

THE BIBLE ADVOCATE



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

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GREAT PEACE HAVE THEY THAT LOVE THY LAW; AND NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM.

HAVE WE TARRIED FOR THE POWER TO CARRY THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Some ministers and church members, showing small accomplishments in converts and new members may be inclined to the assertion that only a very, very few shall be saved. They make the mistake of encouraging weakness by a wrong application of Matthew 7:14, which says: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it."

The danger lies in permitting this passage to cause us to EXPECT virtually no results. We seldom strike higher than we aim. If we set our goal for little, our accomplishment will be meager.

This passage, too often leads many different sects and denominations into the false belief that the FEW who are to be saved are merely the few of their particular church or denomination. Soon such people are "thanking the Lord that they are not like these publicans and sinners." Such an attitude is unscriptural and it is dangerous.

Wherever a church or a people become obsessed with the idea that only a small handful out of all living are to be saved, that people's power for accomplishment is cut to almost nothing.

Let us examine the religious census of the world, and assume an extremely liberal estimate of those who are probably saved, and see if even so liberal an estimate violates the truthfulness of this text that "FEW there be that find it."

The latest figures I have found available are the U. S. religious census estimates of the world, for the year 1926. Allowing that half of the larger denominational churches have turned Modernist, and therefore have cut themselves off from hope of salvation, and that only half of the churches of the re-

maining Fundamentalist Protestant churches are saved, the figures appear something like this:

Baptist	total,	3,060,000
Christian,	" ,	1,500,000
Congregational,	" ,	1,600,000
Lutheran,	" ,	4,000,000
Methodist Episcopal,	" ,	4,516,805
Methodist Episcopal, South,	" ,	2,538,311
Methodist Episcopal, African	" ,	721,000
Presbyterian,	" ,	1,300,000
Miscellaneous, smaller denom.,	" ,	500,000
Total		19,736,116

This is approximately 20 million. Cutting off half as Modernists, and another half as actually non-Christians, and we have a total of 5 million, who, under a real liberal estimate, may be considered saved out of the United States.

In the world census, under classification of Protestants, there are a total of 75 million classified under North America. If we consider that only 5 million of these 75 million classified as Protestants are living in a really saved condition, the ratio is only six and two thirds per cent, not quite seven out of each 100.

According to the world census there are:

75,000,000 protestants in North America,
900,000 in South America,
115,000,000 in Europe,
7,000,000 in Asia,
3,000,000 in Africa, and
6,000,000 in Oceandia, or a total of
205,900,000 protestants in the entire world.

Assuming the ratio to hold true, and that six and two thirds per cent of professing Protestants will really be saved, we have 13,726,000 people living today who will be saved. Now most people will not

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concede anywhere near this number. On the other hand this is a very small per cent of persons professing protestant Christians. I am merely applying this figure to show that, should so large a number be actually saved, this large number of more than 13,000,000 souls does not violate the text which declares that "FEW there be that find" the way of salvation.

In the world according to this census there are:

350 million worshippers of Ancestors and of Confucianism,

331 million Roman Catholics

144 million Orthodox Catholics,

230 million Hindus,

209 million Mohammedans,

150 million Buddhists,

16 million Jews,

211.5 million miscellaneous other classifications,

1,641,500,000 total non-protestant Christian people in the world, besides the 205,900,000 classified as protestant, or a grand total of 1,847,400,000. This is close to the total population of the world today.

Thus, out of a world containing 1,847,400,000 people, surely a mere 13,000,000 is a "FEW."

If 13 million out of the world's 1,847 million people are saved, then surely only a very FEW have found the way! That is only one out of every 142, or seven tenths of one percent!

There could easily be an entire 13 million saved without necessarily disputing the Scripture that says FEW shall find the way of life.

You may feel that there are far less than 13 million or even much more than that. I am not attempting to determine how many, but merely that if 13 million are saved, still that is only a lamentable, pitiful FEW!

What I am trying to point out is that it is possible for us to go out and gain MILLIONS, without in any way overstepping the limitations of the text which says that only a FEW shall find the strait and narrow way. Even then, the MANY have trod the BROAD way that leads to destruction.

So let's renew our hope! Let's place our aim higher! Let's renew our strength! Let's put forth greater effort!

Let's look back, for counsel to the experience of the first apostles, and their instructions given them by Christ.

"Tarry Ye," Jesus commanded them, (Luke 24:49) "Until ye be endued with power from on high."

Tarry! Don't get excited and rush out too fast, before you are fully prepared, and have been filled with the POWER from on high! That's what Jesus commanded of the disciples who were to carry the "First Angel's Message" to the world. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," Jesus told them. (Acts 1:8).

Countless men, filled with ambition and zeal to carry the Lord's message of light to a sin-darkened world have rushed out purely on their own power, without waiting on the Lord. And their efforts have come to naught.

The apostles tarried. They waited. They did not go out to the world with their message until they were fully prepared, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. And look at the results! Did Peter go out and convert one or two stragging sinners a year, and excuse such a poor record on the grounds that only a FEW would be saved? No! Peter preached to a vast multitude on the very day he became filled with the power from on high, and says the Scripture record, "The same day there were added unto them about THREE THOUSAND SOULS!" Think of it! Three thousand converts in a single day! What evangelist today can boast of such a record?

Peter and John went to the temple, had the faith for the miraculous healing of the lame man, went inside and preached, and the record says that, "many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about FIVE THOUSAND."

Paul went out, filled with the power of the Spirit and converted whole cities.

Philip with the help of this power from on high, went to the large city of Samaria, "And the people with ONE ACCORD (all of them) gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." And "they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:6, 12.

These men, carrying the FIRST Angel's Message, had the faith to perform miracles of healing. These miracles filled the people with wonder and amazement, gave them a demonstration they could see with their own eyes, of the power of the name Jesus Christ, and greatly aided in winning lost souls to Christ. These men were fully prepared. They had waited on the Lord. Now they were filled with faith—filled with power—and their accomplishments make those of us of today look very meager indeed!

Then, glance for a moment, at the men whom God raised up to carry the Second Angel's Message out to the world. Luther, Calvin, Wesley. Men who were filled with this wonderful power. Men who were heard around the world! Men who shook the world with their message and won millions to the side of Protestantism, out of the darkness and spiritual chaos of Roman Catholicism.

Now let us look frankly to the results being achieved by those who claim to be carrying the Third and last Angel's Message. The prophecy says this Third Angel's Message shall go forth "with a LOUD shout." What does Scripture mean by a loud shout? The First Angel's Message likewise

was to go forth with a loud shout. That is now history. We can, then, know the meaning of the "loud shout." We have pictured it above. 3,000 converted at one meeting. 2,000 at another. Whole cities converted. That is the kind of power—the kind of results the Bible speaks of, in fulfilled prophecy, as coming from a "loud shout."

There are two people today who claim to have been carrying the Third Angel's Message to the world—the Adventists and the Church of God. Let us view results frankly and unflinchingly. Have either of these bodies been, so far, winning converts to the message by the thousands—by whole cities? Has this message, so far, gone forth with the POWER, the BOLDNESS, and the results in converts, of either the First or the Second Message? Has this message, so far shaken the whole world to its very foundations? If we are frankly honest, we must admit that it has not!

The average man and woman today is not aware of the fact the Message has been going forth. To judge the effectiveness of the message by its reaction upon the average individual in the world, the most we could honestly claim would be that the message has been merely shyly whispered! Most folks, it is true, are passively aware that there has been some agitation over the Saturday-Sunday question. But the question has not gotten actively into their consciousness. It has not been shouted at them in such manner as to cause them to become actively agitated over the question—to give it active consideration.

Let us not try to excuse ourselves by saying, "We haven't a popular message, so it is impossible to interest but very few." Let us not try to cover up weak efforts by consoling ourselves with misapplication of the text that only a FEW shall be saved.

The gospel message of Peter, of Philip, of Paul, was unpopular. Far more unpopular than is our message today. They were persecuted—their very lives attacked, and finally, most of them martyred. Our message today is not as unpopular as that!

The protestant message of Calvin, Wesley, and Luther, was not popular when it began! The Roman Catholic power had dominated for over a thousand years. The public to whom they carried their message had been reared from childhood in Catholic doctrines and Catholic teachings. Prejudice against anything anti-Catholic had been bred into them by birth, by teaching, by associations. Yet, against such tremendous organized opposition, those early protestant fathers carried forth their message with POWER. They shouted it before the world in such thunderous power that MILLIONS and MILLIONS were won over—in spite of such tremendous organized resistance!

Today we live in an age of modern methods of communication. Today we have instruments of

communication to employ in carrying forth this THIRD message which were not available to those who carried the former messages. Our elaborate and efficient mail systems. Every possible means of transportation to carry speakers and evangelists quickly from one place to another. The power of the printing press. The myriad media for advertising and publicity. Great halls and auditoriums, with loud-speaking devices which carry the voice of the speaker to thousands who never could have heard in the old days.

The opposition today is no stronger—indeed, surely not as strong—as in the days of the First and Second Messages. The Third Message is no more unpopular than were the First and the Second. And we are blessed with facilities for spreading the message which never were so much as dreamed of in the days of the First and Second Messages.

When we stop a moment and thus take inventory—when we pause and reflect and check up—doesn't it seem that there is something wrong when we become satisfied with one or two, or perhaps eight or ten, straggling converts after a campaign lasting weeks?

It can't be because God is not doing His part. God is going to do just as much for this Third Message as He did for the first two. It can't be because of opposition or unpopularity—these are as great as blocked the path of the first two. It can't be because of lack of methods of communication—we have advantages far surpassing the days of the first two messages.

Isn't it time to stop—to pause—to TARRY for a while, and to face the facts frankly and unflinchingly?

Surely God intended for those who carry the Third Angel's Message to the world to likewise TARRY FOR THE POWER! To be fully prepared! To carry the message with such force, and boldness, and strength, and POWER that it shall shake the world to its very foundations! To carry it with such assurance and power of conviction that thousands and millions are won, instead of twos and threes.

If those who carried the first two messages won converts to those messages by thousands and millions—then surely, in this day of lesser opposition, of no greater prejudice, and of vaster population, modern communication and transportation facilities, we should be accomplishing at least similar results!

Folks, let's come to life! Let's awake from this state of coma. Let's tear away from the inertia that holds us. Let's stop a moment, reflect, and take inventory. Let's tarry for awhile. Let's see if we are fully prepared—if we are filled with the POWER! Let's see if we are filled with sufficient faith to perform miracles of healing—it is being done today! Perhaps we should stop, and tarry for awhile.

Perhaps we need MORE POWER! There are nearly TWO BILLION souls to be reached!

Service And Reward

W. O. Travis

Do you believe in God? Does your belief in Him lead you to follow His instructions? Just belief without obedience will gain you nothing, for it is written, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." James 2:19. Please read all the references. The work we should do that is pleasing to God, is to believe on Christ (John 6:28, 29), and to take up our cross and follow Him. Matt. 16:24; John 12:26. That is to obey His instructions (as found in the Bible), instead of our own, or some other man's, for Christ alone is our Savior, and He told us to come to Him if we would be saved. John 39:40; Acts 4:12. It was His mission, at His first appearing to save the world, not to condemn. John 12:47; 3:17. His second coming will be in judgment and with vengeance. 2 Thess. 1:7-9. Whilst He was on earth He instructed His disciples in what they were to do, at the same time setting them an example— to keep His commandments. John 12:49, 50. So to our belief we must do the work Christ did, keeping God's commandments, and our part in spreading the gospel.

Read the parable of the talents, Matt. 25:14-28. The Lord (Christ), went into a far country (ascended to heaven. Acts 1:11), and will return (John 14:1-3), and will reward every one according as his work. Rev. 22:12. Everlasting life to those who have done well, and everlasting death to those who have done ill. When Christ ascended into heaven He gave gifts to men, those who were His disciples, and those who would become such. Eph. 4:8; 1 Cor. 12:11; Rom. 12:6-21. We have all our part in spreading the gospel, according to the gift God has given us, whether it is preaching, or doing missionary work, or helping with our means. You will notice in the parable of the talents that those who used the talent (gift) God gave them in His work, all received the same good reward, whether they gained much or little, whilst the one who had not used it, or used it for his own selfish purpose, was rejected. So will it be with us. God's gifts grow with use; if we use them for our own selfish use, or are indifferent about them, they will be taken away, and punishment given in place of reward. Matt. 24:45-51. The call to us today is for active service. Read the parable of the laborers. Matt. 20:1-16. It makes no difference at what time of life God calls you, then is the

time to go, for those who worked one hour, like those in the other parable, who gained less than the other, gained the same reward. It is written, "To day if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your heart" (Psa. 95:7, 8; Heb. 3:8-15), for in the service of God there is a peace and joy you can find nowhere else. John 10:27.

Can There Be Such a Thing As Sin WITHOUT The Ten Commandments?

E. F. Hambergh

In Romans 7:7 Paul says, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, 'Thou shalt not covet.'" From this we gather that in Paul's time there was a law that said, "Thou shalt not covet," and that the violation of this law was SIN.

To those who reject that part of the law which declares, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God," this and other texts found in Romans are very distressing. For Paul declares that "by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20. Then he tells us the sin of coveting (A. R. V.) was made known to him because the law said, "Thou shalt not covet." We know that the same law which says, "Thou shalt not covet," says also; "The seventh day is the Sabbath." So it is plain that if in Paul's day the violation of the law was SIN, then it was sin to desecrate the seventh day Sabbath.

Those who attempt to meet this put forth a very clumsy and far-fetched argument. They contend that by the law Paul here meant a modified law found in the writings of the New Testament, with the Sabbath left out. In saying this, it has never occurred to them that when Paul said this, there were no New Testament writings to quote from. The New Testament is largely made up of the epistles of Paul, and these and other writings which compose the New Testament were not gathered up and compiled until after the death of Paul. So in Paul's day there was no such thing as a New Testament, with a modified Ten Commandment law in it. This being the case, we know that when Paul quoted the "law" which said, "Thou shalt not covet," he was quoting from the Sinai law of Ten Commandments found in the twentieth chapter of Exodus. The fact that he quoted from this law and said that the violation of it was "sin" proves that it had not become void in his day.