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*Holiness Writers*

# **GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY**

By

*Elbert Dodd*

*“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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# **GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY**

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## OCCUPY TILL I COME

or

### The True Christian's Grave Responsibility

"And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading." Luke 19:11-15

Because the disciples thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear, Jesus gave them this parable. All of the parables of Jesus have much truth for us all, but this one seems to be especially for this day. We are living in dark and troubled days; these are days when men's hearts are failing them for fear of things coming on the earth. Look about us; we see rebellion against God and His laws and His people every where. The wrong and wicked seem to be much in the majority. Good men have to shoot bad men, and a cry goes up from a bunch of long haired, filthy, half crazy, world-mad men and their sympathizers. You would think it is all right to kill good men, rob, steal, rape, and defy the government. When our President tries to enforce the law or do what he thinks is right to shorten the war, every Communist sympathizer in our government cries to high heaven.

We are living in an age of rebellion. We have the signs on every side. When a woman wears men's apparel, cuts her hair and is immodest she is saying that she is a rebel against God and His law and plans for her life. Men who wear long hair are in open rebellion against God and are saying in effect that they want to be feminine, which God forbids. For a man to wear long hair is a shame unto him and he is stating that he is wicked, rebellious in heart, and desires to be feminine instead of a man. The Bible says, in I Corinthians 11:14,15, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering." The Bible says it is a shame for a man to have long hair. Jesus did not have long hair; He never did any thing that He was ashamed of. If a thing is a shame, it is a sin. Sin is the transgression of God's law. Jesus did not transgress any of God's laws.

Also, the great falling away is upon us, and the Man of Sin is about to be revealed, yet in spite of all this, Jesus told His disciples, and He tells us today, that we must occupy till He comes. Note the method that Jesus used, and is using today, to work through His disciples. He calls His servants unto Him and delivers His goods and assigns each of His true disciples a responsibility. He gives us a pound to work with. This pound represents true experience, true doctrine, true Bible standards and faith.

Our grave responsibility is to take this Gospel to the poor, rebellious, lawless, deceived, blind, hell-bound people. We must not, we cannot, fail Jesus and His church and the people in this late hour. We cannot afford to shirk our responsibilities at this time. To do so not only means they will all be lost, but we will lose our own soul. In the parable the man called his ten servants. Seven rebelled, compromised and became his enemies. One tried to dodge his responsibility by hiding his pound in a napkin. Some today, if everything does not go their way, try to shirk their responsibility; let others do it. But others will get the reward also.

The other two servants were faithful and went out to gain by trading, and they did gain. Luke 19:15, "And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading." Note the accounting or reckoning day. This is assured for all. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10) "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12) Those who had gained were rewarded more than they expected, no doubt. The one who dodged his responsibility was rewarded by having the pound taken from him and given to the servant who had ten pounds.

What a day it will be for those who did nothing, and what a day for the compromising, worldly-minded crowd who rebel against God in this hour. I am appealing today especially to the group known as the Bible Missionary Church. We teach Holiness with an experience, true doctrine and true Bible standards. God has called us to the Kingdom for such a time as this. We will meet on that accounting day the time we wasted, the influence we misused. My prayer is that God will wake the Christian people up. To your knees, Christians, and then to the task assigned to you.

We must occupy in spite of every obstacle and every devil of hell. We must work and pray while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work. The great tribulation night is near. Oh, Bride of Christ, keep your lamp trimmed and burning!

## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

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### **"YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST"**

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness; And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (II Corinthians 6:14-18)

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

Note the sixteenth and seventeenth verses of the third chapter of First Corinthians. These are the words of God. Therefore, God's creation -- men and women -- should be careful how they treat this temple. It belongs to God; God created it in His image. Therefore, we are given careful instructions what to put in it, how we should dress it, and how we should treat it. We should not eat or drink or partake of anything that would in any way destroy this temple because God has said, "If any man defile this temple, him shall God destroy." We should not use tobacco in any form because tobacco is harmful to the body. Doctors, governmental reports, etc., tell us positively that tobacco will cause many diseases that destroy the body: heart trouble, cancer and other diseases. For this reason, tobacco should not be used by any, especially those who profess to be Christian and say they are wholly the Lord's. How can one be a true Christian and do that which God has positively forbidden him to do? According to God's Word, he cannot be. God has said if we break the least of these commandments, we are guilty of all.

Again, one should not drink that which will destroy the body. Liquor, beer or any other liquid that would be harmful and destroy the body should not be used. "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (Proverbs 23:30-32) Liquor and beer will cause one to suffer physically and also cause others to suffer. Surely, God does not want His creation partaking of anything that would be so harmful to himself and harmful to others. It seems that those who use tobacco would get to the place that they forget all about the feelings of other people. They will smoke in a car or bus, even though it is offensive to others. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." It seems that people who are afflicted with these awful diseases of smoking and drinking have lost not only respect for themselves but for all others.

God has created this body in His image and in His likeness and we should be careful how we dress it. We should dress, for it is commanded in the Bible that we do so. Before Adam and Eve fell

they were clothed in light. But with the fall, they realized they needed clothing and began to clothe themselves and to hide themselves until they had proper clothing. Note what God says about this matter of dress. In I Timothy 2:9-10, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." Also in I Peter 3:3-5, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves."

All Christians should realize that they are the temples of the Holy Ghost. They should dress in a way that would please God, both men and women. The curse of this day is the fact that people have forgotten God's Word and have drifted from it until they seem not to care what God says, and yet profess to be Christians. God has said in Romans 1:25, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." These are the twenty-fifth through the twenty-eighth verses of the first chapter of Romans. Then, in the twenty-ninth verse, we read, "Being filled with all unrighteousness ..." If we are not filled with the Spirit of God, we will be filled with the spirit of the devil. The spirit of the devil is the spirit of rebellion against God, God's Word, God's plan for our lives. God's methods and an inward desire to rebel against God and destroy that which God has created in His image. May Christian people realize that they are temples of the Holy Ghost.



## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

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### **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, FROM THE DEAD**

Psalms 16:9 and 10: "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Matthew 12:40: "For 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."

Matthew 20:19: "... and the third day he shall rise again."

1 Corinthians 15, beginning at the first verse: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you that gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand then in verse three For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures And that he was buried and that he rose again according to the scriptures And that he was seen of Cephas then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain." Then part of the eleventh verse, "... whether it were I or they, so we preached, and so ye believed." Verse 12, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

Then in Acts 1:3: "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Then in Revelation 1:18: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

If we accept any part of the Bible as true, we must accept it all. Our faith hinges around the fact that Jesus Christ was the Son of God; that He lived among men; that He was arrested; that He was tried; that He was condemned to die and was crucified and died on the cross and was taken down from the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb, Joseph's new tomb, and on the third day He arose bodily from the grave. To be a Christian we must believe that, and of course, it is easy for a Christian to believe that, because it is God's word. Jesus arose from the dead and left Joseph's new tomb empty. It has been my privilege to stand in that empty tomb. Praise God, it is empty! After the resurrection Jesus appeared to hundreds of people. He appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary; He appeared to Peter, then to the rest of the twelve, then in Galilee to a great gathering of over five hundred Christians, then James and all the apostles saw Him, and finally Paul himself saw Him

on the road to Damascus. For forty days Jesus went among the disciples, teaching them, being with them, eating with them. They put their hands on His body and they saw Him eat and drink. He taught them, explaining the scriptures. Every doubt was brushed away by the evidence which the Bible calls "many infallible proofs."

Then the twelve saw Him ascend bodily into Heaven, where He sits on the right hand of the Father today, and every Christian that believes all the Bible believes that Jesus Christ arose from the dead, ascended on high, lives today, and is coming back to this world the second time to get His bride.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Only begotten Son of God, from the dead has everywhere been recognized as a cardinal doctrine of Christianity. The old Catholic Church believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ; the Roman Catholic Church believed in it; the Greek Orthodox Church believed in it; and all Protestant creeds affirm the resurrection of Christ. Not one historic denomination that claims to be Christian has ever denied the resurrection, save the Unitarians alone. Of course, the Unitarians, in my opinion, are not Christian. Any group that does not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God, that He lived among men and arose from the dead is not Christian. One must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God to be Christian.

By the resurrection, of course, we mean the bodily resurrection. There is not any other kind of resurrection. Those who say they believe in a spiritual resurrection are people who speak without thinking. Some deceiving unbelievers and others who are trying to deceive, of course, deny the resurrection. But I am thankful today that the Christian can know that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, lived among men, performed miracles, raised the dead, opened blinded eyes, unstopped deaf ears, forgave sins, died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, arose from the dead, and lives today. Praise God that He did come forth from the grave, that He did arise from the dead! In this is the hope of every Christian. The pagan weeps and moans because when they lay their loved ones, their babies and their friends in the grave they have no hope. But we as Christians have hope that in the morning of the resurrection those who died in Christ shall come forth first. At this Easter time our faith looks out across the dark days and knows that in spite of death, in spite of the sorrow of the earth, there will be a resurrection, and with the poet we can sing, "He lives! He lives! I know He lives! He lives within my heart!" And again, "Up from the grave He arose!"

## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

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### THE BEAST AND THOSE WHO WILL WORSHIP HIM

"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; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." II Thess. 2:3-12

There are many scriptures in the Bible telling us about the Beast. No doubt the Beast will be a man, a man filled with and clothed by the Devil himself. Before one can worship the Beast, one must have the spirit of the Beast in one's heart. Jesus said in Matthew 12:34 and 35, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." We also read in Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good: and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." So we see it must be, and will be, a heart condition.

Notice the steps one takes to get one's heart in the Beast heart condition:

First the Devil gets one to doubt God's Word and to wonder if God meant what He said, and if His Word applies to this age and time. Next, the Devil gets one to twist the scriptures and to listen to false, deceived preachers or prophets.

Another step is to substitute cheap, false religion for real pure-heart salvation. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart." He did not say, "Blessed are those who have some special gift." The devil has always fought the doctrine of heart cleansing and heart purity. Next, he gets one to doubt the Virgin Birth and the precious blood of Jesus. One who doubts God's Word is an infidel.

Then the Devil gets one to believe he can associate with false religions and give his influence to and support compromise. But God said in His word, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed for: he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John, verses 9-11.

The next step is to substitute worldly knowledge and worldly entertainment for salvation, and there it becomes easy for one to get used to gross sin and wink at the world's evil deeds and then become partaker of these evil deeds.

There are definite evidences of the beastly heart. Those in this condition first lose respect for human beings, respect for themselves, and begin to undress like beasts, become filthy like beasts and live like beasts. They lose respect for law in the home, the church, the school and the nation. When one loses all respect for himself it will not be long until he loses all respect for his parents, then for the national leaders and church leaders. This is an age of lawlessness. The Devil has got people in general to erase the line of demarcation between the sexes. Women, desiring to ape the men, cut their hair, wear men's clothing, pant suits, blue jeans, slacks, etc. God said in Deuteronomy 22:5, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." It is an abomination to God. And men desire to ape the women, wear their hair long and act "sissy." Some ignorant, unlearned, silly people think Jesus had long hair, but Jesus had Paul write in I Corinthians 11:14, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" Are we silly enough to believe that Jesus would have Paul write that it is a shame for a man to have long hair if He had worn long hair? No indeed, He would not. Any preacher that will approve men wearing their hair long is called in the Bible a dumb dog. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing, an apostate bound for hell.

But immodesty, filthiness, effeminacy in men and manishness in women are all signs of what is in the heart. It is all a sign of rebellion against God and God's way, the Beast heart.

The last evidence is that one loses natural affection and becomes as described by Paul in Romans 1:25-32, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." When people get in this condition it will not be hard for them to worship the Beast.

Surely we are living near the day when the Beast will reveal himself. We are fast drifting to the breaking of the tribulation. But God's chosen people are instructed for this hour. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28 Children of the Living God, beware of the trends, watch for the undertow and be ready for that hour.

## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

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### **WHAT AMERICA NEEDS MOST IS AN OLD-FASHIONED, SIN-KILLING HOLY GHOST REVIVAL**

"For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the Lord pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God? Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the Lord, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; And ye have done worse than your fathers; for behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:" Jeremiah 16:9-12.

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chron. 7:12,14

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psalms 85:6

I love this wonderful land of America, the home of the free and the brave; this land that my forefathers helped bring to the place where we could have a land where we could worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. My ancestors, some of them, landed in Charleston, South Carolina, before the great Revolutionary War. They fought through the war and those who lived gave to us this wonderful land of America. But we are about to lose our freedom. We are living in an awful day, a day of confusion, a day of hate, a day of mistrust, a day of sorrow and a day of religious decay and moral destruction.

I recently read in Brother Lowell Foster's bulletin some lines he had copied from Gibbon's The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, the five reasons that Rome fell, and friends, we are going down this road awfully fast. The reasons are (1) the rapid increase of divorce and the undermining of the home, the basis of society, (2) higher and higher taxes, and the spending of public money for free bread (we call it welfare). Total expenditures by all government in the U.S. in 1902 was \$21.00 per person, \$7.00 Federal, \$2.00 State, \$12.00 counties, cities and schools. That was America, when we did not have to have a two-ocean navy, a big air force and a great standing army. In 1960 the total expenditures averaged \$864.00 per person, \$548.00 Federal, \$153.00 State and \$163.00 local. Economic theory teaches that no community can maintain solvency after taxes exceed twenty per cent of income and in twenty-six of the past twenty-eight years, this has happened.

Again, Rome fell because of the mad craze for worldly pleasure, sports becoming more exciting and brutal. That is the picture of our beautiful America today. Again, the building of gigantic armaments, when the real enemy was within. And fifth, the decay of religion; faith fading into mere

form. This was a picture of the steps of Rome to disintegration and destruction, and it is the picture of our wonderful America today. We have thrown our compass and chart overboard. First, we began to meddle with the chart; we became ignorant and had to have new translations; we couldn't understand the King James Version. We began to tamper with it and people began to lose faith in it and wonder what is the proper wording of the Bible and so on, and finally we threw it overboard and started our Ship of State across a wide open ocean without a compass and without a chart.

We are in an awful, sad condition today, but if America would turn back to God, "... if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;" God said, "I will hear from heaven, and forgive their iniquity, and heal their land." These are the promises of God. We need to turn to God, to humble ourselves, seek His face, repent. Repentance is godly sorrow for sin, turning from sin, confessing of sin, confessing to those we have wronged, confessing to God and making restitution for sin. This will bring us to believing ground, where we can really get saved. I believe in fighting all evil, but men will never give up evil until their hearts are changed. "Repent, therefore, of this thy wickedness," Peter said, and Paul said it is with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made. My prayer is, "Oh, God, wilt thou not revive us again, bring us back to the old-fashioned ways, when we had a pure religion, a pure womanhood, a nation that was respected throughout the world, a nation that put God first in everything. May God have mercy upon our wonderful, wonderful America. Our only hope is God, back to the Bible, back to God.

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## **BED-MAKERS**

"... if I make my bed in hell," Psalm 139:8.

The Bible teaches us that we make our own beds here and hereafter. If we desire to be happy in this world and the world to come, we choose to go with God. The Bible teaches us plainly, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." In Luke 16 Jesus pulls the curtain back and gives us a glimpse of a man who made his bed in hell. Jesus said, in Luke 16:19, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day;" and in the 22nd. verse, the last clause, "... the rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Now, this is a picture of a man who made his bed in hell. He made his bed by making the wrong choice in life. No doubt this was the young man who came running to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but God ... If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me." But he went away sorrowful. This young man chose to follow the devil instead of Jesus. He not only made the wrong choice, but he murdered his conscience. He could let a poor man lay at his gate, full of sores, suffering and hungry, and though he had plenty to help, he failed to help the poor man. His conscience was seared, and so he made his bed in hell. He made his bed in hell by sin and indulgence and the scripture tells us plainly that he lived sumptuously every day.

Also, he made his bed in hell by being an unprofitable servant. Jesus said, in Matthew 25:30, "... cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." God has made us stewards over our time, over our talents, over our bodies and over the things that He has entrusted us with. If we fail to be profitable servants then we will make our bed in hell.

Whom did this man make his bed with? In Rev. 21:8 we are told, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." This verse gives us a list of those we will have to live in hell with if we make our bed in hell. This is the crowd the rich man was in hell with. Some did not believe God's word, some were afraid to take their stand, some became abominations to God and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters, and all liars. What an awful society to have to live with if one should make his bed in hell.

Let us notice next what this man had with him in his bed. He had his five senses. He could see into Heaven. Of course, he could not see around him, but he could see, he could feel, he was hungry, he could hear and he could talk. He had his tongue, his eyes, and all the feelings that the human has

in this world. He was thirsty and he cried for water. If one makes his bed in hell he will desire the things, whether legitimate or illegitimate, that he had on earth.

Not only did he have his senses, but he had his memory. "Son, remember." What an awful thing for a man to make his bed in hell with his memories. He will remember every Godly song he ever sung, every sermon he ever heard preached, every prayer he ever heard prayed. And not only his memory but he had his conscience. His conscience now had been awakened and he was trying to make contact with somebody who could help him. And memory and conscience brought him to the fact that he had influenced his five brothers and he was begging Abraham to send somebody back to his five brethren that he might testify to them lest they also come into this place of torment.

There are some things a man will not have in hell. No mercy. God is a God of mercy in time, but in eternity, in the awful regions of the damned that the scriptures call hell, there is no mercy. The devil is a wicked and mean devil. He knows nothing about mercy and he will be the king of hell. The rich man cried, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me," but there was a gulf fixed. He fixed a gulf when he rejected the Lord and lived in sin. Now he is in hell, with all of his appetites and all of his memory, his conscience, his influence; he is being tormented and he is begging for mercy, but there is no mercy in hell. There is no opportunity to repent in hell because there must be mercy at the end of repentance if one is to genuinely repent. In hell we have no friends and loved ones. Some of them may be there, but they will be falling between the smutted walls of dark damnation and we will never make contact with them. But, if one makes his bed in hell, if he has loved ones who served Jesus and prayed for him, then these loved ones will be in heaven while he is in hell.

There is no rest in hell; it is one continuous night with no place to sleep. There is no light in hell; it is a place of outer darkness. This man made his bed in this awful place. No one has to go to hell. Jesus died on the cross that all might be saved. But if we reject Him and His blood, then hell will be the doom of all those who reject the merciful, loving Lord. Hell is a lake of fire and brimstone; it is a place of outer darkness, and it is forever. May God help those who read these lines to remember Jesus loves them, and if you are not saved, turn to Jesus, He will save you. He died that man might not go to hell, but if we reject that mercy, hell is one's doom.



# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## WHY WATER BAPTISM?

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15,16.

Water baptism is a Bible doctrine and sacrament. Personally, I would not want to die and go to the judgment if I had had an opportunity to be baptized and had failed to do so. And I feel that our ministers should give every one an opportunity to be baptized in water. Water baptism is a type of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost, and as I would not want to meet God at the judgment without being baptized in water, neither would I want to meet God at the judgment without being baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Some will say, "But the thief on the cross was saved without being baptized." But the Thief on the cross never had an opportunity to be baptized. I personally fear for those who have had opportunity to obey the command of the Lord and fail to do so, to come to the judgment. I fear they will be lost because they failed to walk in the light and obey the Lord in all things.

I believe in water baptism because, first, it is plainly taught in the Holy Scriptures. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather the wheat into the garner: but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:11-17.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:19,20

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41.

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12.

Surely the above are enough to convince any fair minded person that water baptism is plainly taught in the Word of God. I find it is a lot easier to obey God than to try to find some way out of obeying God's Word.

Second, I believe in water baptism because our blessed Lord Himself was baptized.

Next, I believe in water baptism because it was taught and practiced by the early disciples and fathers of the church. Again, it is an outward testimony of an inward work, and it is a type of a greater work, the mighty Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire.

Last, people who are truly saved desire to obey all of God's commandments, and when one wholly follows the Lord and obeys Him, he is always blessed by the Lord.

I sincerely believe it is dangerous to neglect the precious ordinance and doctrine of Water Baptism.

# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## **A PARTAKER OF OTHERS' EVIL DEEDS**

"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John 9-11

This is one of the scriptures that the Lord showed me when I was making my decision as to what to do when I was leaving the church that I had served for thirty years. I loved that church and had literally given my life for the work, but now I began to see that I could not go along with some things.

First of all, let us notice who wrote this epistle. It was John the Beloved, the John who leaned on Jesus' breast, the one who seemed to be the closest to the Lord and the one the Lord revealed the future to in the great book of the Revelation. Let us look at this great truth that the Lord has given through His beloved John. Many good, conscientious, holy people are being deceived in this day in which we live. This is the day of the great deception, the day when many false religions and false Christs are being found throughout the land, and this is the day of the great falling away.

Let us notice, first of all, the doctrine of Christ. He taught, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that He was the Only Begotten Son of God, not a Son of God, but the Son of God. Not only that, but He gave us His doctrine in the great sermon that He gave on the mount. He taught that one could make peace with God and have peace with God, and then He taught that one must have a pure heart. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Then, He taught that one must live without sin. In John 14:23 Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words:" And then He gave us the great book of I John, where He said, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins: and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him ... Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." And also He taught that His children would not love the world. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." And then again, through the Apostle Paul, He said, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." So His doctrine is a doctrine of a religion that saves one from all sin and a religion that separates from the world. We cannot be partakers of the world and be Christians. The devil is doing everything he can to erase that line of demarcation between the world and the church, but God's people must ever stay far from that line of worldliness.

Jesus also taught that there was a Heaven. He said in John 14, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again," Not only did He teach in this scripture that He was going to prepare a place, and that

place is in Heaven, but He taught also that He was coming back to this world the second time in bodily form. As the men stood gazing into the heavens as Jesus ascended, two men in white apparel stood by them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Thank God for the beautiful doctrine of Heaven and the Second Coming of Jesus back to this old world. He is coming back to get His Bride; He is coming back to bring peace to this earth in due time.

And then He taught that there is a Hell. In Luke 16 he said there was a certain rich man; he died and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes. In Mark 9:43 he said, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." The next four verses give this same doctrine.

We are living in an age of easy living, an age of inhuman sports and immoral entertainment, and the Christian must be separate from these things. Therefore, if we are Christian and we mean to stay Christian, we cannot afford to give our moral, financial, or any influence to the doctrines that are contrary to this doctrine. If we bid them God speed, if we belong to a group that is connected in any way with the National Council of Churches, which in my opinion, is made up of unbelievers, liberals, infidels and atheists, then if we give any group or any individual our support who stands against these doctrines, or not for these doctrines, we bid them God speed and we are partakers of their evil deeds. God help us today; whatever sacrifice is called for, whatever price we must pay, let us take our stand for God, the Bible, for Jesus, for old-fashioned doctrines, and for old-fashioned holiness. We must do this to save our own souls and to save our influence. God search our hearts and help us all to be careful not to give our influence to error in any way.

# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## WHY GOD HATES SIN

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses; Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

God is a God of love and He loves all humanity, but He is also a God of mercy, justice and wrath. God hates sin but loves the sinner.

God has decreed that the soul that sinneth (unless he repents) shall die. God's righteousness demands that He hates sin and punishes sin. "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." Psalms 145:17 "Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou has established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?" Habakkuk 1:12-13. God is holy; therefore He must hate sin and punish sin. And when one repents and believes, He must forgive sin.

He hates sin because of what sin has done and is doing to God's own creation. The devil tempted Eve, she disobeyed God, and influenced Adam to sin. Then Cain slew his brother. God sent a curse on Adam and Eve because they sinned. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:14-19. The curse of sin was sent on all of God's creation because of sin.

Sin is an awful thing. When man sins against his fellow man, he sins against God. When man sins against his own body, he sins against God. Sin caused Cain to slay his brother, Abel. Sin has caused and is causing all disease, affliction, sorrow, heartache and death.

God sends His judgment on all the earth because of sin. The great flood came upon the earth because of sin. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Genesis 6:5-8.

God hates sin because sin breaks fellowship between God and His people. Sin breaks fellowship between people and wrecks fellowship among God's people. Sin brings heartache and death to all who do not repent - death to the body, mind and soul.

God hates sin because of what sin cost God and heaven. God gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, who was born of a virgin, lived among men, suffered as mankind suffers, and died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin.

God hates sin because the wages of sin is death. Sin will damn the soul in hell, everlasting punishment. Hell fire and brimstone are promised to those who continue in and die in sin.

This is a dark picture, but thank God, because of the love God has for the sinner, He sent His only begotten Son. (John 3:16) "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:9-10. Praise God for His love toward all men. God must punish all who do not repent of sin, but all who repent and believe on Him shall be saved from all sin. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:7 & 9.

Praise God for the blood of Jesus. The only cure for sin is Jesus' holy blood. The blood, the blood is all my plea; it is the blood that cleanses me! Thank God for the blood that reaches deeper than the stain of sin has gone!

# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## TIME TO SEEK THE LORD

"... it is time to seek the Lord." Hosea 10:12

In the days of Hosea, seven hundred and forty years before the Christian era, the Israelites had sinned; they had sinned greatly. They had sinned against light and knowledge, against God and high heaven. They had wandered far away from God and had become gross idolaters. Hosea did not prophesy smooth things to them; he was not silver tongued. He made no attempt to whitewash their sins or hide their deformities. He poured forth upon them a torrent of burning truth. "Ye have lied, and what has been the result of your lies? Ye have eaten the fruit of your lies. Ye have sown the wind and ye shall reap the whirlwind." That was the picture of Israel in that day. It is a picture of our nation in this day. The results of sin are the same today as they were hundreds of years ago. Sin always has a reflex influence. Commit a sin of any kind and it will come back to you in the form of evil. The only hope for America, the only hope for every individual who is outside the ark of safety is to seek the Lord.

It is time to seek the Lord because of the One you have sinned against. In sinning, you sin against God, your best friend, your Creator. You sin against His Son, Jesus Christ, your Redeemer and your Preserver. God has never wronged you, has never in any way harmed you or me. God has always been kind and good to you and me. He has kept us alive up to this day. Therefore, because of His love and mercy, it is time to seek the Lord.

It is time to seek the Lord because of the hardening tendency of sin. Sin hardens the heart and sears the conscience. The longer a man sins the harder the heart becomes. Sin, if persisted in, has a lulling and soothing effect, so by long continuance in sin a man finally reaches a point where he thinks he is not very bad, after all. His conscience becomes seared and his mind is warped; he cannot think clearly about eternal things. Therefore, it is time to seek the Lord.

It is time to seek the Lord because one must reap what he sows "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we sow to the flesh we shall of the flesh reap corruption. Therefore, it is time to seek the Lord and sow to the Spirit.

Again, it is time to seek the Lord because of your influence on others. No man liveth unto himself and no man dieth unto himself, so we are told by the Holy Scriptures. We have loved ones and friends who are following us. If you are outside the ark of safety, it is time to seek the Lord because of your loved ones; because of your children, because of your influence. Many things that people do today are damning their children. The children are walking in the footsteps of their parents. It is time to seek the Lord. Oh, parents, who have the damnable television in your homes, oh, parents who drink and smoke and play cards and live careless lives, you have an influence. These children will follow you and your influence to the judgment bar of Almighty God and to eternity. It is time to seek the Lord.

It is time to seek the Lord because of the final result of sin. "The wages of sin is death." Death to the mind, death to the conscience, death to the soul and death to the body. Sin will cause final separation from God. There is an eternal, burning, blazing hell fire of brimstone, where the soul of man who rejects Christ and fails to seek the Lord, will burn in Hell forever. Those who go to hell will have their consciences; they will have their influence. But they will have no opportunity to pray, no place to seek God. Therefore, it is time to seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near.



# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## HEAVEN THE HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son." Rev. 21:1-7

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done." Rev. 22:1-6

Heaven is the home of the righteous. All who die having been washed in the blood of the Lamb will be there, also Enoch, Elisha and the raptured saints. What a wonderful time it will be when we who love and have served Him meet to part no more forever. When the roll is called, by God's grace I expect to be there. Families long broken will be reunited, mothers, loved ones, all; the martyr, the faithful missionary, the humble minister, the orphan children, the poor widow, the great and humble men of all ages, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul, Daniel, the Three Hebrew Children, John the Beloved, and a host of others. Sometimes I grow homesick for Heaven and the dear loved ones and friends who are gone on before. Most of all, we will be with Jesus. Oh, I want to see Him and look upon His face!

We will live in the New Jerusalem in the millennium. Some think the glorified saints will live in the New Jerusalem and it will be suspended somewhere above the earth, maybe just above the earthly Jerusalem, and the saints in the New Jerusalem living above the earth will assist Jesus in

ruling the world in the millennium. In Rev. 21:14-21 John tells us, "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth four-square, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl; and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."

Some one has made the following calculations of its magnitude: "And he measured the city with the reed -- 12,000 furlongs. The length, breadth and height of it are equal. Twelve thousand furlongs is 7,920,000 feet. When cubed this equals 496,793,088,000,000,000 cubic feet. Half of this, some one has said, will be reserved for the Throne of God, court of Heaven, and half the balance for streets. This leaves 124,198,272,000,000,000 cubic feet. Divide this by 4,096, the cubic feet in a room sixteen feet square, and there will be 30,321,843,750,000,000 rooms." I quote the above figures from the late J. O. McClurkan's book, Behold He Cometh.

Praise God, there will be room for all of God's Blood-washed Saints. We shall sing and shout and praise His name, and sing the songs of the redeemed forever and ever. The toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14 Amen and amen! How long? Forever and forever. Glory, glory, glory to His name!

# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY

"lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, like Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." Heb. 12:16,17

Recently I saw a sign in a store window, "Bankrupt Sale." I do not know why the man failed; it is sad for any man to go bankrupt financially. But this is not nearly as sad as to see a man bankrupt spiritually.

The story of Esau is one of the saddest stories in all Holy Writ. There are outstanding evidences that he was bankrupt spiritually. He had lost his spiritual vision and had more concern about the physical than the spiritual. He had to have his food; the physical must be satisfied regardless of what happens to the spiritual side of his life. The reason we as a nation are in the awful spiritual and moral condition we are in is that we as people have been more interested in the physical than in the spiritual. We are more concerned about the physical and mental condition of our children than we are the spiritual. We want to be sure they get the proper food, proper learning and proper physical exercise. We would not think of keeping them out of public school to visit relatives, but when the Christian Sabbath comes, people can drive off and leave the church services, break God's Holy Sabbath in long unnecessary trips, hunting, fishing and playing, and bring the wrath of God down upon their families. Poor Esau sinned away his day of grace when he sold his birthright for a morsel of meat.

People are selling their souls and the souls of their children for world sports, world entertainment and worldly goods. Today our nation is bankrupt spiritually because of the sins of the people. The judgments of God hang over our nation today "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became as fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." Romans 1:21-23.

Again, Esau was more concerned about himself than others. He did not care if it did break his mother's heart; he would marry whom he pleased, even though it meant spiritual bankruptcy. He would have his own way and please himself.

Last, he was more concerned about the present than the future. He wanted all his heaven now. He was so possessed by self that he lost all thought of the future or eternity. He would rather satisfy the flesh, die out of the will of God and land in hell than to deny himself and live forever in happiness and bliss.

At last he woke up and sought a place to repent, but found none. He had forfeited his right to eternal happiness; he was bankrupt. His soul was wrecked; he had sold his birthright crossed the deadline and was damned while he lived on earth.

## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

### **ARE MEN TO WEAR THEIR HAIR LONG?**

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" I Cor. 11:14

Some say Jesus had long hair. This is an untrue statement. Jesus inspired Paul through the Holy Ghost to write that it is a shame. I Cor. 11:14 Jesus was a man and never would do nor ever did anything He was ashamed of. The first pictures of Jesus with long hair were painted 400 years after His death and resurrection. The statues and pictures made and drawn in the days of Jesus show that all men wore their hair short. The very earliest painting of Jesus shows He wore His hair short. Also, the pictures in the catacombs of Rome show the same.

The current "craze" of men and boys to wear their hair long is not the harmless fad that many assume. It is a planned, calculated trend to break down the manliness of American men, as it was a planned calculated trend to break down the ladyhood of women. When the devil, wicked men and apostate, godless preachers approved of women cutting their hair, the devil laughed with hellish glee.

In the Congressional Record under "Commie Goals, long hair is listed as a great step of removal of the masculinity of the American male. It is helping to develop "unisex" and a population of weak, effeminate men which is listed in I Cor. 6:9 as one of the grosser sins. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind." It destroys the ruggedness of men. It degrades, sissifies, and victimizes the youth who pattern their hair after the "Fairies," "Creeps," the addicts," "homos," and anarchists of this generation. No Christian man or boy desires to be classed with the above. No Christian parent will permit their son to wear his hair long as long as that son stays under his father's roof and looks to him for his bread and meat.

Any preacher who would approve of long hair on men and boys is a parasite, a hypocrite and a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Jesus would never have done anything to contradict the clear, plain principle taught in I Cor. II: 14-15 "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering." Long hair on men is a bad sign. The Bible condemns effeminate men (I Cor. 6:9) "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate. nor abusers of themselves with mankind."

May God wake up the professed Christians. Can't one see the devil is trying to destroy the line of demarcation between women and men and bring them to the place that Paul speaks of in Romans 1:26-32, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is

unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Many years ago, I warned that the devil was out to destroy the dignity of womanhood when he got the good women to cut their hair. I saw what the devil meant to do. He means to make women ape men and men ape women. The devil has brought womanhood to Isaiah 3:24, "And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty," and to Isaiah 4:1, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach."

The world is rushing to the tribulation blinded by sin, bound by satan without God and without hope, a restless, wicked and rebellious generation. Jesus is the only hope and He only can deliver from the clutches of the devil and the wages of sin.

Christians, we must all be watchmen on the wall to cry aloud and spare not. Look to Jesus pray, repent and believe on Him. Jesus calls today, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden."

# GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

## TRUE HOLINESS

"But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:20-24

There must be a false holiness for the scriptures to speak about a true holiness. First, let us consider the false, or substitute, holiness that the devil tries to pawn off on people. The devil is a great deceiver and is out to deceive all he can, especially about spiritual things. When the five foolish virgins went to buy they must have gotten something, for they returned and tried to get in. But it was not the true oil and therefore they could not get in; the door was shut. It will take true holiness to get to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and finally into Heaven.

The scriptures tell us that without holiness no man shall see God. (Heb 12:14) The devil will try to take physical demonstration for true holiness. In the book of First Corinthians we have a picture of some people who had accepted a gift for true holiness. Paul said, "Ye are yet carnal." Also Paul had to write to warn them that men who wore their hair long were a shame, and women who cut theirs were completely out of the will of God. Yet many of these poor, deceived people thought they had the real thing. Paul told them, "But covet earnestly the best gifts; yet show I unto you a more excellent way." (I Cor. 12:31) This more excellent way is the way of True Holiness.

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there; And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:8-10

There are many errors in the false way. One concerns who can get this experience. One must be saved from all sin and separated from the world before he is a fit candidate for holiness. Also much error if taught on how to get it, and if one loses it, how to get the experience back.

Let us notice that to get True Holiness, one MUST BE saved from all sins committed and all sins the devil has tacked onto one. He must truly be BORN AGAIN. In regeneration one is forgiven of all one's sins, his name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and he becomes a true child of God.

To seek true holiness one must hunger, or see the necessity of it. When one sees the Old Man of Sin, the sin principle within one's heart, with all its traits (jealousy, anger, pride, stubbornness and many others) one will seek the experience with all his heart. The steps are to come to God, confess one's need and the awfulness of carnality, consecrate all, die out to one's self and everything else; Oscar Hudson used to say "Death Bed Consecration," some call it the death route, but whatever one

wants to call it, one must come to the Mountain of Crucifixion, turn his case over to God and let the Holy Ghost destroy the sin principle. He must believe with all his heart that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. This will bring the true experience of holiness, which is perfected by the Baptism with the Holy Ghost, which sanctifies wholly.

This experience of True Holiness will hold one steady in the storm, it will do to die by, and will take one home to Heaven.



## GOSPEL MESSAGES FOR TODAY

By Elbert Dodd

### IS THE MAN OF SIN TO BE REVEALED?

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 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; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." II Thes. 2:1-4

From what I saw and heard while on my trip abroad, I am convinced that the Man of Sin is about to be revealed, build the temple, and set himself up as God in the temple.

Jesus will catch His Bride away and the devil will have full sway for a period of time. Paul, writing to Timothy, says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lust, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." II Tim. 3:1-8

In the last days, Paul says, perilous times shall come. Note the signs that Paul points out, that all may know that we are near the coming of the Lord and the revealing of the Man of Sin. First, there shall be personal signs. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves," caring nothing about others, covetous, boasters, proud. Surely this is a day of pride. As in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In Isaiah we read, "Moreover the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet ..." Isaiah 3:16 Dyed hair and painted faces -- signs of the times. Pride drives people to the place where they have no sense of the dignity of the human body or mind. Pride makes people "copycats" along almost all lines. Blasphemers, disobedient to parents -- no wonder we have this awful day of lawlessness. No discipline in the home, the church or the schools.

Next, notice the social defects. "Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good." Without natural affection -- no love for home, no love for children, parents forsaking the children. One of the most pitiful sights seen today is a child forsaken by its parents, especially the mother, but this fact is on the increase as the days of the great tribulation rush upon us.

False accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. It seems the people of this age are throwing decency to the winds; they seem to hate people who are decent and moral. The public schools are affected by it and so is our entire society. It seems we are living in that day when God has given up the people, as Paul wrote in Romans 1:26,27 "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of the error which was meet."

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure. People are pleasure mad; they have forgotten that eternity is staring them in the face and have thrown caution to the wind, living for today only.

Note the signs in the religious world; "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. That which would bring a blessing to their souls, they deny. They deny the virgin birth of Jesus, the atoning blood, that Jesus can and will save from every sin, and that one must live separate from the world. The great falling away seems to be upon us.

Last, the great increase of knowledge, but knowledge without divine wisdom. Able to fly to the moon, yet restless and unhappy.

Jesus said when you see these things begin to come to pass, then look up, for your redemption draws nigh. True, born-again Christian, look up to Jesus and also occupy until He comes. The night approaches, the storm is about to strike; be ye therefore ready. Have your lamps trimmed and burning and look for His appearing.