

NEW YEAR'S DAY

by A. F. Dugger

Today, according to Roman time, we enter the twentieth century. This fact should afford us a suitable opportunity for sober meditation. We have witnessed the close of the nineteenth century, but we cannot hope to see the close of the twentieth. Should time continue, the race of life with us must end in this century. We who have reached the noon and evening of life can at best expect to live only a few years in this century, while those in the very morning of life cannot hope to see its close. The race of life with the present generations must terminate somewhere along the pathway of the century. Some of us will doubtless pass away in its morning, some at noon, and others in its evening shadows.

This to all should be a very solemn thought, and should create within us a strong desire and a fixed determination to make the very best of this life possible. To do this we must conform to its true purposes. The Creator of life has revealed its purposes in the book He has given, and to know them we must prayerfully search its pages. John, the Revelator, in speaking of the Creator, says: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). In the thanksgiving prayer of David, the holy bard of Israel, we find these sublime and significant words: "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee" (1 Chronicles 29:17). In the context, after acknowledging God as being the Author of life, riches, and honor, [David] asks the question: "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee" (verse 14).

As we enter the twentieth century, our resolve should be to seek out and practice the truth on all vital questions and deal more with essentials and less with non-essentials. We must have courage to live out the truth embodied in the moral law of God and the gospel of Christ. We should earnestly pray to our kind and loving Father above to give us grace sufficient to enable us to be true to our convictions of right and duty. We should remember that a true life is one true to the convictions of truth. We cannot be true to God and false to His truth. We should do all within our ability for the propagation, advancement, and support of these grand but sadly neglected Bible truths, that we may be the humble instruments in the hand of God of accomplishing a work that will live and exert an influence over our children and generations, yet unborn, long after we are gone. If we do our whole duty along these lines, our work will follow us and our influence will continue to live and speak to the living when our limbs are cold and our voices are hushed in the quiet stillness of death.

In conclusion, brethren, I wish to express to you my grateful thanks for your past liberality and noble efforts put forth in behalf of the spread and support of the truth. You have done well. Through your earnest, united efforts the work has been kept up and brought to its present standing. You are certainly entitled to great credit, and not to give it would show a lack of appreciation and gratitude in me or any other writer. But as this is the first year of the new century, and our work is widening, can we not do more this year than we have ever done in anyone year before? Our existence in the new century will be but a mere shadow. So let us work while it is called "today" for the night is fast approaching when our work will be over. Let us put on the whole armor of God, and having done all, stand.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous new year, and spiritual life and peace what time you may live in the new century, and a home in the kingdom to come, I subscribe myself your brother in hope of eternal life in the new earth.

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it is interesting to read the words of one who stood at the beginning of last century. Notice the resolve called for in the third paragraph. Should we not have the same resolve today?

This article is condensed from an editorial which appeared in the January 8, 1901, issue of The Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom, predecessor of the magazine now called The Bible Advocate, a publication of CoG 7th day. A.F. Dugger was a contributing editor of the Advocate at the time. For sure, the writer passed away in 1910 ~ 'the morning of the century'~ His contribution in the Church of God 7th day, carried on immediately after his death by son A. N. Dugger is still felt even today).