



THE BIBLE AND VOCAL

AND HERALD OF THE COMING KINGDOM

THEY IS WORD TRUTH

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH."

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History of The "Church of God".

We all fully realize that God has always had a people living on the earth, and these special people were always keeping the commandments of God. In Revelations 12th chapter, a woman is used as a symbol of the true church against whom the dragon beast made war, and of whom it is said that God carried her away into the wilderness, where He fed her for a thousand two hundred and sixty days, or 1260 years. Those acquainted with prophecy understand that this spanned the period between 538 and 1798. The name of this woman or church was "The Church of God" when she was carried away into the wilderness, and it is evident that she held to the name during the 1260 years; yes, and on to the very end, for when Jesus returns, His people, as a chaste virgin, are to be presented to the Lord. 2 Cor. 11: 2. She will not have had union with the world, or things worldly, but remains in her virgin purity, to be espoused to Jesus the Bridegroom when He comes.

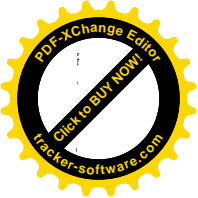
When the Lord declared the name of the church to be the name Church of God twelve times in the New Testament, and also promised that He would protect His church 1260 years in the wilderness, bringing us down to 1798 we may quite naturally expect to find something even in secular history vindicative of this divine promise to identify the people of God. We are not disappointed in making this research, for many authentic histories speak of those very pious christian people known from the viewpoint of the world as Waldenses, Hugonots, etc., and we learn from various sources that they were observing the seventh day Sabbath, and baptizing by immersion, as well as holding to other points of faith in common with the Church of God today, there being much history of the deepest interest connected with their sojourn for 1260 years in the wilderness, in the caves, and dens

of the earth, and the name "Waldenses" having its origin from "Valley-dwellers". Although P Waldo, at one time became a noted man among them as a leader, their name, however, of "Waldenses" seemed to have antedated that of his life.

It has been stated that the Church of God traces their history only back to about 1860 to our Elder Cranmer, and other brethren formerly Michigan, and then on through the Seventh Baptist people, but this is true only according to what follows which will be willingly conceded.

From Fox's Book of Martyrs, as well as other histories, the term "Baptist", referring to a company of christian people, had its origin in the term "Ani-baptist" which was applied to the world called "Waldenses", because they were against the most popular mode of baptism, sprinkling. This was practiced not only by Catholics, but by Luther and his followers, and practically all of the early reform bodies came out from the Catholic Church. The term "Ani" means against, and because these simple Bible people were strongly opposed to sprinkling as a ritual rite, they were called "Ani-baptists", which meant "against baptism". The truth of the matter, however, was that they were not opposed to baptism, but were "ani" or against what the world at that time called baptism, and many people even today think sprinkling is baptism, when it is not.

It is quite true that John the baptizer is not John the Baptist, but nowhere do we find the followers of Christ spoken of as the Baptist Church and it would have been just as easy for the Holy Spirit to have mentioned these early churches as the Baptist Churches, as it was for them to be spoken of as the Church of God in the New Testament, therefore it is logical as well



Biblical to conclude that the name Baptist, as applied to a denomination of Christian people did not have its origin with John the Baptist, or even with the apostles themselves, when Paul so frequently addressed the church as a whole, and using the name Church of God, instead of Baptist Church or any other title.

As previously explained the term "Baptist" as applied to a company of christian people had its origin this side of the reformation, being applied to the opposers of "sprinkling" for use as a baptismal rite, and those who ignored it, and rebaptized their converts by immersion being called "Anti baptists", and later "Bapists".

As proof that the term Baptist, as now applied to the Seventh Day Baptist Church did not have its origin as such, with John the Baptist, and was not applied to the Waldenses during the 1260 years of papal persecution, at least, exclusive of any other official title as now, will be willingly admitted by those best informed in Baptist history.

Our first insight into the facts of this matter was given by our dear brother, Robert B. St. Clair at the time of our first meeting, when he was making a tour of the country in company with the prince of Ethiopia. Learning that the Ethiopian church were Sabbath keepers, and dated their origin from seven hundred years before Moses, and also that they called themselves the Church of Christ and Church of God, we became the more interested in the name for the church, whereupon Bro. St. Clair informed us that the Seventh Day Baptist Church also called themselves by this title during their early history in America, and cited me to certain books where his statement could be, and later has been verified as truth.

It is a fact that the denomination known exclusively today as Seventh Day Baptists, have the title on some of their very old churches in the East "The Church of Christ", and I have been told by reliable authority that the name Church of God is also found even at this late date on some of their old church houses in the Eastern part of the United States, and that this title was used for their congregations during their early evangelical work in this country, it being evident from their own books that the name "Baptist" was not exclusively used with their people even during the past one hundred years. Hence it follows from the foregoing, that the Church of God does not date its history back to 1861 and then follow through the Seventh Day Baptist channels, but rather through that company of people who held to the same name we hold today and consequently our history is perpetuated without a break.

While we understand full well that the name

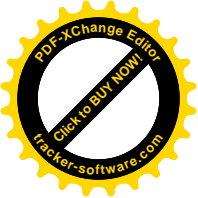
merit that exalted title divinely given, neither do we affirm that Sabbath observance will save us without the other christian attributes, but because of these facts our duty in advocating the truth of the Sabbath is not lessened, neither is our responsibility minimized in teaching and practicing the truth relative to the church name. We are to grow in grace and in knowledge, and accept the fullness of heaven's truth: revealed in God's word.

With the highest regard for the good Seventh Day Baptist people among whom are many noble and consecrated christians whom we love, still facts are facts, although stubborn they may be, and without casting any reflection on these people or even that of the S. D. A. denomination, still we have a divinely given prophecy that "In the last days some would depart from the faith, refusing to marry and commanding to abstain from meat which God created to be used, etc. 1 Tim. 4th chapter.

This prophecy cannot apply to the Catholic Church as some have attempted to apply it, for they were not in the faith in the last days or at any other time; neither does this prophecy apply to some insignificant departure of one or two here and there, but such predictions when noted by holiness and vision, refer to some general movement of consequence and significance, therefore we must look for it sometime during the period after knowledge began to increase, which ushers in last day conditions.

Prior to 1861 there were two Sabbath keeping bodies of people represented here in America and through the world, known as the Church of God and Church of Christ, and especially was this true of the Seventh Day Adventist people between 1844 and the above date 1861 for a period of seventeen years. There were probably a few congregations also holding to the name Seventh Day Baptists.

In October 1861 the S. D. A. company held the conference at Battle Creek, Mich., a record of which we have here in our office, contained in the old volume of the "Review and Herald" for that particular year, and at this meeting their name was selected, "Seventh Day Adventist" instead of the name Church of God, they commanded their people not to marry, which will be verified by old ministers now living, including Elder R. F. Barton, Waterbury, Vt. and J. J. Kolvoord, Irvindale, Battle Creek, Mich., and others we could give. They so commanded abstinence from meats which God created to be received, as well as those not so created, consequently there was a departing from the faith: the true name was dropped; they began giving heed to "old wives fables" and thus were led to accept other doctrines not Biblical as well, and there was a departing from "the faith once deli-



Prevailing Prayer

Mrs. Alice Barton

ered to the saints,"but here were a few here and there who remained loyal and went forward.

Since that time the breach has been growing wider and wider from the true faith of Jesus once delivered to the saints, and worldliness has been gradually creeping in, and we say with regret, that a large portion including many of the main leaders of the Seventh Day Baptist denominations, have drifted away from the simple childlike faith and trust in God and His precious word, until they are teaching Evolution and socalled "Higher Criticism" in their colleges and church periodicals. We are still praying and hoping that by some turn in providence they will retrace their steps, and return to the fundamental principles upon which christi-anity is based.

Those of experience know the danger of the first drink; and so it is with any departure from truth and righteousness, the first step is the vital one, and others are more easily taken, until before one comes to their senses there is a great breach made which is extremely difficult to recross. It is just as true with a church as with an individual, the first step in departing from the faith is the vital one, and when this danger line is crossed the difficulties and dangers multiply and deepen. This has been true since that prophetic declaration of Paul met its fulfilment in 1861, and the true fol-lowers of the Lord Jesus Christ "Departed from the faith." choosing another name, on the grounds of the old familiar story, "It doesn't make any difference", (doctrine of devils,) which had its or-igin in the Garden of Eden, and is still so repeated-ly used by Sunday observers relative to the true Sabbath of the Lord.

We trust the reader will solemnly and prayerful-ly consider the foregoing, written as it has been, in love and good will to all, hoping that God's pro-fessed people, whoever, or wherever they may be, will be found of Him in the last day, a holy people to be received into the pesence of a Holy God, and who have learned well the lesson, that His ways are always best, and His councils will stand.

At some future time we expect to go more into detail regarding the History of the Church of God with a view of drawing God's true called out ones closer to Him by knowing the trials and persecu-tions endured by our former brethren, when hold-ing to the same faith, which was delivered to the saints in all of its purity and simplicity. Let us each one pray for a closer walk with God and more of His Holy Spirit to guide, and more power to serve.

Editor

The book for the children, containing all the simple stories of the life of Christ, very in-teresting and helpful. Paper bound 80c, cloth \$1.00

Prayer has been the mighty power, has not moved God, but man. Abraham was a man of prayer, angels came down from heaven to con-sult with him. Jacob's prayer was answered that resulted in softening the heart of his brother, Joseph. The child Samuel was given in answer to Hannah's prayer. Elijah's prayer closed up the heavens for three and one half years, again he prayed and the heavens gave rain. On another time, Elisha brought fire down on Mt. Carmel, a token of God's answer to his prayer. Elisha prayed and life was restored back to a dead child. Many of our children are dead in trespasses and sins so let us remember that the God of Elisha still lives.

Look again at Samson; he prayed and his strength came back to him and we see him a conqueror, still he had power with God. Job's prayer and his captivity was turned. Three times a week a sage came to Daniel in answer to prayer. When we read that prayer was made without ceasing, an angel was sent that delivered Peter. So let us see all through the Scripture believing prayers answered.

It is a most wonderful study to go through the Bible and learn what happened while God's people were on their knees calling on His name. So let the study should strengthen our faith. Let us look at Paul and Silas in prison at Philippi, Moses and Stephen while at prayer, how God's light of heaven shone on their faces. We read that Christ prayed to His Father for every one. Christ prayed at His baptism, and we read in John's Gospel of Jesus praying at the grave of Lazarus.

In the 12th chapter of John, the saddest chapter of the Bible we see Jesus praying to His Father while almost under the shadow of the cross, and the iniquities of mankind about to be laid on Him, and one of His twelve disciples about ready to deny Him, another was to sell Him for thirty pieces of silver, all were to forsake Him and His heart was so sorrowful, so heavy, that He prayed again in the Garden of Gethsemane. He in prayer also when the Greeks desired to see Him. He cried to His Father in the midst of His agony. We see Jesus praying on the Mount of Transfiguration and God speaking to Him and we always remember our Master's prayers very short when offered in public. How short the publican's prayer was, "be merciful to me, a sinner." Then the thief on the cross was short, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom."



in side notes, from the ones he has read, and it will take considerable time yet, to complete the investigation. Personally, I have made a good strong donation to this work, and is all I can do, now. Will you also make one? Can you not send in an offering that we may write to this brother to continue the investigation?

If some of the funds on hand were appropriated for this work, by the executive committee, it would not be enough to carry it through, and would take it to the other channels where its use is needed, so we appeal to the brethren in general to come to this need with an offering. We need a pamphlet or a book on "The History of the Church of God", which can be printed, after the investigation is made and all records revealed. This will add great weight, force and strength to the message, and we hope the ministers will also get back of it, and take up offerings among the brethren for the work. If any funds are left over from the needed amount in making the investigation, it will be used in getting out the book, just as soon as possible, to meet the need and demands of the day. Trusting to hear from you.

EDITOR.

Helping The Lord In The Day of Battle

By W. R. Peterson.

Curse ye many, said the angel of the Lord; curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof: because they came not to the help of the Lord; to the help of the mighty Lord. Judges 5: 23.

By the waters of Megiddo, a battle raged; The might of Canaan, led by Sisera, came down upon Israel. Israel gathered to defend their land, but the inhabitants of Meroz, came not up to help oppose the invader; Because of this, the angel of the Lord commanded to curse Meroz, bitterly.

The work of God, is to be carried on through human agencies, or messengers. ye are lights, let your light shine, says Jesus. The battle against sin is raging fiercely in these last days. Satan is hurling forth seas of deception, to engulf the world of God: everyone who makes a choice of serving God, is required to do God's work; to proclaim the message of salvation. Failure to do so, brings the curse of God upon the slothful servant. Matt. 25: 24-30.

Jesus calls all, who do nothing in His work, unprofitable servants. The human race is under sentence of death, a result of disobedience to God, for sin is transgression of the law, and the wages of sin is death. 1 John 3: 4, Ezek. 18: 4, Rom. 6:

23. Facing death, man needs saving, and God provided a way of salvation: The efforts of God, of Jesus and the angels are directed to the salvation of man, but strange to say, man, whose life is at stake, goes on his way, careless, and ungrateful of the efforts made in his behalf.

The only reason Jesus gave His life, was to open a way of escape from eternal death. The only reason man dies, is because of disobedience to God, for the wages of sin is death. The gift of God's eternal life in the earth made new, by a resurrection from the dead, at the last day, when Jesus comes to execute judgment, and reward every man. Rom. 6: 23. John 6: 40. Psa. 37: 29. Matt. 16: 27.

The message of salvation. God sends to perishing man, is the gospel of the grace of God, or the mercy God offers to disobedient humanity, on condition of repentance toward God, and faith in the atonement of Jesus on the cross, that He died to satisfy the penalty incurred by disobedience. Acts. 20: 24,21.

To repent towards God is to ask His pardon for disobedience, and pledge oneself to keep his law, faith in Jesus is faith that his atonement cancels our past, Rom. 8:24,25. If mercy is granted, and the one to whom it is extended, will obey God's law, then the gift of God, which is eternal life, will be given by Jesus when he comes at the last day.

Salvation from eternal death, is open to every mortal person. God desires every human being to accept salvation, but it must be upon the conditions God has laid down. Every person accepting salvation is required to tell his fellow men about it, for human life is at stake. Failure to do so makes the sinner guilty of neglect, and a consenting partner in the crime of sin, and the blood of the sinner lies at the door of the idle servant. Ezek. 3: 17-19.

So, as with Meroz, in the time of need, when lives are at stake. God's curse lies on the slackers. Standing in the closing days of this earth, preceding the judgment day, there is urgent need for every effort to be made to save those in sin. God demands diligent work from his servants. Each one may rightly enquire of themselves. "What can I do for God"

Whether it be a word to a friend or neighbor, or a sermon preached before few or many, everyone can do something to help save those in sin. No one need be idle. Faithful service, earns the reward of eternal life when Jesus comes. Let everyone who loves the Lord, be not as those of Meroz, but be up and doing, for to day is the day of salvation. Jesus soon is coming, and how will he find you?

The pamphlet, Resurrection of Christ, Which Day Did it Occur? containing eleven pages, is ready for the public. Price postpaid hats.