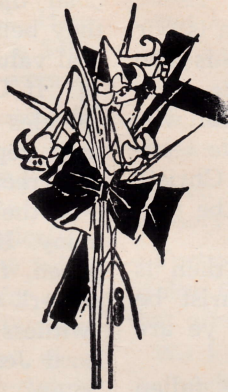


TIMELY TOPICS

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TOM M. OLSON

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Risen! That answers every sneer.

Risen! That silences all fear.

Risen! That truth will ever cheer.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"

D. M. T.

7 If's Of The Resurrection

BEFORE denying the fact the resurrection, give serious consideration to all that is involved.

"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.

"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

"For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Corinthians 15:12-19)

1 If there is no bodily resurrection "then is Christ not risen." He frequently spoke of His death, and invariably linked it with His physical resurrection. He definitely mentioned the "third day" as the time of His resurrection. (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22). If He has not been raised from among the dead, of what value is His word? If He has not left the darkness and silence of the tomb, Satan scored his greatest victory; and God has given no token of His satisfaction with the supreme sacrifice of His beloved Son!

2 If Christ be not risen, apostolic preaching was "vain" or empty! They preached the gospel of Christ—the good news concerning the death of Christ for our sins, His burial and His resurrection. Everything hinged on the resurrection, hence, if that did not occur, their message was decidedly empty. Instead of glad tidings to

rejoice the heart, their preaching was a delusion to break the heart.

3 If Christ be not risen, "your faith is also vain!" Many of the Corinthians hearing the Apostle Paul preach, believed his report of the death and resurrection of Christ; but if Christ has not been raised from among the dead, their faith was a hollow thing—they believed a false report. Of what real value is belief in a falsehood?

4 If Christ be not risen, the apostles were false witnesses! For they repeatedly bore witness to the resurrection of Christ. It was the burden, the crux, the pith of their testimony. If the resurrection never happened, from whence then the "great power" with which the apostles gave "witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 4:33). Was it of Satan? Were the apostles of Christ instruments of Satan?

5 If Christ be not risen, "ye are yet in your sins!" What sinners those Corinthians were! After naming such characters as "fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners," the Apostle Paul said: "such were some of you, but ye are washed . . ." If the resurrection of Christ is not a reality, believers are still in all the guilt and hideousness of their sins. A Christ who is in the cold embrace of death cannot absolve anyone from his sins.

6 If Christ be not risen, those who have fallen asleep in Christ are perished! You may have imagined that the blessed dead are in "realms supernal," but if the resurrection of Christ is not an actual fact, all their hopes of heaven have been blasted. A perpetually dead Christ cannot receive anyone in glory.

7 If Christ be not risen, believers are of all men most to be pitied! Because they are crucified to the

Wills \$500 For Kisses Delivered 45 Years Ago

From Milwaukee, Wisconsin, via *Associated Press*, comes the news that a kiss given nearly fifty years ago brought a bequest from a man left adrift in loneliness.

The will of Arthur J. Machek, filed for probate in Judge Charles A. Hansen's court, directed that from a \$40,000 estate \$500 be paid to a woman,

world by the cross of Christ and they have been taught to regulate their lives here in the light of a glorious eternity to follow. They know what it means to suffer persecution for godliness. If worldliness is insipid to them now, and they have no hope of a brighter world beyond, they certainly are "of all men most pitiable."

Reviewing the seven "IF"s it will be seen that everything vital, everything worthwhile, everything Christian, is shrouded in the gloom of death from which there is no awaking, if Christ has not been raised from among the dead.

We turn from all who are even inclined to doubt the resurrection, to hear the divinely inspired Apostle Paul say, without the least fear of successful contradiction: "*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*"

"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" were alive at the time the apostle wrote.

Hence, apostolic preaching was not in vain, personal faith in Christ is not vain, the apostles were not false witnesses, believers are not in their sins, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have not perished and believers have hope in Christ beyond this world.

Hallelujah, Christ arose! D. M. T.

long since wed, "with whom, together, I kept company when we were both twenty-one years old, in 1899, and who made the only voluntary demonstration of real affection I received in my life, and who gave me the only kisses I ever got."

We like Mr. Machek's expression — "the only voluntary demonstration of real affection." For where affection is real and voluntary it is valuable.

Such affection is golden treasure in memory's vault.

Forty-five years of active life failed to dim the fine gold of appreciation of that affection.

We know not why after experiencing such real affection he was "a man left adrift in loneliness."

Silence constitutes an impenetrable veil over such a secret.

The incident caused us to think of the "voluntary demonstration of real affection," which the following words reveal:

"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" (I John 4:9).

There can be no doubt of the reality and voluntariness of that love, when it is recalled that that Son was "delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

All who know and believe the love that God has toward them are enriched by it now and shall enjoy it throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Those who neglect or spurn such love and its unspeakable gift are adrift in loneliness now and shall continue so forever!

Corporal Proves Descent From Adam And Eve

Corporal Joe Smith of Abbeyville, La., claims direct descent from Adam and Eve—and has a document to prove it.

He displays a birth certificate from his home town which reads: "Joseph Smith born to Eve and Adam Smith . . ."

We can all prove our descent from Adam and Eve with the authoritative document called "The Holy Bible."

For it says: "The first man Adam . . . is of the earth, earthy . . . and we have borne the image of the earthy" (I Corinthians 15:45-49).

Again it says God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26).

"Adam called his wife's name Eve: because she was the mother of all living" (Genesis 3:20).

The sad part of this matter is that we are descendants of Adam and Eve in their fallen state.

The Scripture says: "Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

It is a more wonderful thing to produce a document proving one to be a child of God.

The believer has such a document. He can display to all scoffers his new-birth certificate which reads:

"As many as received Him (Christ)

to them gave He power (or the right) to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

Another section of the certificate says: "For ye are all the children of God *by faith in Christ Jesus*" (Galatians 3:26).

The sin question had to be satisfactorily attended to before children of fallen Adam could become children of God.

The Gospel story is the account of the manner in which the Lord Jesus Christ settled sin's tremendous claim. He accomplished it by dying for our sins and rising again for our justification.

"The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world." Hence, all believers can exclaim with the Apostle John: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God—and such we are!"

If you are only in Adam and not in Christ, place personal faith in the Savior and be able to say with the godly poet:

Though our nature's fall in Adam
Shut us wholly out from God,
Thine eternal counsel brought us
Nearer still through Jesus' blood;
For in Him we found redemption,
Grace and glory in Thy Son;
Oh, the height and depth of mercy!
Christ and His redeemed are one.

for GOD SO LOVED

the World (*which includes the reader*), that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16.