



OUR FUTURE;

OR,

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

With Proof Texts from Scripture.

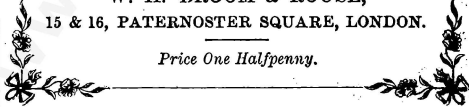
BY

H. C. A.



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WITH PROOF TEXTS FROM SCRIPTURE.



Q. 1. What is the Church ?

A. The Church is the Body of Christ.

Q. 2. Who is the Head of the Church ?

A. The Head of the Church is Christ in heaven.

Q. 3. What is a Christian ?

A. A Christian is one who has believed the gospel, and who is therefore sealed with the Spirit.

Q. 4. What place have individual Christians in the Church ?

A. As the human body is composed of many members, so every individual Christian is a "particular member" of the Body of Christ.

Q. 5. How are Christians united to the Head and to one another ?

A. "There is . . . one Spirit," who dwells in every believer, and by whom all believers are baptized into one body.

Q. 6. Are there more Churches than one ?

A. No, since Christ can have but one body. "There is one body."

Q. 7. But do we not find Churches spoken of in Scripture ?

A. Yes ; though not as having diverse interests, but as a local expression of the one body, the Church.

Q. 8. What do you mean by a "local expression of the one body" ?

A. This, that the hope, interests, discipline, and relationship of the Church to Christ are

there locally displayed in one company before the world.

Q. 9. Does Scripture sanction this ?

A. Yes ; when people were converted, then, as also gathered together, they are owned as the " Church of God " localized at Corinth, Philippi, &c., and in both cases are so addressed ; and in the messages to the seven churches "*The assembly*" in each place is in contrast with every other in that city.

Q. 10. Does God look upon such local Churches as acting representatives of the Body of Christ at large ?

A. Yes ; He says to the Corinthians, “ Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.” “ Ye are the epistle of Christ.”

Q. 11. How is the Church—the Body—nourished and sustained ?

A. In two ways : By a continuous ministry from the Head in heaven, through the Spirit, to the living members on earth ; and by each member discharging its proper function in the body in responsibility to the Head.

Q. 12. Are these the only means of nourishment and growth of the Body ?

A. Yes. All that ministers refreshment or strength or direction must come from one or the other.

Q. 13. What place then does the "word of God" occupy with the Church?

A. The Holy Ghost uses the *written* Word, which contains the mind of Him who is the *living* Word, in order to preserve to the Church the truth, both in doctrine and practice; and by it every Christian may test whether what is presented to him, through himself or any other member, comes from the HEAD or not.

Q. 14. Since the word of God in the word “church” now includes all true believers, by what name does it describe all classes and conditions of responsible beings on earth who are not of it?

A. Scripture includes them all under the name “the world.”

Q. 15. Why is it manifest that there are now only two responsible classes before God—the Church and the world?

A. Because there are only two future eternal states—one of happiness, the other of misery; and the two classes that will

enter one or the other of them are here around us to-day.

Q. 16. What causes the difference between the two classes, since all Christians were once "of the world"?

A. "Repentance and belief of the truth." The acceptance or rejection of the gospel.

Q. 17. What is the present condition of those who repent, and believe the gospel?

A. They have passed *now* "from death unto life;" they are even now not of the world, even as Christ is not of the world. They *were* "children of

wrath ;” they *are* now “children of God.” They are “THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN, who are written in heaven.”

Q. 18. What is the world ?

A. The world is composed of all responsible beings on earth, whether Jews or Gentiles, who have united in crucifying the Son of God, who still reject Him, and in all the guilt of which they must appear before Him.

Q. 19. What is the future of the world ?

A. The unsparing judgment of God, as referred to in many passages of the Old and New

Testaments, but detailed in the Book of the Revelation (chapters vi.-xx.) “He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained.” The world’s religious form is “Babylon,” and it is thus judged first. In its secular form all the living nations finally unite against the Lamb for their judgment. Then at the end of the thousand years we have the multitude of apostates destroyed by fire, after which comes the solemn session of Christ for the judgment of the dead, and this closes the story of the world as such.

Q. 20. What is the future of the Church?

A. She will be "caught up . . . to meet the Lord in the air," *before* the judgment, when He "shall descend . . . with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."

Q. 21. What will follow the judgment of Babylon, and the taking away of the Church?

A. The marriage of the Lamb in heaven, celebrated there with untold joy; then follows the judgment of the *secular* power, after which the Church will reign with Christ a thousand years.

Q. 22. What follows the thousand years' reign and the judgment of the dead?

A. "A new heaven and a new earth," the eternal-state. God all in all. "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."

Q. 23. Reader, we have answered the foregoing questions; but answer for yourself now this one, ere you lay aside the book, Do I belong to the CHURCH or to the WORLD?

H. C. A.

SCRIPTURE PROOFS OF THE ANSWERS IN "OUR FUTURE."

For Answer to Question

1. See Eph. i. 22, 23 ; Acts ix. 4.
2. „ Col. i. 18.
3. „ Eph. i. 13.
4. „ 1 Cor. xii. 18-27 ; Eph. v. 30.
5. „ 1 Cor. xii. 13, 14 ; Eph. iv. 4.
6. „ Eph. iv. 4.
7. „ 1 Cor. vii. 17 ; xi. 16 ; xiv. 35 ;
Acts ix. 31.
8. „ 1 Thess. i. ; Phil. iii. 20 ; Col. ii.
5 ; 1 Cor. v. ; 2 Cor. xi. 2 ;
Eph. v. 31, 32.
9. „ 1 Cor. i. 2 ; 2 Cor. i. 1 ; Phil. iv.
15 ; Rev. ii., iii.
10. „ 1 Cor. xii. 27 ; 2 Cor. iii. 3.
11. „ Eph. iv. 11, 12, 15, 16 ; Col. ii. 19.
12. „ Eph. iv. 11, 12, 15, 16 ; Col. ii. 19.

13. *See* Acts xx. 32 ; 2 Tim. iii. 14-17 ;
Jude 3 ; 2 Peter iii. 2.
14. „ John xv. 18, 19 ; xvi. 8, 20 ;
xvii. 14-16, 25 ; 1 John ii.
15, 16 ; James iv. 4.
15. „ Romans ii. 7-9.
16. „ 2 Thess. ii. 13, 14.
17. „ John v. 24 ; xvii. 16 ; Eph. ii. 3 ;
John i. 12 ; 1 John iii. 1 ;
Heb. xii. 23.
18. „ John vii. 7 ; 1 John ii. 15-17 ;
iii. 1 ; v. 19 ; Rom. iii. 19.
19. „ Acts xvii. 31 ; Rev. xvii. xviii.
xix. xx. 7-15.
20. „ 1 Thess. iv. 15-17 ; 1 Cor. xv.
51, 52.
21. „ Rev. xix. 6-8 ; xix. 11-20 ; xx.
4-6.
22. „ Rev. xxi. xxii.
- 23.