken FELLOWSHIP, but never BROKEN RELATIONSHIP." But the Bible is clear that our STANDING is determined by our STATE. From the fall of Lucifer till now sin has SEVERED RELATIONSHIP.

King Saul was God's man, but he sinned and lost fellowship and also relationship. Hear him as he wails, "God is DEPARTED FROM ME and answers me NO MORE." God was with him but had gone. He had formerly answered him but NOT NOW. Then he commits suicide. It is claimed that if one has been saved, if he backslides, that God will restore him before he dies. Scores of scriptures can be given which positively disprove this. In Ezek. 3:20 we read, "When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness and commits iniquity . . . he shall DIE IN HIS SIN." Also in Exodus 32:33 we read, "And the Lord said unto Moses, whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Unanswerable. The name could not be blotted out unless first in. Then in Rev. 3:5 we read, "He that overcometh . . . I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Clearly implied



that if he does not overcome it will be blotted out. True, "no man can pluck us out of our Father's hand," but we can do it ourselves.

This sinning religion theory declares that we cannot be delivered from sin and, of course, sinning. It is an easy, popular, convenient way, but it leads to Hell. It is the Devil's broad way. It is easy to get a crowd by preaching this theory. However, there is a vast difference between a CROWD and a CHURCH.

Someone has said, "An audience is a set of UNRELATED PEOPLE drawn together by a short-lived attraction." "It is a pile of leaves blown together by the wind." "An audience is a crowd; a church is a family." "An audience is a COLLECTION; a church is an ORGANISM. Preachers are ordained not to attract an audience but to build a church." The Devil's worldly sinning religion will build a congregation but not a church. A young lady, not a member but an attendant, ceased attending our church recently. I met her on the street and asked her why she left and went to a certain place. She replied, "Well, they all do the things I like to do over there and I feel better there." But what about the judgment day?

The Bible declares that God can save us from sin and sinning. There will be temptations but the grace of God is sufficient. Jesus Christ is not a sin SUPPRESSOR or sin REGULATOR, but a SIN EXTERMINATOR. "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed" (Rom. 6:6).

The psalmist said, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be WHITER THAN SNOW." Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for THEY shall see God" Jesus also said, relative to the rapture. "And they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage." Matt. 25:10. Yes, "They that were READY." Not that crowd of baptized worldlings, as the brother suggests, who are mixed up in crooked business, off with some Bathsheba, or in some vile movie. That is what the sinning religionists say, but God said those who are READY. Saved from sin and sinning. John saw a countless multitude at the marriage supper and one said, "Who are these arrayed in white robes and whence came they? And he said to me these are they which came out of great tribulation (or the Great Tribulation) and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Yes, this was done while in this world. Holiness is the one pre-requisite for entering Heaven. Heb. 14:12 says, "Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Yes, "IT IS HOLINESS OR HELL."

God says, "Let no man deceive you." We believe this sin and sinning religion theory (and yet eternally secure) is damning more souls than any other one thing today. Our little day will soon be over in this world. Jesus will come or death will claim us. In that solemn hour we will need a salvation that saves from sin that we may have boldness and not be ashamed in His holy presence.

The old time Methodist sang,

"Oh for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free,  
A heart that always feels thy blood,  
So freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
My great Redeemer's throne,  
Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
Where Jesus reigns alone.

A heart in every thought renewed,  
and full of love Divine,  
Perfect and right and just and good,  
A copy Lord of Thine."

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 14**

### **THE "ETERNAL SECURITY" THEORY CONTRASTED WITH THE BIBLE**

1. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If one is really saved, born again, he is then UNCONDITIONALLY and ETERNALLY secure." The Bible says that we are eternally secure CONDITIONALLY.

2. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "When one is saved and God gives him eternal life and this life is eternal, it, therefore, cannot be forfeited, and one is eternally secure." The BIBLE TEACHES that, since one does not possess eternal life by NATURE and it is obtained conditionally, it may be forfeited if one fails to meet conditions for retaining a right relationship with God. The explanation of this is found in I John 5:11-12, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that HATH NOT the Son of God hath not life." The Scriptures also teach that sin severs the union between Christ and man, and if Christ is lost the CONTINUITY of this life is lost and one is then "twice dead." That is, he was dead before he received this life and now since he has forfeited it he is dead again, thus making him twice dead (Jude 12).

3. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "Since no one is able to pluck them out of the Father's hand, they are eternally secure." The BIBLE TEACHES that, while it is certainly true that no power in earth or hell is able to do this, as no power in heaven or earth was able to force one to be saved, it is a matter of CHOICE with the individual; that he, though saved, has not been robbed of his free moral agency; and that HE can still choose to do wrong and break the connection between God and himself and therefore take himself out of the hands of God.

4. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If once a son, always a son. If one is born into a family on earth, there is no way to get out." The BIBLE clearly states that when one was born into the earthly family he was not consulted, that he did not come into this relationship by choice. He had nothing whatever to do with it. But when one comes into the family of God he does so by CHOICE. God said of Israel, "I will smite them with the pestilence, and DISINHERIT them" (Num. 14:12).

5. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If one is really right with God, even though he may backslide God will not permit him to die without restoration." The BIBLE says, in Ezekiel 3:20, "When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity . . . he shall die in his sin." Also Christ said that those who die in sin can NEVER come where He is.

6. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "You shall not die or be eternally lost even though you do transgress God's law." The BIBLE reveals that Satan is the originator of "eternal securityism." He declared to Eve that she would NOT DIE and that she was eternally secure even though she did

disobey God. Those who believe in eternal security hold practically the same theory that Satan advanced in the beginning.

7. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "One cannot fall from grace." The BIBLE declares concerning those who turn from Christ back to the law, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law. YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE" (Gal. 5:4).

8. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "Once saved always saved." The BIBLE teaches just the opposite. It declares that King Saul was at one time God's man, that God gave him ANOTHER HEART, that he turned into ANOTHER MAN, that he prophesied, that God answered his prayers. But the Bible also states that God had departed from him; that he disobeyed God and that God answered him NO MORE when he prayed; that he became a spiritualist and was rejected of God and committed SUICIDE.

9. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "Judas was never a true follower of Christ; he was a devil from the beginning." In answer to this the Bible does not say that he was a devil from the beginning. It does say, "One of you is a devil." The words "from the beginning" are not in the Bible. It says that Judas was CALLED, COMMISSIONED, and SENT to preach the gospel by Christ. He was a Christian or else Christ sent an unsaved man to preach. The Bible says that "after the sop Satan entered into him (Judas)." Satan must have been out or he could not have entered. The Bible also says that Judas FELL BY TRANSGRESSION.

10. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "The branches spoken of in John 15 were really not IN THE VINE but were just 'tacked on' or just CLAIMED to be in the vine." The BIBLE says they were actually IN THE VINE and, because they did not bear fruit, they were taken away and cast into the fire and burned. This is the equivalent of saying that, if we who are really in Christ do not abide in Him and bear fruit, hell is our doom. One person in explaining this admitted that the branches were actually in the vine but that He would not take away the entire branch but simply "cut it back to the first joint." This is adding to God's Word.

11. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "The state of experience of the Christian may change but his STANDING in Christ never. His state or experience has nothing in the world to do with his standing in Christ. That standing is perfect, and no sin he commits in any wise affects his relation with Christ. He is eternally secure regardless of what he DOES or BECOMES." GOD'S WORD DECLARES that our standing is largely determined by our experience. Lucifer had a good STATE but he sinned, and when his state or experience became bad he lost his standing. Adam before the fall had a good state and, therefore, good standing; but he sinned, and when his state became bad he lost his standing.

The writer of Hebrews exhorts the Christians to be true, telling them if they sin willfully AFTER they have received the knowledge of the truth there is no more sacrifice for sins; also that they who despised Moses' law died without mercy and that those who had been sanctified or cleansed from sin, and were untrue and did despite to the Spirit of grace, would likewise perish.

12. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "Paul in I Corinthians 9:27 had no fear of losing his soul when he spoke of a CASTAWAY. He simply was concerned lest he should lose his reward." The BIBLE

plainly says that he had no reference to his reward but was apprehensive lest, after having preached to others, he might lose his soul. Paul's words were, "Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY." Let any fair-minded person decide what it means to become a CASTAWAY.

13. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If we are really born of God we cannot or will not depart from Him." The BIBLE says, "Take heed, BRETHREN, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12).

14. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "We are eternally secure and therefore should have no fear." GOD'S WORD says, "Let us therefore FEAR, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Heb. 4:1). "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12).

15. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "God will bring us to heaven whether or not we are faithful and endure to the end." GOD SAYS, "He that endureth to the end . . . shall be saved." And again, "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

16. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If we are truly saved God will preserve us regardless of what we do." The BIBLE says, "If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou FORSAKE him, he will cast thee off forever" (I Chron. 28:9).

17. "ETERNAL SECURITY" says, "If our names are on God's book, He will not SCRATCH them out." GOD SAYS, in Exodus 32:33, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I BLOT out of my book." He will not scratch it off but BLOT IT OUT. Sin will do this. The majority of our good eternal security friends insist that there is no real personal deliverance from sin in this life; that the heart of man is and must remain full of sin; that it is like a barnyard that is full of refuse but is not seen because it is covered by the beautiful snow that has fallen; that, while our heart is filthy and vile, it is all covered by the beautiful imputed (not imparted) righteousness of Christ. It is POSITIONAL salvation (all in Christ). They also insist that we are sinful and must remain so through this life, that as a result of this depraved condition we find ourselves victims and that there is no deliverance in this life. We must live sinful lives day by day. They also teach that notwithstanding this fearful condition of SIN and SINNING one is absolutely, unconditionally and eternally secure. An easy way!

We believe this theory of eternal security has its origin with that same old deceiver who insisted, in the long ago, that there was no great danger in sin. We believe it is being used of this same enemy of God and man to damn multitudes. Recently a young lady said, "I know I have been saved and I know I am eternally secure regardless of how I live or what I do." A good mother who is strong on eternal security was greatly worried about her son who was once a Christian but had fallen into deep and awful sin. She remonstrated with him about his profligacy but he replied, "Mother, I know and you know that I was really saved in Brother \_\_\_\_\_'s meeting, and you know, Mother, that you have taught me that if one is truly saved he is eternally secure regardless of what he does. Mother, you should have no fear for me; for, while I am living in awful sin, I know you are right and I shall finally be saved." Her mouth was closed by her own teaching, and we fear her boy will be damned by it.

The BIBLE TEACHES that God is able to save from all sin, that He is abundantly able and willing to keep, and that in spite of earth and hell, if we will watch and pray and lean on Him. But let us not rely on the devil's false security and one day wake up in hell when we thought we were on the way to heaven.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 15 EXPERIENCE WITH THE TONGUES MOVEMENT**

Around 60 years ago I was a student in Trevecca College, Nashville, Tenn. While there rumors began to come of what was taking place in Los Angeles, California. The report was that in a mission there that a new Pentecost had come and that He was coming upon the people and that as Bible evidence that one had received this baptism, he spoke with tongues just as they did at Pentecost.

We were all greatly concerned about this new outbreak. We were connected with what was called "The Pentecostal Mission." However, in a short time we learned that a man named Rev. Cashwell, as I recall, had come to Memphis, Tennessee from this new movement and was conducting a tent meeting in Memphis. So almost immediately, Rev. M. M. Pinson and Rev. H.G. Rogers left the Bible School in Nashville and went to the meeting in Memphis. After about one month, they returned with glowing reports. They had both been baptized with the Holy Ghost and had the unmistakable Bible evidence of speaking with tongues.

We were, of course, all greatly interested. Rev. J. O. McClurkan, the President of the College was not at all sure of the genuineness of it all; he gave Brothers Pinson and Rogers permission to preach and explain it all. I am now 83 years of age, but all of this is as vivid in my mind as if yesterday. It was not hypocrisy. There was genuine sincerity. Many seekers were in evidence — fasting, praying, and seeking. After praying and seeking for hours or days, often the seeker would become unconscious and lie "under the power" for hours. Finally, when they came through, they were hilariously, as they said, speaking with tongues. Among these were "interpreters." This, as they said, was not unknown tongues but, according to the interpreters, living languages. The interpreters were given supernatural knowledge so they could determine the language: Chinese, Japanese, in dialects, etc.

Most of these were students in the college studying and preparing for their various fields. Now to suddenly, miraculously obtain the language of their field and be able to go at once with no further preparation was no small thing.

About 17 of the students obtained the languages of the various fields. Of course, there could be no mistake for the "interpreters," under the power of the Holy Ghost, had designated the field. However, during all the tenseness of this, the President Rev. McClurkan, and many others were skeptical of its genuineness. And as suggested, those who had thus obtained were not compromisers; such as Mollie Jones, Annadean Cole, John and Ollie Todd were devout. However, the time arrived and they began to take their departure to their various fields.

Then came a time of tense waiting. If they had what they professed, it was real, and if not, spurious. Well, we waited. But the waiting was not too long. Letters began to come from those who

had gone and horrors; not one could speak the language where they had gone. After a short time, they one by one began to return. They were confused, bewildered and downcast. As far as we ever knew, not one of them who went to the mission field, stayed on the field, and they dropped out of Christian work entirely. Finally they were lost sight of.

We soon lost sight of Brother Rogers, one of the two who went to Memphis. In the meantime, I had come to Chattanooga and Rev. M. M. Pison, the other of the two who went to Memphis, came to see me. He was bewildered. He said these exact words as well as I can remember, "Brother Tidwell, it was all a mistake. Delusion; not one had anything." Brother Pinson was a strong character and preacher, but we soon lost sight of him.

Anyway, the movement spread. As we understand, they changed some of their teaching. They said, "It was not exactly like Pentecost, but like the Church at Corinth. Simply an unknown tongue. The tongues has now lost its glamour in many places, healing is substituted. We fear largely spurious healing. Soon after we came to Chattanooga, it came to our city. I can give the names of the ministers who conducted the tent meetings here. Some of their names are prominent now. We have had some sad experiences with them. Two of the finest folk we ever knew came in contact with them and, of course, were told they did not have the Holy Ghost because they did not have the "Bible evidence" of speaking with tongues. Both of these, who undoubtedly were filled with the Holy Ghost began seeking. One sought for about two years. He was one of the greatest Christian workers I ever saw. He finally obtained, as he said, but became abnormal. If he went to church, he would be muttering some strange gibberish. His wife finally died, and he refused to permit her burial until the authorities had to take over. He finally died.

There seems to be some devout people among them. Dr. W. B. Godbey, the great pioneer holiness preacher, attended their meetings pretty well all over the world. He spoke about 17 languages. He would speak in some language, and they would tell him he was speaking in an "unknown tongue." Dr. Godbey has preached a lot for me and he declared it was a form of "devil hypnotism." He felt he should warn the people against this, and this he did 'til he triumphantly went to heaven.

The Church at Corinth, while they were not sanctified but carnal, did have some kind of special blessing which they did not understand and required an interpreter to do so. In Acts 19:11 we read, "God wrought SPECIAL miracles by the hands of Paul." Webster says, "Special is designated for a definite purpose." Time limited. The healing by Peter's shadow, the sending of handkerchiefs and maybe these nonunderstandable utterances at Corinth.

Anyway, we do have some examples of this in the Bible. We mean "Special miracles." Take Mt. Sinai when the law was given. There we had the smoke, the fire, the quaking and all these passed, but we had the law. Then at the birth of Jesus, we had the angelic chorus, the wise men, etc. All these SPECIAL MIRACLES passed, but we had Jesus. Then at Pentecost we had sound like a mighty wind, the cloven tongues of fire that sat upon each of them and the living languages. There were people out of every nation under heaven there, and God gave those Galileans the languages so that all heard in their own tongue. No unknown tongues there. But the sound, the fire passed. No one as far as we know seeks that now. So while these passed and we may not have all these now, we can still make the entire consecration, which means a great deal, say that last "Yes" and God will baptize



us with Holy Ghost fire. Special miracles like the birth of Jesus are no longer; and outward manifestations like at Pentecost no longer are in evidence, but we do have the moral law, the blessed Jesus, and can have today the glorious experience obtained at Pentecost which will crucify the old man, give us a pure heart and fill us with Divine, perfect love.

I am now 83 years of age and feel my little day will soon be over. God sees every word I have just written and He knows every word of this is as true as if I were dying now. I only write this in order that some confused soul may be helped.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **THE FALL AND RESTITUTION OF MAN**

Before the fall man was holy. When he fell he became unholy. Then, if he ever enters Heaven, he will have to be made holy in this life. When man fell his entire being, body, mind and spirit was affected. The seeds of death were sown in his body. The day he ate the forbidden fruit he did not die physically, but he died spiritually. Physical death came later. "In dying thou shalt die." Disintegration began.

His mind was terribly affected. Up to this time when God came in the cool of the day to visit His holy children they, doubtless, ran to meet him but now they ran from Him and sought to hide themselves from an omniscient God among the trees of the garden. Silly! Something tragic had taken place in their minds. They lost fellowship and relationship but worst of all was what had taken place in their spirits. God was gone and Adam was a spiritual corpse. If we could have beheld this holy pair before their fall and now, it would be shuddering. Tragic! Material clothes were not worn before the fall. Maybe the Divine light from their holy souls shined out of them and enveloped them in garments of light. If this light faded they would then become naked.

We saw an article where an angel was passing Eden and saw that Adam and Eve had fallen and he, excitedly, hastened back to Heaven to inform God of the tragedy that had taken place. No, God knew it from all eternity, for Christ was a Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. Some one said, "When man fell he fell on a promise" (Gen. 3:15). God is resourceful and contemplated man's need.

But now restitution or redemption begins. (Now just this thought in passing: The holiness opposers tell us, "That if one is holy he could not be tempted." The temptation of this holy pair in the holy place refutes this notion.) But now it is a problem of sin. Sin must be punished either in the sinner or his substitute. Thank the Lord for the substitution salvation of our Divine Lord. "He died for us." Now Adam had imbibed a sinful nature and also had personal transgression with which to deal. Since the entire man, body, mind and spirit, has been affected it will require three experiences to restore him.

These three we call, "Justification, Sanctification and Glorification." Two of these can be received now by faith and the other, glorification, at the end, when "this mortal shall put on immortality." We notice, briefly, each of these:

First, Justification. And we notice this in an inclusive sense. To justify means to pardon, forgive. The sinner repents, and that means a great deal, and believes and deliverance from sins takes place. While there is some disagreement here it seems that justification, regeneration and adoption take

place simultaneously. God pardons, regenerates, gives divine spiritual life, and at the same time adopts us into his Family and writes our names in the Lamb's Book of life.

In the second place, sanctification is that glorious work of the Holy Ghost, through the atoning blood, sanctifying or cleansing the heart from inherited sin, crucifying the old man, and filling the heart with perfect love. Some tell us that we are cleansed and then later filled. This is a mistake. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, the fire came down and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifice and simultaneously, filled the Temple, cleansing and filling. At Pentecost they were cleansed and filled simultaneously. It was the mighty baptism with the Holy Ghost (Not IN the Holy Ghost) that cleansed and filled. All who are baptized with the Holy Ghost are sanctified, and all who are sanctified are Baptized with the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord for these two glorious experiences, justification and sanctification. These two experiences prepare us for the future experience of glorification. Thus justification and sanctification make us eligible for glorification.

Now just a glance at that blessed experience of glorification, which is future. While in justification and sanctification the spirit has been restored, all sin gone, glorification will restore us PHYSICALLY and MENTALLY, and we will need that. Paul said, "We who have the first fruits of the Spirit do groan, waiting for the redemption of our bodies." Some say redemption is complete when we get saved and sanctified. No, our redemption is complete at glorification; this will free us from all infirmities of the flesh. No more pain, sickness or death.

In I Cor. Paul graphically describes the resurrected glorified body. He says it is sown (buried) in corruption, raised in incorruption; sown in weakness, raised in power; sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. All about this glorious resurrection spiritual body may not be fully known "Till we shall know as we are known." It is a deathless body. Paul said, "Cannot die any more." This body will defy space and material objects, like the resurrection body of Jesus. Closed doors did not hinder him. Space did not concern Him.

And we must not overlook the fact that it will be the SAME BODY. In 1st Cor. 15:35, "But some man will say How are the dead raised up and with WHAT BODY do they come?" Then He answers "To every seed his own body." Here we read, "IT IS SOWN and IT IS RAISED." The significance of that little word, "It." The one that goes down comes up, risen, resurrected and glorified. "There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body," the earthly body suitable for the earth and the heavenly body for Heaven.

Also at the Divine glorification the mind will be fully RESTORED. "Now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face now we know in part but then we shall know as we are known." You say, "Will we know each other in Heaven?" Do you suppose we shall know less there than here? Yes, we will know everybody in Heaven and they shall know us. Know folk we never knew on earth, know Moses, Abraham, Daniel, Paul and all the rest. Glorious redemption and restoration our Jesus has bought for us. Bless Him.

But now in conclusion: Some say I want my loved ones to look just as they did when I saw them on earth. But are you real sure? Do you desire that little diseased helpless babe to look just as it did? How about that blind, crippled child? What about that old, decrepit mother or father? All physical

weakness and mental, idiotic conditions gone forever. The rich man with an idiot child said, "I would give a million dollars for just one look of recognition, but it never came. How happy when the parents meet "Over there. Their once idiotic child normal. Yes, Mother will be there, but all decrepitness gone. "The old will be young there forever, transformed in a moment of time."

Near Nashville, Tenn., there is a home for the feeble minded. "Hundreds there. Deformed bodies and mental weaknesses. Some with heads as large as three normal heads. Short limbs and scarcely any feet. Some crow like roosters. Some bark like dogs. In summer they take them out in the yard and tie them to trees. Shuddering sight. Glorification will take care of this. We were in a nice home one time where there was a doleful creature. Clad in a kind of long coat. No mind. Sexless. Neither male nor female. But a young college woman sister said to me as we passed this creature, 'This is my brother'." Pitiful.

Look at the cocoon, which is the silken envelope in which the silkworm is enclosed in the chrysalis state. Bye and bye after days of struggle the worm emerges. Not as a worm but as a beautiful butterfly. See how beautiful and happy as it flies among the flowers. Down here we in this material body of earth suffer, but one day we will emerge into the heavenly worlds. Praise the Lord for the glorious restitution of man. Paradise lost in Eden, but Paradise regained in the heavenly Paradise, the New Jerusalem. "On the happy golden shore, where the faithful part no more, when the storms of life are o'er, meet me there."

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 17 DIVINE HEALING**

In the book of II Kings 20:1-7 we have an account of King Hezekiah, who was sick and the Lord healed him. We notice a few lessons gathered from this. Here we find that Hezekiah was a good man. He was no compromiser. We find when the King of Assyria threatened him and his kingdom that he spread the letters before the Lord and prayed and God gave him assurance of victory.

But in the second place we find he was not only a good man but he was a sick man. Verse one says, "He was sick." Salvation will not prevent sickness and sorrow. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." God often permits strange things to come to His children. "They killed James with the sword." Most of the apostles and millions of saints were slain in the most cruel manner.

But he was not only sick but "He was SICK UNTO DEATH." It seems it was the will of the Lord to take him to heaven at that time. But, "God has his second best for those who will not have His best." Difference in the perfect will of God and in his "permissive will." Might pause a moment here to notice the source of afflictions. There are THREE. They come from natural causes, from the Devil and from God. Eat too much, sit in a draft and sick. Natural causes. Then we know Satan afflicts. He afflicted Job, then the Bible is clear that God afflicted. In Psalms 119:75 we read, "I know O Lord that thy judgments are right and that THOU in righteousness has afflicted me." The Lord chastens.

Here God said, to Hezekiah, "Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live." Definite. But Hezekiah prayed. Here we read, "Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed and wept sore." Then God sent Isaiah back to him and said, "I have heard thy prayer and seen thy tears and I will heal thee" and He did. As we shall see later it seems this was God's time to take him to Heaven. One thing he failed to do and that is he failed to say, "Thy will be done." We know the rabid Divine healers say we must not do this for that is doubting, but we know this is not true for the Leper said, "If thou wilt thou canst make me clean and Jesus said, "I will, be thou clean."

But now the question is asked what about the use of "Means?" Can one trust the Lord and use any medicine? Differences of opinion here.

In the case of Hezekiah Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs and lay it on the boil and he recovered." Personally for about 10 years of my life I refused to use any remedies. The Lord may lead some folk that way. And I rather like it. On the other hand some devout folk use remedies. So God can heal WITH or WITHOUT medicine. A man had his limb terribly broken and mangled. He was a minister and did not believe in remedies. He said, "Doctors are of the Devil and I will have nothing to do with them." His friends insisted that he have the doctor set it but he stubbornly refused. Finally gangrene set in and lockjaw was in evidence. Finally the doctor came and cleaned it up and set the broken bones and the Lord healed and he recovered rapidly. He went back to his church to preach but the

members, to whom he preached said, "You will never preach to us, we do not have backsliders to preach for us."

But now notice, as we suggested, it would have been better for Hezekiah to have gone to Heaven. In this same chapter (II Kings 20:12-21) he did some sad things that brought the displeasure of God upon him. Then in II Chron. 32:25, we read "But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him and his heart was lifted up; therefore there was wrath upon him and Jerusalem.

Now we notice a few false theories relative to Divine healing. First one is that if one is right with God he will NOT GET SICK, that salvation delivers from sickness. But this is hardly scriptural. Job was a perfect man and yet God permitted the Devil to afflict him. Then Paul said "Trophimus have I left at Miletus sick." Too sick to come along. Then we see a host of the most devout folk afflicted. A second false theory is that God will heal all if conditions are met. But this is hardly true. There comes a time when it is the will of the Lord to take one to Heaven and He permits affliction. Some years ago there were professional healers here in the City. There was a sick man who was a chronic backslider but he had been reclaimed and sanctified. He said, "It is God's will to take me to Heaven." But we did pray for him and anoint him, as the Bible teaches, but he was not healed. Others went and prayed with him and said, "Of course God will heal you for it is His will to heal all. "But God did not heal him but took him to Heaven. This wrecked the faith of some of his loved ones and they are bitter to this day. Dangerous to thus teach.

But finally, if one is sick what should he do? Do what God's Word says, "Call for the elders of the church and pray and anoint with oil in the Name of the Lord and the prayer of faith shall save the sick." If it is His will to heal, some one will be able to pray the "Prayer of faith." Often He will heal. At times he may not. Paul had some kind of physical infirmity. it WAS PHYSICAL. Maybe his eyes. Some such indication. He prayed twice and no answer at all. God did not speak but he prayed the third time and God said "My grace is sufficient for thee." God did not heal but gave grace. Then Paul got blest and said, "I will glory in mine infirmities that the power of God may rest upon me." The less of the human and more of the Divine.

Often we pray for our loved ones and God may not heal but give comfort to the bereaved. We know a devout lady whose husband was very ill. He was a great minister. She and others prayed and he was anointed but he died, but his good wife said, "You cannot bury my husband for he is not dead." But he was dead and had to be embalmed and buried. The Devil almost wrecked her faith. But the Lord gently came and whispered, "When you prayed and I gave you comfort you took it for assurance that he would be healed." Then she saw.

We have seen people healed of many diseases. Some years ago there was a lady dying with T.B. No hope. Had her funeral arrangements all made. Just waiting for the end. But one Sunday afternoon a group of us prayed and anointed her with oil in His wonderful name. And God enabled some one to pray the "Prayer of faith" and some one or all touched Him. By the next Sunday she was going to the table eating good meals and in a few weeks was strong and well. Praise the Lord for His miraculous grace and power.

Justification, salvation frees us from sins committed. Sanctification from sin inherited, the old adamic nature or carnal mind. Then there is that further work of glorification which restores us physically and mentally, Perfect body. Never grow old or die while a boundless eternity rolls on. Perfect mind where WE shall know even as also we are known,

On that happy golden shore,  
Where the faithful part no more,  
When the storms of life are o'er  
Meet me there."

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 18 ANGELS AND THEIR MINISTRY**

The Bible, from Gen. to Rev., reveals the existence of angels. The number is not stated. Jesus spoke of, "Twelve legions." Then in Heb. 12:22 we read of "An INNUMERABLE company of angels." In Col. 1:16 we learn that they are created beings. "By Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in the earth — throne, dominions, principalities."

Originally there was only one class of angels — holy. But we read, "Of the angels that sinned." II Pet. 2:4. Lucifer led the revolt, then other angels joined him. The number that fell is unknown. In Rev. 12:4 there is a scripture used to prove that one-third of the angels fell, but this, positively, has no reference to the fall of angels. It states, "And his tail (The dragon) drew the third part of the stars of heaven." Or "the heavens." This refers to the war in the heavens which is clearly in the future. "Stars" here means just what it says. "Stars" and not angels. It is the same word used in Rev. 6:13 where we read, "And the stars of heaven (or the stars of the heavens.) fell unto the earth — even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind." The context here is clearly NOT ANGELS. How many fell is not known but it is clear that many did. Paul said, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers and against the rulers of the darkness of this world." Eph. 6:12. Wesley said, "Angels (Fallen angels) our march oppose, who still in strength excel; our secret, sworn, eternal foes, countless invisible. From thrones of glory driven, by flaming vengeance hurled; they throng the air and darken heaven (The elements) and rule this lower world." If we, with these natural eyes, beheld them doubtless, often, we would see, like the black-winged vultures of Hell, this mighty host seeking to damn us. Any way we know the lake of fire is their ultimate doom.

Now we are to notice the nature of the good, and unfallen, angels. Of course we know they are holy. They are spoken of as "The HOLY angels." Also we learn they are MALE. No female angels. This is contrary to all the pictures we ever saw of angels. They are always pictured as WOMEN or CHILDREN. This is all contrary to the Bible. Someone has said that no one could ever IMAGINE a man being an angel! But we are not angels and will never be. Angels are a different order of beings from human beings. Also we learn from Luke 20:34-36 that the angels do not marry and that they CANNOT die. Also we learn that they can eat. They ate with Abraham and then we read in Psalms 78:25 that, "Man did eat angel's food."

But, notwithstanding their greatness, they are not to be worshipped. Rev. 22:9. When John was shown those marvelous revelations he fell down at the feet of the angel, but he said, "Do it not — worship God." Also they are not omniscient. Mk. 13:32. They do not know the exact day or hour when Jesus will return. From II Pet. 2:11 we learn that they are greater in powers and might than man. We further learn that Heaven is their home. Headquarters if you please, but they make frequent visits to earth. In John 1:51 we read, "Ye shall see Heaven opened and the angels of God ascending



and descending." Also we read, "But are as the angels of God IN HEAVEN." Then we find that they are indeed powerful beings. When the Assyrians encamped against Israel, and with their blasphemous threats vowed destruction, we read, "The angel of the Lord went out that night and smote them in the camp." Then next morning 185,000 Assyrians were dead on the field. Jesus said if he requested it the Father would immediately dispatch twelve legions of angels to assist Him. This might mean 72,000 angels. If one angel could put out of commission 185,000, 72,000 angels could take care of around thirteen billion and three hundred and twenty million! Probably only a little over two billion inhabitants in the world. At the resurrection of Christ the angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it. "His countenance was like LIGHTNING, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake and become as dead men." Matthew 28:2-4. Praise the Lord for the angels!

Now we are to notice the Ministry of angels. The word angel means minister or messenger. In Heb. 1:14 we read, "Are they (The angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth (From Heaven) to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Here we learn that they are to comfort, guard and protect the saints of God along their pilgrimages to the better world. We see they are excellent cooks! When Elijah fled from Jezebel when she threatened his life an angel ministered unto him. Elijah ran for his life. He had withstood Ahab and eight hundred and fifty false prophets. No fear there for him, but when this wicked woman, Jezebel, threatened him he felt he had better move on. In I Kings 19:3 we read, "When Elijah saw that he arose and went for his life!" He left his servant at Beersheba and he went a day's journey into the wilderness and sat down under a juniper tree and desired to die. He was running for his life and praying to die! If he had remained Jezebel would have looked after that. But he was "A man subject to like passions as we are." Jas. 5:17. He had just won the great victory. God had sent the fire. The false prophets were dead and the people were convinced that the Lord was the true God. But Elijah had passed through a great strain. He was now tired and nervous. But as he lay and slept under the juniper tree the angels of the Lord awoke him, and said, "Arise and eat," "Arise and eat," "And he looked and behold there was a cake baked on the coals and a cruse of water at his head and he did eat and drink." This was done the second time, and the angel bade him arise and go in the strength received. Yes, the angels can prepare a good meal.

Also the angels seek to turn us back when we are going out of the will of God. You remember when Balaam was going contrary to the will of God the angel appeared in the way to turn him back. The donkey, upon which Balaam was riding, saw the angel but the backslidden preacher did not. Often the preacher does not seem to have the SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT of the donkey. If we had greater insight doubtless the angels would keep us back, often, from trouble. In Psalms 34:7 we read, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them. Daniel was cast into the den of lions for his devotion and faithfulness. In the morning the king came and cried, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually able to deliver thee?" Then we have the voice from the den of lions, "O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me." Dan. 6:19-22.

Then we find they deliver from prison. Peter was in prison for standing true, He was sleeping between TWO soldiers bound with TWO chains. But it will require more than that to defeat God's angels. During the night the angel of the Lord entered the prison. Prison walls are no barriers to the angels. The light shined in the prison and the ANGEL smote Peter and said "follow me." Thus Peter

was miraculously delivered by the angel. Again, the apostles were in prison for preaching the truth. But the angel came and brought them forth. The next morning when the officers came to take the prisoners to trial, and opened the doors they found they were not there. They reported that they found the prison doors closed and the keepers standing before the doors, but no prisoners! Then we find Paul in the storm. All hope had gone, but Paul stepped forth and said, "Be of good cheer — for there stood by me this night the angel of God, WHOSE I am and whom I SERVE, saying, "fear not Paul." Great to have the angels come and stand by us in a time like that.

Also we find they accompany the spirit to the good world at death. We read that Lazarus died and "was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." Glorious company to escort us to the heavenly world. Then we see they are to be associated with Jesus at his second coming. In Matt. 25:31 we read, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory and all the holy angels with Him." Then He is to send forth His angels and they shall gather out the tares and bind them in bundles and cast them into the furnace of fire. Matt. 13:40-42. They are to be the executioners of God's wrath in the close of the age. They will make no mistakes.

But finally, we would mention one other ministry of these good beings. In Rev. 14:6,7 we read) "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven (up in the elements above the earth) having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth." What can this mean? We believe the context makes it clear. This will take place during the "Great Tribulation." The rapture, of course, took place just PRIOR to the fearful tribulation. The fearful Antichrist took charge. During the great tribulation all the judgments of Revelation from chapter 6 to 19 will be poured out on a wicked world. Rivers turned to blood; the pit, or hell, opened and scorpion-like monsters come out of Hell and torment men; two hundred million horrible monsters let loose who slay one-third of all men who are living then by the fire and smoke and brimstone which issues out of their mouths. All this is described in Rev. 9. We know the "scoffers" mock at all this but it is the inspired word of God. No, this does not mean airplanes spitting fire now or in the past. It means just what it says. The literal judgments of almighty God poured out upon a Christ-rejecting world during the Great Tribulation. The Antichrist will brand his subjects. They must receive the mark or die. The multitudes will, but some refuse. No one can then live and preach the gospel to the dupes of the Antichrist. Then the angels turn preachers, and one flies in the midst of the heavens, where the Antichrist and his cohorts can't touch him, and preaches the everlasting gospel. We know some deny that this is the gospel of grace, but God says, "The everlasting gospel." O the amazing mercy of God. Yes every one shall have a call. No one can stand before God with an excuse. Even those living in these fearful days will be excuseless. This will be a time of judgment. But it will also still be judgment mingled with mercy. This will be a RAINBOW about the tribulation throne. This means mercy. Rev. 4:2,3. "In the midst of wrath God will remember mercy." Heb. 3:2. Few will be saved for it is said over and over again, "They repented not." Multitudes, who acted PRESUMPTUOUSLY will find the door closed. Multitudes have crossed the dead line now. Rev. Bona Flemming told me that Dr. W.B. Godbey stated to him just before his death that he believed that half of the people in this country, who had had light, had already crossed the dead line. Maybe that is why it is so hard now. But we do find three or four groups who were saved during this awful period. This is POSITIVELY stated. The largest of these is that multitude who came out of great tribulation (In the original it is the great tribulation) Rev. 7:9-14. Praise the Lord for the angelic preachers.

The Bible seems clear that each child of God, as long as he is true, has one special guardian angel. They are sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. In Matt. 18:10 Jesus said, "Despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in heaven THEIR ANGELS do always behold the face of my Father." This seems to refer to the children. "The little ones," but we would think would include all of God's "little flock." Mr. Wesley tells of the robber who was saved one night in one of his services. After he was saved he came to Mr. Wesley and said, "I followed you all day through the wilderness, as you rode along, and was planning to rob you and possibly kill you, and the only reason that I did not attack you was because of the man that was with you." Mr. Wesley replied, "But there was no man with me, I was all alone." "No," said the robber, "There was a man who rode right along with you all the way " When Mr. Wesley heard this he said, "No, there was no one with me. That was my GUARDIAN ANGEL and the Lord just let you see him!" You will pardon this personal experience. One day in Memphis, Tenn., we were walking alone between a railroad track and a freight platform. There was, ordinarily, plenty of room as people walked there all the time. But as we, that day, walked along we saw a freight coming down the track and just before it reached us we felt a sudden impulse to jump quickly from where we were walking onto the platform. This we did, and almost by the time we had gotten there the train was there. There were some flat cars loaded with pieces of railroad irons, laid ACROSS the flat cars. They stuck out over the edge of the car and almost touched the platform. If we had remained there a few seconds we would have been ground to pieces. Most of us remember some such experiences.

Now, in conclusion, we want to notice a very solemn scripture found in Ex. 23:20-23. God said, "Behold I will send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; THEN I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries." Solemn scripture. We must be on good terms with him if he is to care for us. He is God's representative. "My name is in him." We must not have a wrong spirit toward any one. He would leave us then. No bitterness or ill will. We must not go anywhere this guardian angel would not go. That would mean to part company with him. To provoke him or grieve him in any way is to incur his wrath. We would not give up our guardian angel for anything the Devil has. May we seek not to grieve God the Father, Son of Holy Spirit or our guardian angel. But at any cost, be true, so that we may enter that good place prepared for the faithful.

"My latest sun is sinking fast,  
My race is nearly run,  
My strongest trials now are past,  
My triumph is begun.

I know I'm near the holy ranks,  
Of friends and kindred dear,  
I brush the dew on Jordan's bank,  
The crossing must be near.

I've almost gained my heavenly home,  
My spirit loudly sings,  
The holy ones, behold they come,  
I hear the noise of wings.

CHORUS:

O come, angel band, come and around me stand,  
O bear me away on your snowy wings, to my immortal home,  
O bear me away on your snowy wings, to my immortal home."

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 19 THE TRAGEDY OF EDEN OR THE FALL OF MAN**

**MAN'S CREATION.** "God created man in his own image" (Gen. 1:21). Righteousness and true holiness. Man not product of evolution but of Divine creation. God formed Adam's body of the dust. Eve from one of Adam's ribs. So woman is one round further from the dirt than man. Should be a bit cleaner. Looked for a time not going to be any Eve, but she finally appeared and business picked up immediately, and she has since kept things moving.

**GOD CONTEMPLATED MAN'S NEED.** "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there He put the man whom He had formed" (Gen. 2:8). This garden glorious beyond our comprehension. No thorns nor thistles. No biting frosts or sultry atmosphere. No raging storms. But balmy air, tropical clime. No ferocious wild beasts. Man a vegetarian. Just eat of delicious fruits and sleep in some lovely bower. No laborious toil for Adam, no house drudgery for Eve. No sweeping floors that would not stay swept, no washing dishes that would not stay washed, no spanking babies that would not stay spanked. Yes, would have been babies, but needed no spanking.

In this glorious garden God placed this holy, happy pair. First marriage, first home. Blessed holy happy home, happy because holy.

But, sad to say, seems this Divine arrangement did not last long. "Then cometh the Devil" (Luke 8:21). The Devil intrudes in every garden God has planted. Eden, Israel, the early church; (The 1,000 years of the dark ages coming after Pentecost) the mighty early Methodist, and now the holiness movement. So quickly.

Adam and Eve had only TWO laws to observe. Wonder how many we have now? ONE POSITIVE. "Dress the garden." ONE NEGATIVE, not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan, an enraged fallen angel, now has no further access to Heaven or God, and so seeks to wreak vengeance on God's children created in God's image. Satan embodies himself in the serpent, the most intelligent creature in the garden, apart from the holy pair, through which to SPEAK.

Possibly the serpent could communicate with man, for Eve was not surprised when the serpent spoke. Seems the serpent was an upright creature, not the slimy, crawling creature as now. This came as a result of the CURSE. Sin changes from uprightness to CRAWLING. Degradation.

Satan is ever alert to damn, so he transforms himself into an angel of light, and approaches Eve as a friend. First, he questions God. "Hath God said, ye shall not die?" Then he becomes more bold and accuses God of falsity. "God knows you will not die but be as gods, knowing good and evil. God is withholding good from you." Till then they did not know evil, only good. Knew good and were

good. Wish they had thus remained. They did not have perfect knowledge, but knew all necessary for their eternal wellbeing. May be Eve did not know there was a devil, but when he questioned and belied God, her benefactor, she should have known her enemy and God's. So we now, when one comes, in no matter how friendly a guise, if he CONTRADICTS God and His Word, should know God's enemy and should "resist him." It is also the duty of God's ministers to warn. If fail, God says will be a "bloody preacher."

But when, "Eve SAW the tree was good for food and PLEASANT to the eye and a tree desired to make one WISE, she took thereof" (Gen. 3:6). She disbelieved God. Little boy been to Sunday School and had gotten a card which said, "Have Faith in God." On the bus going home he dropped his "Faith in God" out the window. He began to scream, "Stop the car." The conductor said, "What is the matter?" He said, "I have lost my Faith in God." The motorman stopped the car and he got his "Faith in God." WISE. Three classes unbelievers. FIRST, infidel, atheist. SECOND, claims believe in God but no profession. THIRD, religious unbelievers. Baptized, joined church, loud profession, teach and preach but are "sinning saints." Name is "Legion."

Satan attacked Eve, not Adam. He knew if he "captured" Eve, the woman would get the man. Satan attacked Eve when not WITH her husband. She was near the forbidden tree, possibly gazing on its tempting, forbidden fruit. Possibly there because of CURIOSITY. Unholy curiosity dangerous. May be she should have been with her husband. When one is not where he should be, he is usually where he ought not to be. When not at God's house on Sunday where should be, often at some worldly place where should not be. Jesus not at these old worldly ball games. He says His servants not where He is not.

Eve fell through a LOOK. A look may damn. Was a look that wrecked Eve; Lot, Achan, and David likewise. Jesus warned against wrong LOOKS. But when did Eve sin? It was a DESIRED tree. You may SEE, but not LOOK. A forbidden object may create a momentary desire, but the sin comes when the fatal DECISION is made. A boy beholds some big red apples, and there is a DESIRE. Quite an affinity between a boy's stomach and red apples. He desires, but no sin YET. But when he makes a decision to get over the fence and steal the apples, then he sins. If he says "no" with a vengeance, he is victor.

The essence of most all temptation is to satisfy a LEGITIMATE desire in an illegitimate way. Take the temptation of Jesus for example. The Devil tempted him to satisfy the legitimate desires in a wrong way. But now Eve has sinned and fallen. Tragedy of tragedies. All suffering, sorrow, death, and even Hell itself is the result of sin. Sin made Hell a necessity. Now, such enlightenment! Such hilarious emotions. There is pleasure in sin for a moment, but at the last it "Bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Two aspects of sin. The way it looks when committed, and AFTERWARDS. Take Judas and his bloody money. Sin will cause one to do what CANNOT BE UNDONE. God can forgive, but not undo. It is a FACT that remains that Peter denied Jesus and cursed and swore.

But what shall Eve do? She is fallen and Adam is NOT. She has knowledge Adam does not possess. May be at first she decided to retain this wonderful knowledge and not impart it to Adam, and thus be SUPERIOR to him. Possibly after a second thought she said, "No, I may die, as God

said, and Adam will still live and God may create him another wife." This she could never ENDURE. So she secures a bough full of enchanting, forbidden fruit, and takes off to find Adam. Possibly Adam was anxious to know why his wife had lingered so long and he is not the LAST HUSBAND confronted with such a problem. He starts to look for his wife and they meet and he inquires of her where she had been SO LONG. And "Eve, you look DIFFERENT. I see something in your eyes not there before, and I feel something between us." Then Eve with that strange look, exclaims: "O Adam, we have been under a DELUSION. God said we would die if we ate of that tree, but I have eaten and am not dead. (But she was dead spiritually). And such hilarious emotions, and such knowledge you never knew." What did Adam do? He did what most men do when confronted with enchanting charms of woman. He partook. He sinned and FELL. May be Adam thought, "Well she will die and I will not unless I partake. And I would rather die with her than live without her." Poor, helpless, backboneless Adam. No word of protest from him.

The Devil knew the woman, in many respects, has qualities far superior to man. She makes a wonderful woman, but such a poor man. An old woman bobbed her hair and then said to her husband, "Do I look like an old woman now?" He replied, "No, you look like an old man now." You can paint up a 1930 car but still an old model see?

Dr. J. G. Morrison says, "They will not be females, they will APE the man. They will de-sex themselves, until no longer woman, but sexless manikins. They cut their hair like men, put on coat and breeches, smoke, drink, and curse. Often appear in their SHORTS while men commit adultery with them in their hearts." She captures the man.

But now the fatal deed has been committed and they are fallen sinners. Rebels. Then they heard the voice of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day. He did not come at night or riding on some dark cloud, but quietly walking in the cool of the day. Then they hid themselves, or tried to, among the trees in the garden. The Devil said, "Be as gods." But now they are cowardly, cringing criminals, and were so foolish as to think they could hide themselves from an omnipotent God among the trees. Sin makes fools. God called them and said, "Where art thou?" They had their FLING in sin, but where were they? Good lesson for us. God had doubtless come many a time and they ran to meet Him, but now they hide. God called them from their hiding and questioned them. Adam blamed Eve. In reality he blamed the Lord, for he said, "The woman YOU gave me is responsible." Eve blamed the Devil. The Devil did tempt Eve, but she was responsible for the YIELDING. No evidence of repentance, confession or return to God. HOPE DIED. They said they were naked and ashamed. Sin does this. May be they were so inherently holy that their luminosity shined out of them and clothed them with garments of light. If so this faded and they were naked.

Possibly this vile, brazen, NUDE CRAZE of mid-riffs, shorts, and mixed bathing suits is about the most damning sin of the age.

Now they have lost God and they sewed fig leaves together and made for themselves aprons. SUBSTITUTES But these aprons were too abbreviated and God clothed them with skins from dead animals. The purpose of clothing is two-fold, first, to protect, and second to humiliate and show loss and need. The skins from animals instead of Divine glory. Required death of animals to clothe them. Thus prefiguring the substitutionary death of Christ. The purpose of clothing now PERVERTED.

Now used to beautify, adorn, and become a substitute for CONSCIOUS LOSS. But often this worldly adornment of make-up, jewelry, covers a vile polluted soul. All this adornment is sham and hypocrisy. What a day the judgment will be, when one is stripped of this pretense and as a poor naked soul, meets God. But when God is lost, substitutes must be obtained. When Adam and Eve lost God it was fig-leaf APRONS. When Saul lost God, it was the WITCH of Endor. When Israel lost God, it was substitutes. She had at least three of these. First, a KING. "Give us a king." Second, TEMPLES. "Israel hath FORGOTTEN his Maker, and BUILDETH TEMPLES." Hosea 8:14. Third, WORLD POWER. "Jeshurun waxed fat and wicked . . . then he forsook God." Deut. 32:15. Lot of that these days among the fat ones. Early Methodists lost God and now abominable substitutes. And now the holiness movement is compromising and, while many deny it, the situation is desperately sad. All kinds of apostate innovations being substituted for the old-fashioned Holy Ghost program. Individuals lose God with the same results.

In Jeremiah 4:30 we read, "And when thou art spoiled what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair, thy lovers will despise thee." All this external adornment failed. Still spoiled. We may belong to a holiness church and sing in a holiness choir, while all decked out, but still carnal and spoiled. Many ministers would denounce all this nude, painted, bedecked, breeches outfit, including the vile TV home movie, but fear offend good paying members. God says, "He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Does not have it. An investigating committee reports crime among children increased 400 percent last three years since TV has taken over. All kinds of human manipulations in services for Holy Ghost demonstration. For example, "Everybody rather be here than in the graveyard, say Amen." Then a volley of "amens" like a flock of geese. Then we "PUT ON" a service and "DO" songs. Now a lot of carnal handclapping. We hear a lot about FUN these days. The word "FUN" is not found in the Bible. Fun is for the world. God's folk have joy. All these poor substitutes.

But God is long suffering and while he DROVE them from the garden of Eden he makes a promise, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head" (Gen. 3:15). Christ, the seed of the woman, will bruise and defeat the Devil. So while the beautiful Edenic garden below is lost, there will be a Paradise above, the New Jerusalem. And those who are cleansed from all sin shall dwell there. This will be SUPERIOR to the earthly Paradise. Christ over rules. First two chapters of Genesis describes the earthly Paradise, and the last two chapters of Revelation the heavenly Paradise, the New Jerusalem. In Eden there was DANGER. In the New Jerusalem NONE. No Devil to tempt. In Eden there were rivers. In the New Jerusalem there will be the "Water of Life," and the "River of Life." In Eden there was the tree of life. This we find in the New Jerusalem. In Eden they had fruit. In the new Jerusalem we find twelve kinds of fruit on one tree. Uncle Bud said he dreamed he died and went to Heaven and drank water out of the River of Life and ate fruit of the Tree of Life. He said it was so wonderful, when he awoke he could scarcely eat Texas grub for a month. In Eden God VISITED them. In the New Jerusalem, He DWELLS with them.

But you say, "Is there any possibility of another tragedy?" We answer, "No," "There shall be no more curse" (Rev. 22:3). But has man lost his free moral agency? No, but he has been redeemed from the contagion of sin and been tested and proven true. This Adam had never had. Many



contagious diseases can only be had ONCE. That which susceptible to the contagion CONSUMED.  
The burned over ground in no danger of fire.

So man lost his glorious, inherited estate in Eden through the FIRST Adam. But through the substitutionary death of the LAST Adam, it has been gloriously restored and enhanced. No sickness, suffering, sorrow, sin, or death can ever enter there. It is the HOLY CITY quarantined against sin. Wonderful restoration of God. "Paradise lost" and "Paradise restored."

"On the happy golden shore  
Where the faithful part no more  
When the storms of life are o'er,  
Meet me there.

Where the night dissolves away  
Into pure and perfect day,  
I am going home to stay.  
Meet me there.

Here our fondest hopes are vain,  
Dearest links are rent in twain,  
But in heaven no throb or pain.  
Meet me there.

By the river sparkling bright  
In that city of delight  
Where our faith is lost in sight,  
Meet me there.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 20**

### **THE DIFFERENCE IN PURITY AND MATURITY**

Man was created holy; through the fall he became unholy and if he ever enters a holy Heaven he must be made holy. Soul restoration. Modernists tell us that the child is born in the kingdom of God but the Bible declares that we are by "Nature Children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3). No we are not Christians by natural generation but supernatural regeneration.

The work of initial salvation includes justification, regeneration, and adoption. Justification, pardon, delivers from all guilt; regeneration is an impartation of Divine spiritual life and adoption means names written on the Lamb's Book of Life and the reception into the Family of God. Supernatural work. "Happy day, happy day when Jesus washed my sins away." Sanctification is always AFTER Justification. Justification is for the sinner, sanctification for the Christian.

There are two kinds of sin: committed sins and inherited sin. Justification as suggested, delivers from sins committed and sanctification sin inherited. Committed sins are FORGIVEN and inherited sin CLEANSED. "If we confess our SINS He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

When saved we are born of the Holy Ghost; when sanctified baptized with the Holy Ghost. Regeneration means life and sanctification more abundant life. In justification we receive love — in sanctification perfect love. Adoption makes us citizens of Heaven and sanctification soldiers of the cross. Both works of grace are divine and are received instantaneously by faith. The sinner REPENTS, believes and is saved. Christians consecrate and are sanctified by faith. When the last "yes" is said faith takes hold and the blessing comes in both cases. The outward manifestations in both cases may differ. To some the Holy Ghost may come like a fiery storm, to others he may come like the falling dew or a sunbeam, but HE WILL COME.

Now to come to the main thought: the difference in purity and maturity. The difference in a pure heart and a perfect character. This is very real and essential. Much harm has come by failing to differentiate between the two. As suggested, purity comes instantaneously. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." Or with Holy Ghost fire (Matt. 3:11). "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro . . . to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose hearts are perfect toward Him." A perfect heart seeks to do the will of God and does it if known.

Notwithstanding the fact that the old man is crucified, put to death, not suppressed, but eradicated, the character may not be perfect. Possibility things in our life not sin but not like Jesus. The statement in Isa. 1:25 has special reference to Israel but may be applicable to the perfection of character in God's people. Here we read, "I will turn my hand upon thee and purely purge away thy dross and take away all thy sin." Looks like some bit of dross and tin in many of us. As stated:

justification free from sins committed and sanctification from the pollution of sin. But after this the wrinkles must be ironed out and this may require heat "without spot or wrinkles." God says, Behold I have chosen thee in the furnace of afflictions (Isa. 48:10).

Some of the holiness teachers who were drastic eradicationists, taught what they called, "Death to the natural self-life." "We give two Bible examples: FIRST PETER. Gal. 2:11-15, we read where Peter ate with the Gentiles; but when certain Jews came from James (Jerusalem) Peter withdrew from them and refused to eat, fearing them of the circumcision. Think of that. (After Pentecost Peter feared.) This surely was not carnal fear but just a human weakness, perverted humanity. Paul said, "I withstood him (Peter) to the face because he was to be blamed." Also we read, "and other Jews dissembled with him and even Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulation." Think of that. Did Peter have the blessing? He surely did. Before Pentecost he swore and declared he did not even know Jesus, but after Pentecost he stood up and lifted up his voice, but now this weakness. He needed to die to his Jewish prejudices.

Second example we notice is JOB. God said Job had the blessing, "Perfect man," "but he went through a sore trial. Property destroyed, children dead and his wife treacherous, but worst of all it seemed God was gone. He said he went forward, backward, to the right and left but no God. Yet he cried out, may be help from the ash. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust him." Good testimony in a time like this. The climax was "when he has tried me I shall come forth as gold."

But finally when God had asked him scores of questions and revealed himself to Job in utter humiliation Job cried out, "I have spoken things too wonderful for me therefore I abhor myself — repent in dust and ashes." He saw himself and doubtless died to the good Job. He already had a pure heart but strides toward the perfection of character. Then an altar service, but Job not the seeker. God said to Job's three friends, you have not spoken right things like my servant Job. Prepare the altar and my servant Job shall pray for you." What a scene.

Thus we see as suggested, there is a difference between human weaknesses and carnality. Failing to differentiate between these has wrought havoc among good sanctified people, and caused them to cast away their faith. Of course if one failed to get the blessing or has lost it, by all means should obtain it. However, under the high pressure of some evangelists in order to save face and report "Altar lined and a blaze of glory on," even though they are the same who have been to the altar — many times and furnished a good report. Often we pull them up set them out till they turn yellow and become a prey to anyone with a glib tongue and a few good psychological tricks. So if we do not have the blessing — get it, but if just going through some dark place, like Job, do not cast away your confidence. In Isa. 50:10 you will find a Bible recipe for the dark hour.

"Who is among you that feareth the Lord, and obeyeth the voice of his servant: That walketh in darkness and hath no light; let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon his God." This was no backslider, he was fearing and obeying God, but was dark.

In our zeal to exalt the glorious blessing of holiness we have about preached the perfection of character which is often obtained by great trials and sufferings. "Bread corn is bruised" (Isa. 28:28).

The beautiful corn must be cut down, threshed, ground and baked before it becomes nourishing food. Often God has to use this method before He can feed us to a hungry world. Perfection of character.

Now to sum up, justification delivers from transgressions, sanctification from carnality, inherited sin, but there is a future work we call "Glorification." This will give us physical and mental perfection. Body and mind restored. "Even we ourselves who have first fruits of the Spirit groan within ourselves to wit the redemption of our bodies" (Rom. 8:23). Here we die daily that is the outward man perishes day by day. "This mortal shall put on immortality." It will be the same body. "It is sown and it is raised." The one that goes down to the grave comes up. No more old age, pain or death. God says equal to the angels and cannot die any more." Think of that.

As it will mean mental perfection. "Now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face, now we know in part but then we shall know as we also are known. Perfect body and mind for eternity." They shall go no more out. Heaven forever, all glory and praise to our Redeemer who has provided this glorious salvation of purity and maturity.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 21 HOLINESS MISUNDERSTOOD**

Possibly there is no subject in the inspired Word of God that is more misunderstood than that of sanctification or holiness. When you speak of holiness many think you have reference to some form of fanaticism such as handling snakes, fire or some other presumptuous notion of sin. Holiness has no connection with such. This has driven multitudes from the blessed truth of holiness.

Mr. Webster says to sanctify, is "to make holy or to cleanse from sin." He gives a secondary meaning of 'setting apart.' This is synonymous with consecration. The human side is to consecrate but the Divine side is to cleanse, sanctify or make holy. Sanctification is the act of God whereby the true believer is cleansed from sin and filled with perfect love. Holiness is the state of the soul which has been cleansed. It is similar to a successful operation. Sanctification is the operation and holiness is the good soul health after having had the operation.

**ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY OF SINNING.** But the question might arise if one should be cleansed from sin could he be tempted, or commit sin or grow in grace any more? It seems preposterous that such a question should be asked. Surely there is no place in this life where one will be free from temptation. The holy Jesus was tempted and the more Christlike one is the more terrific the onslaughts of hell. Of course, where there is temptation there is the possibility of yielding or sinning. However, there is no sin in temptation. The sin is in the yielding. No, there is no place in this world of probation where one cannot sin, but God can save from sin and keep as long as we watch and pray and lean on Christ. God says, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Holiness opposers, who should know better, still insist that the proponents of holiness teach that one cannot be tempted or sin, but this is maliciously false. We have never met a human being who taught any such thing.

The Bible is clear that man was holy before the fall, that through the fall he became unholy, and that if he ever sees God in peace he must be made holy in this life. 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God' (Matt. 3:8). Again in Heb.12:14 we read, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." According to this verse it is holiness or hell.

**FOUR THEORIES OF SANCTIFICATION.** We have studied theology and church history for 40 years and as far as we have been able to discover every orthodox church in christendom teaches that one is not wholly sanctified in justification and that he must be sanctified before reaching heaven. There are at least four theories as to when and how this sanctification is obtained.

"The first theory is that it is obtained by growth. But we have never met any one who will testify clearly that he has grown into it. We have known them to have been growing for 50 years but the Bible is clear that sanctification is an act.

"The second theory is that of death. We believe many have obtained it at death but it was not death that did it. It was at this time that they made the consecration and obtained what they call 'dying grace.' Of course if they walked in all the light they had, if they were truly justified, they did obtain it then.

"Another theory is that of purgatory. That when one dies he goes to purgatory where the purgatorial fires purify or sanctify.

"There is one other, which we believe to be the Bible way, and that is the truly born again one may come to God, not repenting, for he has already done that, and make a complete dedication or consecration of himself to God, and by faith receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, because of the atoning blood, in His cleansing and sanctifying power. The Bible clearly teaches this and thousands of witnesses from the days of the apostles will thus testify. John Wesley would write, 'This morning some found peace and some the second blessing.' Wesley insisted that if the people called Methodist ever ceased to preach this it would be to their sorrow.

The disciples were Christians before the day of Pentecost, because they had been sent by Jesus to preach, and Jesus never sends unsaved people to preach. Then Jesus said their names were written in heaven, and they were not of the world even as He was not and yet He commands them to tarry. In the Acts of the Apostles the eighth chapter we find that they were genuinely saved and then in a few days were filled with the Holy Ghost. The baptism with the Holy Ghost, for the Christian, is God's divine plan. It is the need of the hour.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 22 GOD'S AND MAN'S TITANIC**

We get the word "TITANIC" from the word "Titan" which means one or any thing of great size of strength. Gigantic. Thus the Titanic was of vast size and strength.

The Titanic was almost 900 feet long, about one sixth of a mile. One hundred seventy-five feet long or about 11 stories. She weighed 46,328 tons. Twenty-eight huge boilers and seven decks. She was UNSINKABLE. She was truly "TITANIC."

She left Southhampton, England in April bound for New York. Her human cargo, passengers and crew were 2, 207. Thomas Andrews was her designer and her captain was the great E. J. Smith.

She was the world's largest luxury liner. The White Star Line built her at a cost of about \$10,000,000.00. She was a floating paradise. Every thing for the pampering of the flesh was there. State rooms, bar rooms, dance halls. This was her first and last voyage. Only one partial voyage. She had many American and English dignitaries; such men as John Astor, worth 150 million dollars and Isador Straus, worth 100 million and a host of others worth millions were on board.

The sea was smooth and calm. She was plowing her way across the mighty deep, while many drank, gambled, danced and reveled. It was Sunday night, the day set apart for worship of God, but God was forgotten. Vulgarity, hilarity was the order. From 5 P.M. that Sunday evening they had been warned of the danger of icebergs in that section. But no concern about icebergs. The Titanic was unsinkable. If she should contact one she would crush the iceberg and plow on her merry way. So no heed to the warnings.

But something happened. It could not, but it DID. A huge iceberg was sighted just ahead. In spite of all that could be done "Man's Titanic and God's Titanic" collided. Such a collision. It was 11:40 P.M. Almost midnight. The iceberg was about 100 feet above the water. That meant about 300 feet below. About one-third always visible. A frightful gash about 300 feet long ripped her below the water line. God's Titanic cut the deadly gash in Man's Titanic. The heavy plates of British steel were ripped like a butcher knife would cut a paper sack. Man's Titanic was built in a few months, but God's Titanic had been scores and maybe centuries in forming. She had been constructed in the cold Arctic regions and drifted southward. She was harder than the hardest flint rock and easily cut this ugly, death dealing gash 300 feet long. Tons of icy water began pouring into the ship. It is all right for the ship to be in the sea, but tragic when the sea gets in the ship. It is all right for the Church to be in the world, but bad when the world gets in the Church as it is today.

All felt the shock, but many did not take it seriously. They consoled each other that no matter what — it was immaterial for they were on the unsinkable Titanic. Some thought what ever it was

it could be easily repaired. Some think today that Christendom, the professed Church, which the world has entered, can be reformed or repaired, but they are mistaken. All this Post-millennialism and Pseudo Premillennialism is false. Christendom, where Satan has taken his seat and now dwells, which God designates as the "Synagogue of Satan, will be "Spued out" and thrown down like a mighty millstone. Just one hope and that is the personal, Premillennial coming of Jesus.

Designer Andrews made a quick inspection and he said to Captain Smith: "She has a very short time to live." From the time of the collision 'till her fatal plunge was about two and one-half hours. Captain Smith ordered all on deck with life belts on. No time to lose. Only a few life boats. Why bother with life boats when on the UNSINKABLE TITANIC?

The S.O.S. calls were sent out. S.O.S. What does that mean? "Suspend Other Services." "Save O. Save." Pathetic. The ship California was only 10 miles away, but failed to heed the call. She did not take the call seriously. It is said they saw the distress lights and rockets, but did not heed. Tragic. The good ship Carpathia, 56 miles away, heard the S.O.S. call and reversed her course and at top speed made for her distressed sister ship. Thank the Lord for the good ship Carpathia. The Titanic had sunk when she reached the place, but she picked up many from the distressed life boats and individuals about to perish in the sea. Around 1,500 perished in the disaster.

No one will ever know what took place in the hearts and minds of that desperate throng those last minutes as the Titanic was listing, before she took the final plunge stem first. She almost stood on end just before the plunge. All was changed on the Titanic. Gambling, drinking, dancing fun ceased. It was like Belshazzar's impious feast. In Daniel 5 we are told as they drank and reveled there appeared the finger's of a man's hand and wrote on the wall spelling out the doom of the wicked Monarch. Here it is said, as he saw that strange writing, "The King's countenance was changed and his thoughts troubled him so that the joints of his loins were loosed and his knees smote one against another." This was about the situation that midnight scene on the cold Atlantic. The dance band ceased their jazz and played "Nearer my God to Thee."

Men fought and fabulous prices were offered for a place in the life boats, but many things money will not buy. The unsinkable Titanic took her plunge to her watery grave. She lies there today unless she has been devoured by the rust from the waters of the briny deep. She was never raised, but all of this refers to the material side of the catastrophe. The bodies of these celebrities are there now unless wasted away. But where are their souls? That is the most important.

Where are the souls of these rich, wicked worldlings? Death is the separation of spirit and body. Paul said; "The body without the spirit is dead." These bodies died when their spirits left their bodies. Doubtless long before the Titanic and her fateful cargo of dead bodies landed on the bottom of the mighty Atlantic in their watery grave, the spirits left their bodies, but where did they go and where are they now?

The Bible is clear that Hell is in the center of the earth. So of course these disembodied spirits did not stop on the bottom of the ocean, but plunged on into that lost and damned world Hell. This aspect of the tragedy has been overlooked, but it is to us by far the worst of all. We hope some might have been real Christians, but we know that drinking, gambling, dancing and the blasphemous throng



were not. They met in Hell ere the Titanic reached the bottom of the ocean. The most glorious aspect of Heaven is its eternity. Never passes. The most doleful aspect of Hell is its eternity. Never ends.

This final word: These are perilous times. Dangers lurking on every hand. God's S.O.S. is being sounded but few heed the warning. Man is relying on many unsinkable Titanics. Treacherous icebergs on every hand. If one seeks to warn he is called a "Calamity howler." "Joy killer." God says, "If we are reprov'd and harden our hearts it is sudden destruction.

Better not be too sure of man made Titanics. "Only one safe place and this is on the unsinkable Old Ship of Zion." Get on her and REMAIN on and we will be safe.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 23 THE GREAT, FIXED GULF**

In Luke 16:26 we read, "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." These plaintive, hopeless words were spoken by Abraham to Dives in Hell when he called across the mighty chasm for one drop of water to cool his tongue.

We pause a moment to give a word of history relative to this doleful situation. There was, and is, a great "Bottomless Pit" in the heart of the earth called "Hell or Hades." In this pit there were two places. The good for the saved and the bad for the lost. Between these two there was a mighty fixed gulf. Conversation could be carried on across this impassable gulf. The good side was called "Abraham's Bosom" or "Paradise." When the saved died they were "gathered to their fathers" in Paradise or Abraham's Bosom. This entire place was called "Hell or Hades," was, and still is, in the center of the earth. Hell is now in the center of the earth. When the sinner dies he falls into hell.

Jesus, when He died, went to Hades or Paradise. He said to the penitent thief: "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). Jesus went to Paradise or Abraham's Bosom. Then we read, "As Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the HEART OF THE EARTH" (Matt. 12:40). Then in Psa. 16:10 we read, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (Hades, Paradise, Abraham's Bosom); neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One (Christ) to see corruption." Summing up, when Jesus died His soul went to the heart of the earth, Paradise, thus locating Hades or Paradise in the heart of the earth. The location of Paradise has been changed. Paul was caught up to Paradise, the third heaven (II Cor. 12: 2-4). Here he states he was caught up to the third Heaven . . . caught up to Paradise. But when Jesus rose from the dead, and ascended up on High, He led captivity captive. See Eph. 4:8-10. Thus transferring Paradise from the heart of the earth to the third Heaven. I like that better. Nice to go IN, but I'D RATHER GO UP.

"Hell hath enlarged herself" (Isa. 5:14). All the Hadean world is bad now. But when Jesus spoke these words about Dives the impassable gulf was there. But while this gulf has passed, there are many great, fixed gulfs RIGHT NOW. Horrible, grim, fixed, uncrossable, impassable. Some of us are painfully conscious of them. We notice a few of them:

I. RELIGIOUS GULFS. We pass over many gulfs that might be mentioned and deal with these pertaining to God, salvation, Heaven and Hell.

II. GOD AND LUCIFER, THE LIGHT BEARER. Some think there was a Trinity of angels and if so perhaps, if any superiority, Lucifer had that position. We read that he was that anointed cherub, and God set him so, and that he was in Eden the garden of God, full of wisdom, until iniquity was

found in him (Ezek. 28:13-15). Sin made a devil out of an angel. I am afraid of anything that will make a malicious devil out of a holy angel. Sin severed fellowship and relationship between God and Lucifer. An impassable gulf came. Just so with the other angels that fell with Lucifer.

III. GOD AND ADAM AND EVE. God, before He created man, contemplated his need and thus provided his beautiful Edenic home. Fruits for his food, and flowers for his aesthetic nature grew spontaneously. Holiness and happiness prevailed. Perfect fellowship between each other and with their God as He came to visit them. But this glorious estate was not for long. Soon this fiendish Devil came, for such he is since his fall, and intruded into this holy place and wrecked them. God came in the cool of the day to visit them, but instead of running to meet Him as usual, they sought to hide themselves among the trees of the garden. Sin made fools of them. They thought they could hide among trees from an Omnipotent God. God called and said, "Where art thou?" They had had their fling in sin, but where were they morally? The great, fixed gulf had come. Sin produces a gulf.

IV. RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" Enoch and God were agreed. Where there is disagreement fellowship is impossible. A good man drove a long way to see his brother. They had been very intimate and he had not seen him for a long time. When he arrived his T.V. idol was going full blast. He never turned it off. The man remained till about 11:00 P.M. but he didn't turn it off. He must get his favorite programs. The brother humiliated, left that night. The gulf was there.

One of the most trying things is to have some worldly so called friends come to visit. You sit there and try to think of something to say. Finally you have discussed Uncle John, Aunt Jane and about enough to give one nervous prostration to carry on this performance. You surely breathe a sigh of relief when they depart. I can't see how real Christians would ever want to visit that worldly kinsfolk outfit. This gulf is between husband and wife often. That's the saddest. It is desperately sad. You seek to cross over but are painfully conscious there is a gulf, fixed and impassable.

V. GULF BROUGHT BY HOLINESS. I shall never forget the holiness revival in our Methodist Church when I was a young man. I was a steward in the Methodist Church at 17, and had such beautiful fellowship with my brother stewards. Rev. B. L. Patterson, a holiness Methodist, conducted a revival in our church. How he got in I do not know, for our pastor was bitterly opposed to holiness. Eighty-five of us got the blessing. In those days it was not the static kind, but blessed, glorious, hilarious. The fire burned. Up to that time it was about impossible to have any one out to prayer meeting but now the crowd came. Such praying and praising God. Before this a crowd would come to an ice cream supper but not to prayer meeting. Now our pastor became enraged and had the doors locked so we could not have prayer meeting. But this did not stop us. We simply went to the school house and the fire spread. Those who refused the blessing became enraged and estrangement came. My dear stewards would scarcely speak. The great, fixed, impassable gulf was there.

Now this closing word which to me, personally, is by far the saddest of all. A great gulf has come in holiness ranks today. There are very definitely TWO GROUPS. First, the old-fashioned group who insist on the Holy Ghost program exclusively for the propagation of the church. No entertainments in the church or SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH. Jesus said, "My house is a house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves." No kitchens in the church or in connection with the

church, no banquets, no mock weddings, no T.V. in the home or church, no entertainment of any kind by the church as such. The early holiness movement left all of this and condemned it in no uncertain sounds. Uncle Bud said, "When the kitchen comes the Holy Ghost goes out." Now the kitchens are filling holiness churches.

Also there is a very large, influential, ruling group who boost all of this and much more. What's mentioned is only an infinitesimal part of the modern, apostate innovations now flooding holiness churches. And the great, fixed, impassable gulf has come. Uncle Bud said, "I did not leave the Methodist Church, the Methodist Church left me." He was out. The gulf was there. I am right now having the most painful experience of my life. Dr. Bresee had the same experience when he came out. I, personally, simply cannot go along with the modern, unscriptural program. It has gotten to be a moral issue with me. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." And because I cannot accept the apostate program, many of my brethren have become actively bitter. I have had harsh, unkind, cruel lambastings from some of my once close friends. Still others have not come out so boldly when talking to me; nevertheless, the great, fixed, uncrossable gulf is there and I am painfully conscious of it and am sure they are also. A radical change has come to them. I have made some honest efforts to bridge the chasm, but it is there. They feel it, a great, yawning, impassable gulf.

It is impossible to remain a radical, holiness preacher in some so-called holiness churches and denounce the apostate innovations, and not compromise. That's why many cannot stand pressure and are changing. Bread and butter pull has preeminence. Judgment Day will be a revelation.

The climax of all the great fixed gulfs will be Heaven and final Hell, or the lake of fire. No communication there, but a gulf eternally, immutably fixed. About the most awful verse in the Bible is Rev. 22:11. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he that is holy let him be holy still." A gulf eternally fixed. God save us from this fearful, dismal, hopeless doom of eternal damnation.

# **THE LAST GOOD-BYE**

(Selected Chapters)

By

**William Moses Tidwell**

## **CHAPTER 24**

### **ARRIVING IN HEAVEN OR HELL**

#### **I. THE NEWCOMER IN HEAVEN**

While this is a world of confusion and disagreement, there is one fact on which we all agree, and that is we will not be in this world very long. The Psalmist said, "There is but a step between me and death." Just ONE step. Our race in this world will soon be run. Our last day on earth shall be spent and the summons shall come and into eternity we shall be ushered.

But the departure is not the most solemn aspect of this occasion. The all important question is, "WHERE shall we spend this long, long eternity." The Bible is clear that it must be spent in one of two PLACES. Heaven or Hell. And both of these are realities. Not mere states but PLACES. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a PLACE for you." The rich man in Hell begged Abraham to send Lazarus that he might testify to his brothers, in this world, lest they also should come to the PLACE of torment where he was (Luke 16:27,28).

It is always interesting to enter a new country. Missionaries tell us it is a solemn occasion when they enter some unknown land where they are to spend all or much of their lives. We have tried to imagine, though we know it is impossible, to have some little conception of what it will mean for a redeemed soul to leave this world and pass beyond moon, sun and stars and finally come in sight of the Celestial city and enter the Heavenly world.

When we enter a new country, and all seems so new and strange, we are inclined to ask questions. We have thought of the newcomer in Heaven, and of the many inquiries he might make. Probably the absence of many things that were in this world that we will not find there will greatly interest him. He might inquire, "I see no thorns, thistles or deserts in this fair land, where are they?" We think the answer would be, "These are not to be found in all the vast domain of this Heavenly world. They were the results of the curse that came upon man because of sin." Here there is no curse and therefore we have flowers without thorns." Then again he might inquire, "Where are the prisons?" "I do not see any here." Then his heavenly informant would respond, "We do not have those here because there is no need for them." "The inhabitants of this land are ALL RIGHTEOUS, and it is quarantined against sin and sinners." "God is revered and his laws are gladly obeyed." "There is no crime or criminals here and therefore no need of prisons." "This is a world of liberty. The inhabitants are permitted to roam through the vast heavenly fields of light where they desire." "This is the place of which the Prophet spoke when he said, "THERE the wicked cease from troubling and THERE the weary are at rest."

Then again this newcomer might ask, "Where are the poor and destitute? I see no alms houses here. No bread lines. No provisions made for the relief of the needy." I think I can hear the answer,

"These are not necessary here. This is a land of plenty. No rent, no water or light bills. Here the Lord of the country supplies every need. Here we have the river of life clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God. Also the tree of life which bears twelve kinds of fruit. All these are free to the inhabitants. Here the streets are pure gold like unto transparent glass. These are the Children of the Most High and He supplies their every need."

"There is a land of pure delight,  
where saints immortal reign,  
Infinite day excludes the night,  
and pleasures banish pain.

There everlasting spring abides,  
and never withering flowers;  
Death, like a narrow sea, divides,  
this heavenly land from ours."

But he desires further to know, "When this happy throng will put off their shining garments and begin to work?" He states, "I have been here for some little time now and have not seen any toil." "I wonder where the dingy, hot shops are where the people shall put off these garments of light and enter and begin their labor." But the answer comes, "The days of toil are over." It was not God's original plan that man should suffer and toil. And as to the inhabitants of this land changing their apparel this will never be. "Material clothes, worn in yonder world, were necessary because of the fall of man. Now these, you see here, have been purified and glorified, and the clothing you see is from within. It is the fine linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. The outshining of their holy characters. They are enveloped with garments of light and never again will they be bothered about obtaining clothing and putting off and on material garments. These will endure while eternity rolls and in fact become MORE LUMINOUS as the ages pass by." "They will be able to assimilate more of the character of God, who is Light, and therefore become more glorious while eternity rolls on. Their days of toil are ended. With no thorns or thistles with which to contend and no sweat on their happy brows they are to abide in this holy, happy place forever."

But once more our newcomer is wont to ask, "Where are the sick and old people?" "Where are the cemeteries?" "Since arriving here I have not seen a funeral procession nodding through the streets bearing its precious cargo to the grave." "I do not understand all this." But the answer comes, "You must remember this is a different world from the one from which you have just come." "Here God has wiped away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying for the former things are passed away." "Here the inhabitants never get sick. Old age will never steal on. The old will be young here forever. The step will never grow feeble and the eye never grow dim. As to death they have put on immortality and CANNOT DIE anymore." "When God pronounced the curse upon man because of his sin he declared he was to die. But he was to die but ONCE. "It is appointed unto man ONCE to die." "These have passed through the river and now while eternity rolls on they shall never die again. "There is not a grave on the hillsides of glory and no funeral train in the sky." "This is the place of which Charles Wesley sang when he said, "THERE I shall bathe my weary soul in seas of heavenly rest and not a wave of trouble roll across my peaceful breast." "These

have reached that land and here, while eternity lasts, there will be no more sickness, sorrow, old age, pain or death."

"Beyond the flight of time,  
Beyond the vale of death,  
There surely is some blessed clime  
Where life is not a breath."  
"There is a world above,  
Where parting is unknown,  
A long eternity of love,  
Where Jesus reigns alone."

But once more our friend inquires, "I have been here for quite a time now and it never gets dark. When will night come?" But we hear the answer, "Night will NEVER come here. It will always be day. This is a world of light. This mighty, happy throng you behold loved light and they shall have light forever. Heaven is day without a night. Here they need no candle nor the light of the sun for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign forever and forever. "This is the country of which they sang when they said,

"O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,  
O they tell me of that land far away,  
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,  
O they tell me of an unclouded day."

"Here there will be no storms, no clouds and no night." "Here you may wander over the endless field of glory, with the blood washed millions, and have no fear of approaching darkness.

But one more question, "I see two mighty throngs in this place who, while alike in many respects, are dissimilar in others." "I see one countless throng who have wings and one numberless multitude who have no wings. What is the difference?" Then the answer comes, "Yes, you are correct, They are all God's creatures, and this is the difference: The mighty throng with wings are known as 'Angels.' They were created long before the other throng. They have remained holy and true. There was a revolt in the long ago when one mighty angelic prince fell and many of these holy beings joined this revolt and fell." But these remained true and are and shall ever be God's holy angels or messengers. "The other throng you behold are a different order of beings from the angels and were created long after the angels were. They are from your world, and were sinners, but have been redeemed and washed in the blood of the Lamb. They have overcome the Devil and the temptations of the world and by grace Divine, have reached this good land. They have passed their stage of probation and proven true and therefore shall so remain eternally. They have reached their heavenly home and shall go no more out. This is their eternal home. Time has passed and eternity has come." We think about this time a host of beautiful shining angels, among them the guardian angel of the newcomer, accompanied by a host of the redeemed, among them loved ones known on earth, will arrive and greet him, with glad praises to God, saying, "We welcome you home. This is your home. Your happy, eternal home, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord, where you shall see His face and serve Him forever."

"I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem,  
 Come down from Heaven a bride adorned, with jeweled diadem  
 The flood of crystal waters, flowed down the golden street  
 And nations brought their honors there, And laid them at her feet.  
 "And there no sun was needed, nor moon to shine by night,  
 God's glory did enlighten all, the Lamb himself the light.  
 And there his servants serve him, and, life's long battle o'er.  
 Enthroned with him, their Saviour, King, they reign for evermore."  
 "O great and glorious vision! the Lamb upon his throne;  
 O wondrous sight for man to see! the Saviour with his own;  
 To drink the living waters, and stand upon the shore,  
 Where neither sorrow, sin, nor death shall ever enter more.  
 "O Lamb of God who reignest, thou bright and morning Star.  
 Whose glory lightens that new earth, which now we see from afar;  
 O worthy Judge Eternal, when thou dost bid us come,  
 Then open wide the gates of pearl, and call thy servants home."

## II. THE NEWCOMER IN HELL

We dislike to turn from the happy contemplations of the newcomer in Heaven to the dismal consideration of the newcomer in Hell. But we must be true to the Word of God. Both are contained in the inspired Word. The same Bible that tells of the glories of Heaven just as clearly describes the horrors of Hell. Possibly Jesus said more about that lost world than any other. He said, "Better give up a right hand, right foot or eye than be cast into Hell fire where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." What he meant was if we have a sin as useful or dear as these members better give it up than go to Hell. It is pitiful, indeed, to think of one living in this world and rejecting the offered mercy of a good God; rejecting the Love of a dying Saviour, spurning the calls of the Holy Spirit and the entreaties of loved ones here and finally dying without Christ, taking a leap in the dark, and spending eternity in Hell. Christ said, of the rich fool, "This night thy soul shall be required of thee." Just when he had gotten his new barns built and his goods stored, and he was ready to live, the summons came. "THIS NIGHT." It is always day when the child of God goes. That is, it is light. The dying saint said, "Eternity rolls up before me like a sea of glory." It is always NIGHT when the unsaved depart this life. "Thy soul shall be required of thee." Webster says to "require" is to "demand or to claim." His soul shall be DEMANDED OR CLAIMED. Matthew Henry says the thought here is, "THEY" shall require thy soul. Who shall require, demand or claim the soul? "THEY:" First God shall require it. Death shall require it. Probably fallen angels shall require it, as good angels seem to accompany the spirits of the saved. And last of all the Devil shall require it. It has been sold to the Devil and served him. He has a right to claim it now.

But as this poor lost soul is claimed by the Devil and fallen angels and escorted to the regions of the damned, we wonder what inquiries will arise. Just as the saved did not discover many things in Heaven that were in this world so the damned will likewise not find much they found here. Jesus said of Dives, "In Hell he lifted up his eyes." Think of that first wild look in Hell.



As we behold this newcomer in Hell we wonder if he will inquire, "Whence this place? What is the origin of it? Why such dark and dismal abode?" Then the answer by some fiend, would be, "It was prepared for the Devil and his angels." "It is the penitentiary of the universe. While prepared for the Devil and his angels all rebels are to be incarcerated here." Then I think I hear the newcomer, as he shudders, inquire, "Where can I find a friend? I am in great distress and need someone to help me." But the doleful answer comes, "This is a world where there are no friends. Everyone here hates everyone else. There is no help or mercy here. The world from which you came was a world of mercy but that has all ended now." Then I seem to hear the friendless soul as he begins to feel the gnawing worm of a guilty conscience, shriek, "Then I will end it all. I will commit suicide." But the pitiless answer comes, "That is impossible here. Back in yonder world men could do that but it is different here. There is no escape from the bitings of a guilty conscience. How it all must be endured I cannot tell but it must be done. But remember you will never find a friend or helping hand in Hell."

But again, I think I hear this newcomer wailing, "I am so TIRED, I have had no rest since I left the earth. Please tell me WHERE I may find some place to rest." But, instead of being shown some place of rest, ten thousand fiends with hoarse, stifled voices mutter, "There is no rest in Hell. As you gaze upon this mighty, restless throng, not one of them has had one moment's rest since they came and the sad part about it all is that, while the countless ages pass by, they can never find rest. This is a world of torment and pain."

But another question, "I have been here some time now and it has been dark ever since I have been here. I have not seen one ray of light. When will night end and the morning come?" But again I hear, like the roar of the thunder, a chorus of voices as they cry, "It will always be dark. Morning will NEVER, NEVER, come." HELL IS A NIGHT WITHOUT A DAY. "No morning will ever dawn on thy gloom. Again he inquires, "Where can I find some water for I am tormented in this flame. Only a drop. O give me a drop." But again the disappointing answer is given, "There is no water in Hell. That is a small request but too great to be granted here. The world from which you came was a world of mercy but that day has passed. No favors are granted here."

But last of all I hear him wail, "If there is no light, no love, no friends, no water and no mercy how long is it to last? How long am I to be here? Surely only a brief time. Pray tell me how long, oh how long?" But the response comes ringing through the corridors of the damned, from fallen angels and damned men, it is "FOREVER AND FOREVER." How it is to be endured we cannot tell, but on the infernal gates, if you have noticed when you entered it read, "All hope abandon ye who enter here." "On the crest of every fiery billow, and on the grim countenance of every benighted inmate of this dismal world, the word forever seems to be indelibly placed." "Your destiny is fixed. Your doom is sealed. Time has passed and eternity, which shall never end, has begun. It is all too late now." "Christ died to save you but you refused His mercy and rejected His grace. It is forever and forever too late."

"Too late, too late, to all farewell,  
My doom is fixed, and I'm forced to tell,  
As long as God in Heaven shall dwell,  
My soul, my soul is lost in Hell."

When time has fled with you and me, and we hear the splash of the boatman's oar in the river of death, and eternity draws apace, and we are to be escorted to the eternal world and we shall be the newcomer, in which world shall we find ourselves?

"Soon as from earth I go,  
What will become of me?  
Eternal happiness or woe  
Must then my portion be

"I must from God be driven,  
Or with my Saviour dwell;  
Must come at His command to Heaven  
Or else — depart to hell.

"Show me the way to shun,  
Thy dreadful wrath severe,  
That when thou comest on thy Throne,  
I may with joy appear."