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Whither Bound?

Breakers Ahead !!

Sound The Alarm !!!

Issued Free,

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THE LAST OF THE LAST DAYS

The possible risk of being misunderstood has been taken into account in sending forth these pages, by His grace. But if some soul or souls have been helped and encouraged "to stand, and having done all to stand," against the drift of things as set forth in this writing, that will be our joy at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

There is general agreement amongst those gathered to the Name of the Lord known as "Open Brethren," that we are in the last of the seven successive stages of Universal Church history; beginning in open manifestation at Pentecost, and ending in the translation of all born again souls. The stages being clearly set forth in Rev. chs. 2 and 3 as represented in each of the local churches, beginning with Ephesus and ending with Laodicea.

In each of the individual messages to these churches, cast into prophetic mould as indicated above, to cover the whole of Church history, the Lord Jesus Christ had some commendation for each church, excepting Laodicea. In this stage the ascended Lord in His last direct message to the churches, given through His servant John, has shown Himself to be outside knocking for admission, and appealing to individuals. In the previous message, to that of Philadelphia, there was shown to be some recovery from the general downward trend, but that is lost sight of in the next and final stage—all in a lukewarm condition: corresponding to Matt. 25:1-13, where genuine believers and mere professors are all slumbering and sleeping, when the cry rings out, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him."

After each message given to the local representative churches, the Lord Jesus directs to pay

attention to the messages given by the Holy Spirit to the churches, these are of course found in the Epistles, where many descriptions are given, not only of the lukewarmness and sleepiness, but of God dishonouring conditions subversive of true spirituality, down to apostasy and blasphemy unimaginable, to those not willing to "hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches and all mankind.

EXPERIENCE IN THE DENOMINATIONS

As one who has had many years experience in the Denominations, filling various positions from Sunday School Teacher to "Ordained Minister," and now a number of years among "Open Brethren," as Teacher and Evangelist, by the grace of God, one has had considerable exercise for some time to point out as grace has, and will be given, some things of what we believe to be that which is not in accordance with His will or His word, and which, if persisted in, will involve us in the greatest of all guilt relating to the seven periods of the Church's history, with the Blessed Lord Jesus on the outside. Some of the things we are about to enumerate were noticed personally by the writer to have had their beginnings in the Denominations forty years ago.

WHAT EZEKIEL TEACHES

In the Book of Ezekiel ch. 8 it may be noted, that God revealed to the Prophet some things done in His sanctuary grievous to Himself, and which because of His people not being willing to hear His voice through His messenger, caused Him to go far off from His Sanctuary. v. 6. In Rom. 15:4 we have, whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning: and in 1 Cor. 10:11 in regard to the judgments that fell upon God's ancient people, we read that these

things happened for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition.

Therefore we cannot set aside these warnings without having the judgments of God overtake us. We may note in Eze. ch. 9 vs. 3 and 4 that the man with the inkhorn by his side was commanded to go through the midst of God's people and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for that which was grievous to the Lord God (the same Lord God Who was here in human form, John 20:28). "Sigh"—inward grief. "Cry"—outward expression of it. The word "mark" in the Hebrew is "Tav," the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

Its literal meaning is cross. This letter "T" was a cross in the old Hebrew script. Therefore, we learn the mark of Christ's cross, if not literally, in God's inscrutable way is upon all those who sigh and cry concerning the declension going on around us, and amongst us. The Apostle Paul bore that mark when he said, "I am crucified with Christ."

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR DAYS

In recent years in Assembly gatherings and on Conference platforms, one has drawn attention to what has been pressing heavy on one's heart, and the hearts of many who discern what is taking place as indicated above. But as opportunities are getting less and less for such warnings, as will be shown in this writing, one has been strongly exercised to put into print some of these things, that consideration may be given, and that like the Prophet in Dan. 9 we may confess our sins and the sins of our people, seek His forgiveness and ask deliverance, that He may be glorified by having His place in absolute supremacy in our individual lives and collective testimony. In so far

as possible we will seek to refrain from anything personal or purely local; dealing more with representative cases, and the general trend of things.

FORTY YEARS AGO

some Denominations experienced times of refreshing, when Christ's gospel was preached in power and Christians were living more or less consecrated lives. Prayer meetings well attended and fellowship meetings through the week. Open air testimony through the week as well as on Sunday with, particularly, young people preaching the gospel, testifying openly and winning souls for Christ. Slowly, these conditions began to recede when the testimonies for Christ were slackened off. Then began the plea that something should be done for the young people in the way of rallies, social gatherings, games, teas, etc. Result, appetites grew on what they fed, with a downward spiritual decline, when prayer meetings and other spiritual meetings and testimonies were given up, until it is considerably the exception to find anything of a real spiritual nature in the places and ways mentioned. After a while of the kind of feeding indicated, the appetite outgrew the rallies, game, tea, and cake stage, which was referred to as "child stuff," with the claim, "we want dancing." And now dancing is sanctioned at annual Conferences; and young people have fallen spiritually and morally, through these soul traps of the enemy.

THESE CONDITIONS BEING LARGELY REPRODUCED

We have lived to witness a similar trend of happenings among the meetings, who have "not denied my name," Rev. 3:8, by taking any other name apart from the Bridegroom Himself. or that

given in His Holy Word. The same arguments are being used for the arrangements of the soul impoverishing things that were used forty years ago in the Denominations. Rallies ,social evenings, with evening dress in some cases, even wine indulged to intoxication; "elders" or "guides" sanctioning and encouraging these social fleshly activities. All in the pretence of doing something for and holding the young people and attracting others. Many more things could be mentioned, such as "sacred cantatas," horizontal bars with saved and unsaved participating, young men and young women. These activities are increasing on every hand, and we are told by so-called guides of assemblies that any ministry pointing out the iniquity of these, and other things, is not profitable, and so the **hedghog** condition is obtaining in a number of places, wholly and partially; because of these things being ministered against, and other unscriptural practices, or neglect, being brought out in local assembly gatherings ,and on Conference platforms.

MINISTRY MUST BE CONTROLLED

Fully in line with what has taken place in Denominations, following the decline in spirituality, there is the growing practice of controlling the ministry of God's messengers. Hedgehog tactics have been referred to which is now explained, giving just a few instances out of many that could be produced. A servant of the Lord at an annual Conference where for a number of years the platform had been open for ministry as the Holy Spirit would lead and give the word, was exercised to speak on the subject of Pastor-Shepherd's duties as set forth in the Scriptures. As cases of neglect in this way had come under the speaker's notice in that vicinity, as well as in other places; this

was mentioned without mentioning assemblies, or names of "overseers," or persons neglected.

There were those at the conclusion of the meeting who came forward and told the speaker that the word was very necessary who knew of the conditions described. Yet unfortunately those in "authority," evidently did not think so; and therefore in their estimation the ministry was not profitable. For this and other ministry that had been given in that annual Conference over a few years by various brethren, that was not palatable to those assuming oversight, the Conferences must henceforth be of the hedgehog nature, protection for those within, bristles for those without, by choosing only speakers who in their judgment would not minister on lines disagreeable to them, and excluding others.

DEPARTURE FROM SOUND PRINCIPLES

The departure from sound principles on the ground of expediency to fit in with the times, has been drawn attention to by many faithful souls in recent years, who like those in Eze. ch. 9 vs. 3 and 4, are sighing and crying, only for the most part to find that such ministry was not wanted and their protests could not be received. Some of those who have become determined to have entertainments mentioned, of a soul impoverishing nature, and compromise ministry, have adopted a slogan, relating to those who cannot fall in with the tide, and who record their protests, which is, we have "railroaded them"; or "will railroad them."

By this is meant that faithful brethren who have borne the heat and burden of the day in seeking to guide assemblies on right Scriptural lines. are ignored or set aside altogether. If asked to give Scripture for such a high handed attitude of trying

to control ministry not palatable to the modern overseers, and resisting the protests of godly elders against introducing the innovations as above, we understand this is advanced. 1 Cor. 14:29. "Let the prophets speak two or three and let the other judge." To begin with, there are no longer prophets, these belong to the foundation of the church and as such are built upon the foundation. See Eph. 2:20. And there are no longer judges, for the question is asked rebukingly, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?" Rom. 14:4. Therefore we learn here to keep hands off the Lord's messengers, and elders.

When the Scripture in 1 Cor. 14:29-32 was given, the Scriptures were not completed; and when they were the injunction was given that ministry must be according to the oracles of God (as revealed in His Word). See 1 Pe. 4:11. Let us keep steadily in mind, brethren, that the Judgment Seat of Christ may lie just ahead. How will we answer to the One Whom, if we have been guilty of causing Him to take the outside place, by unscriptural practices for which we have been responsible or permitted in the assemblies.

WARNING AND THE RESULT.

In offering a word of warning on the lines mentioned above at a newly "arranged" Conference, a servant of the Lord took advantage outside of arranged" speakers, in a few moments towards the close of the Conference to point out the dangerous drift of things in man's arrangement of speakers, etc., only to be told afterwards by three brethren who made the arrangements, that the ministry was not profitable; and the speaker should apologise, and should not interfere in these matters. His reply being that the ministry and warning was given in view of the Judgment Seat of Christ when

all our service would be tested, and there the matter must rest so far as he was concerned.

One of the "arranged" speakers, taking the platform to reply to the warning given, suggested that the speaker should be covered up, as Noah's nakedness was covered by his two sons in Gen: 9.

Surely this was rather an unfortunate analogy for this brother to make when the Word of God distinctly declares, "There is nothing hid which shall not be manifested", Mar. 4:22, this in regard to proclaiming the Word of God. In Noah's case, it was drunkenness and immorality. This is but a sample, we regret to state, how Scriptures are juggled to try to find support and covering for what is going on today.

DEMAND FOR SMOOTH THINGS

Is not the general trend of things along the line of compromise? "Speak unto us smooth things," was that which was demanded of the Prophet Isaiah, and surely that is now very much in evidence. There was a day when ministry calculated to be corrective was accepted with exercise of heart; but the day has arrived when this in many cases will not be taken; and the complaint is very often made, if such ministry is going to be given, we will refrain from attending Conferences and ministry meetings in assemblies; hence the attempt to have men pleasing ministry.

It was confidentially told one soon after coming into "fellowship" some years ago by one who knew the run of things very well in some assemblies, "if you want to get on with the brethren, give them what they want." May the good Lord preserve and deliver us from being the servant of men.

“PUT THE BRETHREN IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE THINGS.”

In 1 Tim. 4:1-7, there is a clear description of the world-wide apostasy; when false religious systems are clearly identified; with the word to ministering brethren in v. 6, “If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ. If this is not done, we are not good ministers of Jesus Christ; this conclusion could not be plainer; and yet there are those who strongly oppose anything spoken or written on these lines. “Not profitable ministry,” so they say. Who is to guide in these matters, compromising brethren, or God the Holy Spirit in His word.

THE EVIL MOVING PICTURES

are ravaging the lives of many of our young people, but ministry warning against the terrible degrading things is not necessary, so we are told. A servant of Christ recently in an assembly gathering spoke on Isa. ch. 2, of the judgments God would visit on a Christ rejecting, sin indulging world, drawing attention particularly to v. 16, “and upon all pleasant pictures”; pointing out that the marginal reading was “pictures of desire,” and that Dr. Strong in his Analytical Concordance shows that the Hebrew words come from a primary root, “to delight in”, “beauty”, “greatly beloved”, “delectable thing”; “they have to do with the artistic and lustful”. It was mentioned that there was nothing more desired, or sought after in the whole world than “the moving pictures.” Also that two leading journalists in the Homeland, investigated the moving picture industry, and had published their findings in a book entitled “The Devil’s Camera”; which shows that two men in England lost fortunes in trying to run clean pictures of an

educational nature, history, travel and so on, without the suggestiveness of sexuality, etc., when bankruptcy overtook them; the people demanding pictures with an appeal to the lowest and basest passions. It was also mentioned that a leading medical man informed the speaker of the fast growing immorality among young people, and that he believed the moving pictures had a lot to do with it. The statement was also quoted from a prominent magistrate when passing sentence, who said that "Hollywood" (the capital of the moving picture world) "was earning a distinction second only to Sodom and Gomorrah." On coming out of the hall, it was suggested to the speaker that he should take the message to a certain meeting in fellowship not far away, where after the solemn worship meeting on Lord's Day morning, there were those outside the hall who could be heard discussing the latest moving pictures.

How tragic it all is.

Children of brethren taking oversight are known to frequent these terrible dens of infamy, and when others have been remonstrated with, whose parents make no profession who attend the same Sunday School, they have replied that children of leading brethren go there, mentioning them by name.

It is known that daughters of so-called responsible brethren, teaching in the Sunday School, have been leading their pupils of the Sunday School into those dens of vice. Many a one after growing up, who have been taught by their parents and others to play cards, have cursed their tutors; what about those who are being encouraged in even far more soul defiling things. And this in association with assemblies gathered to the Name of the Lord. Is there not need to ask, whither bound?

THE EVIL OF NOAH'S DAY

Then we have the abominable practice of the use of lipstick, rouge, etc., coming into the assemblies. Although the apocryphal books are rightly, we believe, not accepted in the Canon of Scripture by so-called Protestantism, there are some statements in them that compare favourably with what is revealed in our Authorised and Revised Versions.

In Jude 14, 15, there is, "and Enoch also the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these" (the apostates in the preceding verses) saying, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment" etc. This Scripture is in one of the apocryphal books, and there is also this statement in the same book, that a demon by the name of Azazel, the prince of a band of demons, evidently Satan, taught women the use of rouge and the beautifying of the eyebrows before Noah's flood. Those were days when great wickedness abounded, when God swept them all away with that terrific besom of judgment. The Lord Jesus Christ said, as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. And so it has been reserved for our day for this disgusting practice to be resurrected, of painting the lips, and cheeks scarlet, and plucking the eyebrows to a thin line, and pencilling them around in a half moon shape. These practices with the immodest frocks were brought in, in our days with fallen women, who paraded the streets for immoral purposes. Now they are in common use by women and girls not considered fallen, at least not in the sense just mentioned.

One of the worst women in Israel painted her face and sat in a window (Jezebel) and from there she was hurled down and trodden under the horse's feet, when her blood was spilt on the wall. We are

fully aware that many use these abominable cosmetics who do not know of their wicked origin or association. Having occasion to speak on the above lines in a Gospel Hall, a number of young women in assembly fellowship spat on their handkerchiefs and rubbed off the vile stuff: good for them; and may God grant that all who may read these pages, if indulging the disgusting habit, may wash off the miserable stuff, ask God's forgiveness and point out the evil of it to others.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

As we have already noted, there is no escaping the conclusion that we are in the last of the last days of the church's history, and as such, there are conditions peculiar to this last stage which did not obtain, at least in fulness, at any other period.

In addition to those noted, the Spirits' words to God's servants were, that they must preach the word and observe the instructions as found in 2 Tim. 4:2-4. Renderings of this Scripture, bringing out the meaning more fully are, "preach the word, dwelling upon it continually, welcome or unwelcome; bringing home wrong doing, . . . with all the patience of a teacher. The time will surely come, when **they will not tolerate wholesome instruction** (emphasis ours) always itching to hear something fresh, and so they will provide themselves with a continuous succession of teachers, to satisfy their own fancies." This cannot be said to apply to the Denominations around us, although we are fully aware there is a considerable departure from the truth: but in regard to the heaping up of teachers to give that which will tickle the itching ears, this, if at all, applies in a very limited sense; for is the charge not made by us that for the most part, there is the one man ministry in the Denomina-

tions. Then where does this apply as described?

Surely among the assemblies, as nowhere else; as unpalatable as this is we cannot escape the conclusion. The word is,

“THEY WILL PROVIDE THEMSELVES TEACHERS

after their own desire.” What a tragedy it is to have this brought home to our own door.

Have we not frequently heard among us when some ear-tickling message had been given, “Something new,” “Never saw that before,” and like phrases. So much so that a brother dearly beloved for his works’ sake over a long period of years in faithful ministry, oral and written, after hearing so much of these phrases, described them in a ministry meeting, as “the latest craze.”

Whoever has heard similar remarks concerning corrective ministry as in Isa. 58:1.

We learn therefore that it is entirely anti-scriptural to “heap up,” “arrange,” or as we have seen one rendering gives it, to “provide themselves with a continuous succession of teachers,” such as is done amongst us. In the case mentioned earlier, where the Lord’s servant gave the warning on the Conference platform of the departure, by arranging speakers, etc., an elder overseeing brother in that assembly was asked why it had been done, the reply being that the “oversight” did not do the arranging, for he was at least one of the oldest in “oversight” and knew nothing about it; also said that those few who did arrange it, “could not trust the Lord to supply the need.” This is typical of what has been going on in a number of places..

May it not be put in this way? “The Lord gives the gifts, but we control them, or at least seek

to do so." What is largely demanded and developing among the meetings is believed to be, an intellectual presentation of truth, very often "without teeth," and soul revealing grip, which is so greatly needed. We have heard the expression, "he leaves me cold"; and other remarks that signify that the presentation has never reached the heart, and many times, that the preaching is "over the heads of the people," and "purely heady ministry." When it is not more headiness that is needed, but more heartiness. It has often been noticed that the "heaped up," or "arranged" speakers, are retailing unfelt truth, which may have never passed through the heart of the speaker. Concerning one of the "succession" teachers, it has been stated that he could read a book of addresses and give it out word for word in parrot fashion.

Dr. A. T. Pierson remarking on this kind of mechanical ministry, has left on record that the word for an ordered address is only mentioned three times in the N.T. and at one of these addresses a man fell down and broke his neck. Acts 20.

CHRIST EXALTING MINISTRY.

He also points out, the ministry that glorified God is expository. And it was this kind that brought the greatest results, see Acts 2:22-41, ch. 3:12-26, ch. 4:1-4. Three thousand souls, and five thousand saved through simple expositions of the truth, without any ear-tickling, or soft platitudes. The ministry that glorifies God the most, is surely that which has the most of the word of God in it. Mr. D. L. Moody had this to say of Mr. C. H. Spurgeon: "I would rather hear him expound the scriptures than preach; I seem to get more out of it." Yet one more on this line, that we may all be exercised before God, and get down

on our faces asking His forgiveness and deliverance. A Christian of discernment had the privilege of hearing Dr. Talmage; when asked his opinion of the preacher, remarked, "A wonderful preacher."

The same man went to hear Mr. Spurgeon, when asked concerning him, gave expression in the words, "A wonderful Saviour." The Apostle Paul brings before us the possibility of preaching a powerless gospel, though true to the word, when he wrote, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only but also in power and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance," 1 Thess. 1:5. The same of course can apply to ministry to believers.

We have often felt the brassiness of words without any heart in them. See 1 Cor. 13:1. We need to come more and more to Rom. 5:5. Our beloved brother, Franklin Ferguson, in his little dedication of his excellent book, "The Lord Is Coming," has these two pregnant lines, "Written for the hearts of those who love His appearing." Surely we need heart searching, heart warming ministry in these fast closing days as never before. The ear-tickling mechanical stuff can only wither the soul, no matter how polished it may be. An aged sister was asked what she thought of a certain preacher in this Dominion, her reply being, "Aye, he is as smooth as polished steel and just as cold."

TWO KINDS OF PREACHERS.

We may draw attention to the two kinds of preachers in 2 Tim. 4:1-4, those who are God's servants who preach the word without fear or favour; reproofing, rebuking, etc., v. 2, in view of the Judgment Seat of Christ, verse 1. And men's servants, who are among the "heaped up,"

“arranged” teachers to give ear-tickling messages after the fancies of the arrangers. Vs. 3, 4. Who do not warn against the departure from sound practices and principles, and the innovations coming in, sapping the spiritual life and power of assemblies; also in not warning against the false cults abounding on every side, when the grievous wolves are not sparing the flock, but dragging them out of the meetings into Satan’s wicked systems.

The late William Hoste, B.A., editor of “The Believers’ Magazine” for so many years, who faithfully stood against the dangerous drift of things, had this to say: “That the exercise of pointing out false teachers and systems, had fallen into disuse under a false plea of charity. Those who ought to be watch dogs have too often become dumb dogs. The interests of the flock are made subservient to carnal policy.”

Because of such a policy, there is the gravest danger of being involved in the greatest of all sins that, we as believers could be guilty of, as it is in 2 Peter 2:1, where the culminating blasphemy is shown to be, “even denying the Lord that bought them.” This hellish crime of denying the full Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is a Person in the God-head, equal in substance, power, and eternity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Satan is even now attempting to work into the meetings. A man who had been a prominent “overseer” in an assembly for years had imbibed this teaching from reading literature of one of the latest spiritist-rationalistic cults, when he began to try to work it into the assembly; not getting encouragement there he moved off to another meeting in fellowship, still holding the damnable doctrine. Again moving to a third assembly, still holding, and trying subtlv to get in the blasphemy

of blasphemies; the brethren there had occasion to take steps, and put him out of fellowship.

This man has much of the literature of the Satanic cult typed word for word, and circulating it among assemblies with whom we are in fellowship. Another leading brother of an assembly expressed himself to his fellow "overseers" as believing similarly. So far as we know this brother has been delivered.

Only recently a brother ministering before the breaking of bread, made the statement that "it was not the Almighty God Who gave His life for us, but the Son of God."

So-called "Jehovah's Witnesses" would agree with him; for that is clearly stated in their publications. In ministry following the breaking of bread, this statement, which we trust was made without realising the import of it, was corrected by a servant of the Lord, who read Rev. 1:7-8, showing that the One Who was pierced and Who is coming in the clouds, was the Almighty God, for He said so; also John 20:26-28, where the One Who showed His pierced hands and side to Thomas is shown to be the Lord God, the N.T. equivalents of Jehovah Elohim—the Almighty God.

Taking into consideration what we have sought to draw attention to in a very imperfect way, with very much more that could be produced, is there not the greatest need to cry, Whither Bound? Breakers Ahead!! Sound the Alarm!!!

We purpose to seek grace to continue to pray and labour to the end that God in His great mercy may preserve His dear people in the assemblies from becoming engulfed; that the Lord Jesus may not be compelled to take the outside place as shown in "Laodicea" generally.

WESLEY E. RICHARDS,

616 Church Street,

Palmerston North, N.Z.

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Copies of the following may also be obtained from the writer:—"Will the Church Leave Before the Great Tribulation?" strongly recommended to be read, before the heresy of the Church passing into or through, wholly or partially, The Great Tribulation, is taught openly in the meetings. "Jehovah's Witnesses, Their Origin and Teachings"; "Seventh Day Adventism, its Crude Origin and Subtle Principles"; "The World's Greatest Calamity"—"Being used in Jamaica, B.W.I., to stir up interest in the Lord's return as never before"; "Spiritualism, its Origin, Progress, and Destiny."; "Eternal Sonship"; "God's Only Way of Salvation"—a soul winning pamphlet; "What Shall It Profit"—a gospel tract with diagrams; etc., etc.