

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

BY
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DEDICATED TO

*The earth's depressed multitudes
Who, though desirous of deliverance,
Have failed to find The Way;
Who, like prisoners chained with darkness,
Treading an unknown path,
Are giving up in despair—
Perishing through lack of Knowledge!*

FOREWORD

The times of depression through which the whole world is passing have been the theme of countless newspaper editorials and magazine essays. Numerous brochures have been written attempting to explain the cause and the cure of the troubles which have come. Statesmen, Senators, Congressmen, Financiers and great Industrial Leaders have suggested various remedies to end the depression. And more than that, they have inaugurated different financial movements to bring about a change. But up to now everything has failed.

A Christian will ask, "Can the Bible throw light upon the situation? Has the Bible something to say about a way out?" It would not be the Word of God if it were silent on these matters. Inasmuch as the Bible is God's all-sufficient revelation for *all* times and for *all* circumstances—never out of date, but always up-to-date—we find indeed in its blessed pages the light which is now so much needed. Here we

FOREWORD

find the true cause of all depression, and also the one great cure.

The author, a young and consecrated Evangelist, has given us a splendid monograph on the whole question. He leads us back to the Bible and into its infallible truths. The Lord will honor such faithfulness to His Word. Apart from its faithful adherence to God's Truth, the book is well written, and therefore very readable. We commend it to the attention of all Christian believers and to non-Christians as well. May it be mightily used to open the eyes of many.

ARNO C. GAEBELEIN,
Editor of "Our Hope."

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

CHAPTER

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| I. THE | When the circumstances under which the |
| II. EARLY | book has been written, are known, the reader |
| III. A | will at least respect the author's honesty, and |
| IV. THE | his sincere purpose to search diligently for |
| V. M | what his weary fellow-humans may learn to |
| VI. B | the unfailing cure for to-day's depression. |
| VII. S | Surely nothing can be lost by considering the |
| VIII. F | simple presentation of principles that are more |
| IX. T | certainly cherished by a multitude whose opti- |
| X. T | timism is not shaken by the rapid changes |
| XI. T | human events. |
| XII. T | |
| XIII. R | This manuscript has been prepared in various |
| XIV. S | scenes—a small portion in the seclusion of the |
| XV. T | author's study, some in the offices of two leading |
| XVI. D | ing publishers, a few pages in a New York |
| XVII. D | studio while waiting for the scheduled time to |
| | "go on the air", a little on a speeding Pullman |
| | and a large part was written while sitting up |
| | in bed, convalescing from the illness caused by |

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The Cure for Depression

CHAPTER I

THE UNIVERSAL PROBLEM

THE WORLD is depressed. Although certain philosophical gentlemen, who believe that the repetition of a theory establishes it as a fact, are loudly declaring that the "depression" is a thing of the mind, only in our imaginations—it continues. And this depression is world-wide.

The world is discouraged. And some statesmen are "good sports". They declare that "relief" is just over the hill, while their own hearts fail with the irresistible fear that the relief may hide beyond the distant mountains when the summit of the present "hill" is reached. Meanwhile the wayfarers plod wearily on, hoping that world statesmen will not

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

Red revolution will not settle this trouble, though the coffers of the unjustly rich are secured by strong locks. It will take more than high explosives and fanaticism to distribute bread sufficient for all the hungry.

The world is depressed. Young men and fair maidens languish, the eyes of the aged fail with longing, and children droop and die; the cry of the poor rises higher, and thinking men still rack their brains to prescribe relief. When will it come?

CHAPTER II

EARMARKS OF A TRUE PANACEA

METHODS are as varied as the nations of the world. An oriental scheme will work in the Orient, while the same plan may fail utterly in the western world. Moreover, the manner of approach required to secure the good graces of a foreign gentleman, may only arouse the suspicion of an aggressive American.

Some remedies work in the tropics, while the northern clime necessitates different prescriptions. And the man who discovers a cure that succeeds the world over, courts fame and fortune.

Since the "depression" is international, a person of cosmopolitan outlook must devise the cure, or it may fail to be a panacea.

The great swelling words extant on this problem, are turned to irony when tested by a merely human proverb—"The proof of the pud-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

ding is in the eating." The wheels of time grind upon the philosophies of men. Mere theories stick in the mud, but "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again." However, the wheels of time do not crush the Truth to earth, but vain persons do it. Truth is above our plane, so that we must look up to see the Truth. Those who are not subject to sane principles, but have some theory to flaunt as original, are the pirates who tear the Truth from the wings of time and in violence crush this Eternal Treasure to earth.

But Truth is eventually resurrected, and lying notions react against the prevaricators. The One Who is frequently obscured from the sight of humanity by rationalism—Whom men term "The First Great Cause", etc. — He, the Creator of man, is deeply interested in the welfare of mankind. And in the course of events, when things look most hopeless, He gives Truth a resurrection, and places the same on the lips of heralds who are not prejudiced by pride and egotism. Here is Hope — here is Light for Darkness.

EARMARKS OF A TRUE PANACEA

A true panacea is not a new one. In every age-end, depression has overtaken civilization, and the thing that proved to be a panacea in the historic Past, will work now. And this balm for world-distress has well-known earmarks. And these earmarks are principles, which, though hoary with age, are nevertheless the most up-to-date principles in practice to-day.

What you are about to consider with reference to the tell-tale characteristics of a true panacea, may stir your thinking powers anew. These principles may differ radically from your established life-philosophy. But what of that? True *thinkers*, broad-minded and well-balanced, are always eager to consider every side of a question. It is only the narrow-minded egotist who answers a matter before he hears it. The wise man is ready to court what appears to be true, until it is proved untrue.

Now let us turn to history. Many centuries ago there lived a race of peoples known in sacred records as the Canaanitish nations. They flourished in scenes of wealth and un-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

Elimination is the general principle. This is the earmark that opens to our view the rest of the aspects of the panacea for these degenerate days.

By a great Flood, God eliminated from the earth one of the most violent races ever known. By the confusion of tongues at Babel, He eliminated a Red Revolution that would have taken every vestige of peace from the earth. God separated Israel from the nations to eliminate unholy alliances between godly and ungodly—though Israel defiled the separation. And in the fulness of Time, through the incarnation of His Son, God eliminated from reasonable thinking the delusion of “salvation by works”. AND NOW, let us learn from the right source what ELIMINATION is necessary to end today’s horrible depression.

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CHAPTER III

A MIGHTY DEMAND

IF your theory of life does not work, abandon it. Many a strong one has been lured to hopeless ruin through pride and egotism. Pride withholds man from the humility that is necessary to wisdom. For your own good, admit what is true, even if your pride must be nailed to the cross.

Let us examine three radically different pictures, presented to us by three outstanding observers of to-day's humanity. In doing so, let us cast away the veil of preconceived prejudice.

The first, and apparently the most popular of the three, gazes with satisfaction upon the transient, temporal side of life. He sees the maze of amazing inventions—the swift multiplication of labor-saving devices, material comforts, and the all but uncanny advances of science in coping with physical diseases; he is

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Elijah's God revealed to the mistaken prophet an amazing fact that could not be known from Divine Revelation. Before revealing that, however, He informed Elijah that his ministry was at an end, except for the prophecies that he should perform and the messages he should speak. The stirring passage is given in First Kings nineteen. Then the Lord said, "*Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*" This must have amazed the prophet.

Many a good man has been embittered by a lack of knowledge and his self-appointed mission. How deplorable that Elijah was personally acquainted with Micaiah the Imlah! (1 Kings 22: 8). What fellow-workers might have had with a fellow-prophet who also hated!

We often wonder if God finds it necessary to set aside some well-meaning men, or even to bring them home to Himself, because their peculiar occupation with the "mystery of iniquity."

A MIGHTY DEMAND

obscures their visions of the glory that will surely follow the evil day!

The third observer is far from what you anticipate. You have supposed him to be "a middle-of-the-roader" or a fence-sitter. But he is far from that. He is a man who *thinks* far more than he speaks. He observes constantly. Few situations escape his notice, because he is conscious of the unerring guidance of the Divine Person Who dwells within him. He sees the Lord Jesus Christ as the central Person in all history and the most highly exalted Person in all the universe. Having this much clear, other details of this baffling existence fall into their proper place. He is not alarmed by world-wide depression or any other problem that causes the hearts of the mighty to fail with fear.

This third observer is fully aware of "the corruption that is in the world through lust"—religious, moral and political corruption—that no man is capable of measuring, a resistless tide that walls of reform cannot hold back. He is not surprised at the fall of empires or the

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

surmisings of men and the philosophies of life; but these do not satisfy. "The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing."

Many longing souls turn to the glamorous game of gathering gold. How they are thrilled as the bank account increases! They cherish the very thought of that uncertain treasure. Silver is common, but as it increases their love for it is increased. They love abundance, and boast themselves in their possessions; but at last, with wasted souls and wanton hearts they learn the bitter lesson—"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."

Still others turn wildly to "the pleasures of sin" which they "enjoy for a season"; but soon, with weakened bodies and weary souls they stop to think. Each mad revel leaves an aching heart. Though not always admitted by the victims, they who live in pleasure are *dead while they live*—dead to the chiefest, most satisfying joys of life!

A MIGHTY DEMAND

A few favored people possess super-abundant health and vitality coupled with keen, natural minds. Easily they seem to glide from one favored position to another until fame and fortune are achieved. They are thrilled with "the pride of life" for a season. But eventually the devourer overtakes them, and the petals of glory drop from the fading flower! *They seemed so secure!* "Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish."

A few, however, learn the real cause of their unutterable hunger. Some valiant soldier from the mightiest army in the universe breaks through the uncanny strongholds of ignorance and narrow, insane prejudice that bind and blind multitudes. In his hands there is a great Sword, strangely different from the common weapons of earth. This Sword is the Great Book—the One from which our third observer receives his fortitude and poise. It is "the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God". Here the Truth is found; and Truth SATISFIES! And the deepest longings of the spirit of man

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

are satisfied through the Knowledge in the Bible. There the Truth is seen to be a Person. Beyond the possibility of refutation are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6). The *only* Way to Heaven, the Truth as to all things, the Life that is Eternal—these are not mere abstractions, but an Almighty Person! And He is abundantly able to save from the deepest Depression known to man.

With the sweeping aside of mediæval prejudices against the Book of Books, there is a mighty demand for its Truth. The Bible contains the Knowledge that satisfies! Millions are longing for the Message of this Book. In the light of the revelation given to the prophet Elijah, concerning the seven thousand who did not fall in line with their contemporary time-servers, *there are doubtless unobserved millions of people in the world who are ready to accept the satisfying Message contained in the Holy Bible.*

CHAPTER IV

THE FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATION

THE loudest-mouthed apostles in the world are not at all representative of humanity. Great noises do not always indicate power. A model T Ford with a cut-out open will roar along the highway at a speed of 25 miles per hour, while a more powerful car may glide along at 75 almost noiselessly. And such a contrast exists between apostles, false and true.

A prophet in the wilderness beheld spectacular manifestations of nature, when Jehovah passed by. "A great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11, 12). And we learn in

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

the verses that follow that the VOICE was the voice of the LORD God of hosts! Who could be as powerful as He?

The apostles of false, impractical theories are very loud in their present-day boastings. The blatant contentions of modernistic theologians vary in form—pantheism, agnosticism, infidelity, and bald atheism—but such theories are at the very root of to-day's unparalleled depression. And is not this reasonable, that the result should be so?

If you who are fathers were rejected by your children, what would you do? And if your own offspring, who depend for their bread and butter upon your bank roll or your slim salary—if these should deny your very *existence*, how would you treat them to bring them to their senses? *Whether you know it or not*, the most effective way to awaken in them that reprobated consciousness of your existence, would be to CUT OFF THE SUPPLY! Think now, is that true?

Are the dealings of the Living God any less wise than our own? If famine stalks in the

THE FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATION

land inhabited by a God-forgetting, Christ-rejecting people, shall we blame God for showing as much love and wisdom as we would show toward our offspring? Surely He plans according to Great Love.

The people, however, are like sheep. A few leaders control their thinking. Nevertheless, if a true witness appears on the scene, a multitude will hear him gladly. This principle was overwhelmingly proved in the experience of One Who "spake as never man spake"—the Lord Jesus Christ; for "*the common people heard Him gladly*". (Mark 12:37). While He was despised and rejected from the outset by ritualists (the Pharisees) and by modernists (the Sadducees), He was joyfully received by the common people, who compose the staggering majority of mankind. And a casual search of the records will convince you that it was "the rulers of the people" who *led* in the rejection and crucifixion of the Lord of Glory. And these were in a pitiful minority.

Now if nine-tenths of theologians held liberalistic viewpoints, would their views be repre-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

sentative of the views of humanity? BY NO MEANS! On the other hand, if modernism is the only religious concept known to a great mass of people, who have no choice in the matter of their beliefs, who can say that they would not cast such an untenable theory to the winds? We are persuaded that multitudes would forsake the denials and superstitions of religious falsehood, and gladly embrace the Truth, if Truth were declared in no uncertain speech. History proves that this is so.

In the face of the increasing cry for the Water of Life, which alone can quench humanity's great thirst, some action must be taken. If the misinformed multitudes are not told the cause of their thirst, and given the Water of God's Word to satisfy it, there will be such a revolt of terror that the streets of our materialistic Utopia will run with the blood of the blind and their leaders!

If Almighty God remains true to His own Word, there can be no relief from to-day's steadily increasing depression unless some outstanding errors are eliminated from our "reli-

THE FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATION

gious" world. These errors are well known. We hear them from microphone, pulpit, and professorial chair, and read them in periodicals and text-books. They are paraded before the people as truths, as "the assured results of scholarship", and under such fair, high-sounding titles as "rationalism", "liberalism" and "modernism". Any man who still has power to think clearly can easily see that their wordy hypotheses about life are fraught with difficulties and unsound principles too evident to be denied.

Staggering world-facts are denied by these errorists. While nations stumble and fall in depths of perplexity, modernism declares that the same nations are "finding themselves". While India becomes increasingly chaotic, a leading modernist says, "India is being slowly prepared to take her place among the nations." While China struggles in the death-throes of her national existence, the same false prophet declares, "China...reveals the fathomless depths of her vigor and her keen expectation of a better future." He views the unspeakable

CHAPTER V

MORE ELIMINATIONS AND THE ELIMINATOR

THERE is but one way to gauge our actual calibre. We may hold a certain opinion concerning ourselves; but our minds are not courts of judgment. It is natural for us to think highly of ourselves, and to regard our ways as right. But we are like the man who could not see the forest for the trees. We are too close to ourselves to get a good view of ourselves.

Universally this principle is true. Things that men condemn unsparingly in others, they cherish in themselves. From this inherent falsehood springs another — one that is very common — “What is one man’s meat is another man’s poison.” This may be partially true, but half-truths are the most dangerous form of error. Through such common sophistry, many strong ones have fallen.

MORE ELIMINATIONS AND THE ELIMINATOR

There is a diabolical principle back of every half-truth and every adage based upon human prejudice. The Revealer of secrets made this known to a wise king of old: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits." (Prov. 16: 2). And this is beyond refutation.

Superstition plays a tremendous part in the order of human affairs, and the specific actions of individuals, actions that spring from a cosmic world-system that exerts an influence so intricate and baffling that the intrusions of full exposure are side-tracked. The veil of mystery that enshrouds the hidden motives of men, is not easily torn aside. It is therefore essential to our welfare that a Sovereign Hand should lead us through all the adventurous chapters of our lives.

Our fragmentary message will not permit the dissection of many skeletons in the boneyard of ecclesiasticism. And that is such a gruesome task, with negative results, that we prefer to turn to more cheerful and positive occupation.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

troubled persons in the world can become possessors of Perfect Peace, if they will receive the secret of obtaining that Peace. And some future day, world depression will end, and that conclusively. This is an absolute certainty.

The eliminations that should follow the first step, are of the type that would affect a multitude of things—fruits of the primal cause of depression. These fruits are so numerous and so varied that it would be impossible to name them all. If you can think of anything in life that exists with no purpose, it is included in the necessary eliminations. And to this we must add that anything with a *destructive* purpose must also be eliminated.

But where is that Person in Whom reposes the fulness of wisdom and patience and strength, Who *alone* can execute this complex task of elimination? Who is the ELIMINATOR? Surely if there be such a Person in the universe, every one concerned about deliverance from depression will desire to make His acquaintance!

MORE ELIMINATIONS AND THE ELIMINATOR

It is our sincere purpose to acquaint every depressed person with the One Who alone can deliver. He is the One Person in history who has commanded more attention than any other. He is wiser than Solomon, mightier than Samson, and richer than Cræsus; as a Friend He never fails, as an Advocate He never loses a case, and as the Judge He cannot err, nor can His sentence ever be reversed or revoked. He is fairer than the children of men, and His fame cannot be surpassed by any other. He has more friends than any one else in the universe, and His enemies are numberless. No one can bear a neutral relation to Him. No person who has honestly sought to know Him, has ever been disappointed. He became poor to make us rich, He died to save us from Death, and because He lives we who trust in Him shall inherit Eternal Glory! He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel and the Redeemer of Jew and Gentile.

But since there is so much controversy about this wonderful Person, how can we be sure that He is able to lead us out of world depres-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

ity, German determination, Italian impulsiveness, Russian gullibility, Spanish sensuousness, Turkish terror, Oriental mysticism, and Occidental materialism, are evidences that peoples and nations are separated by lines marked out by a Master Intelligence. And it would be possible to produce a vast array of proofs concerning the diversities of national temperament. But why should we *exhaust* anyone with an "*exhaustive*" review of facts? They are open to individual exploration.

The Master Intelligence who set the bounds of the nations, is a Person. And that Person is commonly called Master, by enemies as well as by friends. One declaration remains a fact whether disregarded or acknowledged by the human race. It is a Biblical statement, "*The Head of every man is Christ*" (1 Cor. 11:3). He who chooses Christ is appointed to the most desired realm in the universe; while he who refuses Him is appointed to the most dreaded region in existence. Christ is the Master of every man's fate. Is He the Captain of your soul? If not, you will be dashed in

pieces on the rocks of Destruction. And Destruction is NOT annihilation! When a thing is *destroyed* the pieces are left. A *destroyed* house is a broken house. Destruction of the soul is the breaking up of every vestige of joy in man, and man's intelligence will keenly appreciate the eternal anguish that will fill the place where Joy would have been, if he had chosen Christ. A man builds either for Time or for Eternity. Egoistic builders reject "the Head Stone." He who falls "upon that Stone shall be broken"—broken in heart, and saved for Eternity. Fall upon Him, and stay there, ere the whirlwind sweeps you away! That Stone will fall upon all who do not fall upon Him, and "on whomsoever It shall fall, It will grind him to powder" (Luke 10:17,18). Better to be broken **HERE** than hereafter! The unspeakably delightful Haven awaits all who trust in "the Captain of their Salvation" (Heb. 2:10).

Divided nations can be united only by the One Who divided them. Divinely appointed bounds cannot be removed by human hands. Pride prevents world-statesmen from the ac-

CHAPTER VII

STATE BARRIERS AND PROVINCIALISMS

DIVISION is everywhere manifest. The world is divided into countries, countries are subdivided into states or provinces, states into counties, counties into townships, townships into boroughs or villages; and then wards, families and individuals follow. And could we not go on to infinity? Individual persons are divided into opinions; and most human minds are discordant with contradictions and diversities of opinion. Surely division is characteristic of humanity.

State Governors have a dispute about a toll bridge. To settle their difference, they call out their troops to do it by force. Both Governors win, because they are paid with bribes before the troops are called out. The one who gains the desired point may get a bonus, but both are winners financially. They are "friends" afterward.

STATE BARRIERS AND PROVINCIALISMS

Easy-going southerners are sometimes secretly despised by vigorous northerners, who in turn are envied by backward Orientals because of stirring advances in civilization, if the northerner is a native of the Occident. When the native New Yorker leaves the metropolis for a visit to a place as near as Pennsylvania, he is amused by colloquialisms in the language he hears; while the Pennsylvanian smiles inwardly upon hearing the visitor pronounce York, "Yawk"! Some southern gentlemen are said to roll their socks down on their oxfords, which if the tidy northerner should assay to do, he would be greatly embarrassed.

Some people are hard-boiled and some are soft and gushy; some are even-tempered and some are ill-tempered. The varied colors in the flower-garden of humanity serve to relieve the monotony; but some who are dissatisfied with their particular shade, use cosmetics to effect a change. High-brows frown upon low-brows, and the latter use high explosives and machine-guns to retaliate. Some folks are blessed with warm, generous hearts, while

CHAPTER VIII

FANCIES OF THE HUMAN INTELLECT

EXPERIENCE proves that there are many thoughts in the human mind that are superficial and impractical. Man by nature prefers to await the "Muse", instead of digging for facts. If the bulk of men's writings and speeches were compared with the existing array of facts concerning life, they would be seen as products of the minds of dreamers.

Our capacity for dreaming I suppose is a God-given thing. But dreams should not be offered to humanity as facts. Indolent persons, however, seem to have a desire to hide their lack of ambition; so they declare their dreams as facts. A certain class of ministers of the "gospel", who have jobs to hold, find it very difficult to pump enough true knowledge from their mental cisterns to produce two vital sermons each week, so they *dream*. Some think their dreams are "thrilling". They are surely

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fascinating to people who are not acquainted with facts. But the sad feature of this dream-preaching, is, that the effect upon the hearers is negative.

The setting is "lovely". The people gather in a beautifully garnished temple, called a "church". The surroundings are psychologically arranged to produce a religious feeling. The stained glass, mosaics, carvings, music, and the ritual, all combine to work up a "spirit of worship". When the service has progressed to the point where the minister presents his sermonette, the desired psychological effect is produced. Then, with fair words the preacher gives forth his "lovely sermon", and pronounces a benediction upon an audience hushed with wonder. They are mystified — they wonder what he was really "driving at". He presents his own dreamy speculations instead of the Word of the Living God. And God warns us against such prophets (Jer. 23: 16, 17).

"The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully. What is the chaff

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

rible of all. When the spirit of man becomes inane to the delights sent from the throne of God, he is surely in a deplorable condition. This, however, is the state of unregenerate mankind. Unsavoured souls are senseless to the greatest joys in life. The Lord Jesus Christ alone can save the soul, fill the void, and sensitize man's whole being to the "fulness of Joy" in His Presence and to the Pleasures at His right hand! (Psalms 16: 11).

Once-born souls are egoistic, walking "in the vanity of their mind" (Eph. 4: 17), and with darkened understanding they eagerly pursue the fancies of the human intellect; and their *depression* will deepen until they turn to The Great Physician of the soul.

The cure for this mental depression existing because of the attempt to live by dream-chaff instead of living by "every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"—the only cure—is found in Regeneration through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the personal Substitute for sinners who walk "in the vanity of their mind". His precious Blood was shed for

FANCIES OF THE HUMAN INTELLECT

the remission of sin — God the Father “hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor. 5: 21).

Men die without the Word of God. No one lives as well here without the Word, and it is impossible to live hereafter without receiving the Living Word here, before passing to the Hereafter.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

standards are set, and youth is perplexed. Evolution and other unproved hypotheses are just so much garbled verbiage and verbal garbage. They fill the mind with nothingness. Who has ever profited by such vaporings, or turned them into practical use? It is a mild designation to call them "idle words". And mental *depression* is caused by idle words and thoughts.

The average person desiring an education is greatly awed by the high sounding pretensions of certain modern "standard-setters." Many feel that they must take the advice of their "intellectual superiors" and include every subject specified in the curriculum. To earn degrees they sit and vex their souls listening many precious hours to the pomposity and verbosity of "learn-ed" professors. And when the course is ended, when degrees are won, and the graduate is a nervous wreck through the all-too-heavy program, what is there of all the acquired learning *that can actually be used?* And if much of the knowledge has no practical value, can it possibly be of any *cultural* benefit? On the contrary, superficial learning dwarfs the

mental faculties and makes the victim an awkward misfit in real life.

Graceful living cannot be acquired in educational halls, but true knowledge is indispensable. The most graceful persons in the world are those who are in closest touch with their Creator, who regard the Knowledge of Him as the most valuable asset they could possess. Arrogance shuts the portals to knowledge, and ends in ignorance. The arrogant disregard of "the beginning of knowledge" drives man into the barren places of speculation and uncertainty. And when a man is not sure of anything, he is the most forlorn creature imaginable. He despairs of his life and loses sight of the reason for his existence.

Since many of us know by actual and unmistakable experience that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge", we know also that we shall be rated as "fools" if we disregard that true *Beginning*. (Prov. 1:7). Notwithstanding the possession of the knowledge of this irrefutable fact, many proud mortals despise this way. It remains, however, the only True Beginning of True Knowledge. And with

the added light on the subject—the Revelation from God known as the New Testament, we perceive that in the Lord Jesus Christ “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col. 2: 3). If He, then, is the Treasury of Wisdom and Knowledge, what a gross fool is mortal man to refuse the Key of Knowledge! And that Key is the acceptance of the Salvation which He purchased for man with the infinite price of His own Blood. The secret of being “in Christ” is unquestionably the Key of Knowledge.

Nineteen centuries ago certain men were accused of taking away “the key of knowledge” (Luke 11: 52). An acquaintance with their method of taking away the Key, is a striking confirmation of the fact that human nature is not passing through an evolutionary change. Men are still the same. In the sophistries used by modern educators, man is not one whit superior to his ancestors. The Jewish lawyers of 30 A.D. used the fallacious reasoning of their fathers to make “the commandment of God of none effect” (Mat. 15: 6). And surely a comparison with to-day’s ultra-fallacious liberalistic

THE PROBLEM OF TRUE EDUCATION

reasoning will convince the casual observer that man is inferior to his "brute" ancestors. Now they take away the Key of Knowledge by bold denials of the Truth!

It appears that the foremost desire of life's beginners, is to succeed. Everyone has the right to expect training that can be used—equipment practical enough to earn bread and butter at least. Those who care at all about success in life should eye modern sophists with much suspicion. Much depends upon the right kind of a start in education, for "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Mat. 4:4). And "beware lest any man spoil you through PHILOSOPHY AND VAIN DECEIT, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col. 2:8). Then let anyone try to make a success that brings satisfaction, after being so spoiled! Their failure is sure, and it plunges them into great depression.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

to take. Religions testify that the most desired thing beyond this life is a blissful, eternal home. Few, very few, desire the oblivion of annihilation—just a few fanatics, agnostics, atheists! Most people hope to get to Heaven; and the greatest proof of the existence of Heaven is man's inherent and unutterable longing for that Place of ultimate satisfaction. But religion will never avail to get anyone to Heaven. There is One Way—the Lord Jesus Christ, Who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6). Christianity is not a religion, but a Revelation of THE TRUTH! Religions are founded upon the dreams and religiosity of a religious world. Christianity is not such, but *clear Truth!*

To the "man under the sun" money seems to answer all things. Money will buy some of the passing thrills of this life; but there is a vacancy in the soul of man that cannot be filled by anything that money can purchase. Pleasure may divert the attention of wanderers from their real need, but when they pause in the whirl of life's fascinations long enough to

THE SOCIAL SUPERIORITY COMPLEX

think, they are conscious of an unsatisfied longing.

Man was created with a vast capacity for pleasure—vaster indeed than earth's delights can fill. We give our children toys to play with, to pass away pleasantly their little moments that seem so long to them. And what a delight to them oftentimes is the simplest little thing! A child may play with a spool and a string for hours. And how much like children most of us are, in that respect! Surely, when we pause to think of some of the things that fascinate grown men and women, most of us are just overgrown children. The boy puts one knee in the coaster wagon and pushes up and down the street, arriving at no particular destination; and the grown man gets in his automobile and drives hither and thither, with no specific place in mind, for the same reason that the boy pushes the coaster wagon. The underlying motive is, to satisfy the inherent restlessness in the human heart.

Professional men are often more restless than day-laborers. The more a man learns of

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

unspeakable capacity for the pleasures that beggar description. A great king of old was intimately acquainted with That One, and he addressed Him in exultation, "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"! (Psalms 16: 11). And in His presence I am satisfied! He Who was the Lord of King David, is my Lord also. And He abundantly satisfies. Millions of souls have been satisfied by Him, in every social position on earth—from the king on the throne to the maid-servant behind the mill.

This wonderful Person Who satisfies me, came to earth in humiliation nineteen centuries ago and died on Calvary's Cross of shame. In His death is Satisfaction, because it satisfied our Creator's righteous demands; and in His life there is Liberty, for He lives to intercede for fallible man. His name is the Lord Jesus Christ; and "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4: 12). He is mighty to save from DEPRESSION. He first saves the soul of man from the *second death's Eternal Depression*, by means of the *second birth* (John

THE SOCIAL SUPERIORITY COMPLEX

3:7, 16, 18). Then He delivers these born again ones from the depression of life's many unfortunate circumstances (Hebrews 7:25). This is salvation "to the uttermost"! And whosoever is depressed is in need of such Salvation, regardless of social position and the fancied superiority that attends it.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

The modern religionist is a haughty unbeliever with a showy system of denials of every Christian Doctrine. His religious surgery cuts out the central truths from Scripture. Having visited one of his shrines—a twenty-six-story tower of Babel, called a “church”, erected on one of the picturesque drives of our principal American city at a cost of millions of dollars—I have seen evidences of the use of his religious knife. One sample will suffice. Behind the reredos arch in the chapel, on the horizontal member of a cross, I gazed upon the following emasculated quotation of John 10:9: *“I am the door. By me, if any man enter in, he shall go in and out and find pasture.”* The all-important clause, “he shall be saved”, has been rejected; and the offense of the Cross has ceased. And his “gospel” is likewise emasculated. He holds that man fell upward, and is not in need of Salvation; and so the original Gospel to him is ridiculous.

A MODERNIST — in religion — is one who learns words instead of Truth, “who darkeneth Counsel by words without knowledge”—a hu-

THE RELIGIOSITY COMPLEX

man parrot with a brilliant conglomeration of words so slyly disarranged that his false oratory causes his hearers to forget the Lord Jesus Christ. He freely uses the terms "Jesus", "Master", and even "Christ"; but regards Him as a great Example merely, and not as God, as the Bible declares Him to be. In the last analysis, the "modernist", as he falsely styles himself, is a steward of science, philosophy, psychology, political economy, literature, historic lore, and of many religious ideas, but not a "steward of the Mysteries of God", which any *true Gospel minister* is! The "modernist" is a minister of Satan robed as an angel of light, who causes people to forget the True God by his dreams and vain visions—who points his hearers to *things* instead of to The Lord Jesus Christ: and while trying to hide the knowledge of God, he attempts to hide his own true identity by preaching what sounds mainly fundamental to average hearers; he keeps his atheistic conception of God in the background until he first convinces his flock that it is not necessary after all to believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ in order to be saved; and when

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

Christ's essential Deity is set aside, the rest of the barriers to atheism are swiftly removed from the minds of the modernist's congregation!

The foregoing facts concerning the modernist are mildly expressed! The picture is not in the least overdrawn. He is a hail-fellow-well-met, the prince of deceivers from the human aspect. And there are all shades and kinds of modernists, but at heart they are all unbelievers—unregenerate souls.

Our point would be lost if we should give an exhaustive review of religions. The purpose is to illustrate the principle involved in the religiosity complex. As modernists are so numerous and popular as leaders, it is fitting to give them the honor of the foremost place. But there are two more typical casts of mind that we should review; one is religious; the other, Christian.

These latter both bear the name "Christian." Both are "Fundamental". As modernists are Sadducees, one of these bears the stamp of Pharisaism. As to form, he is exact; he truly

THE RELIGIOSITY COMPLEX

holds to "a form of godliness", which modernism does not. Modernism is a form of *godlessness*. But this first fundamentalist is not a ritualist. He professes freedom from exaggerated ritualism, although he likes a little form. As to doctrine, he is Scriptural in his statements; but when his sermon is over, the hearer is left cold. He manifests spiritual pride in that he will not declare any connection with those who separate from existing denominations. He advises people to stay in their "church" regardless of what is preached there. And thus he fosters spiritual adultery, worldly alliances, and whatever will give him favor with the mixed multitude. He hopes thus to win many—to what? And he wonders why he and his people are *depressed*.

Perplexity increases among many sincere people because of these false fundamentalists, who *seem* so much like the true. True Fundamentalists are known by their fruits (1 John 4:6-21; 2 Cor. 6:4-10, 14-18).

CHAPTER XII

THE NEUTRALITY DELUSION

INDIFFERENTISTS abound. Many take what they call a neutral position when called to face a question that requires the courage of conviction, and a decision so definite that it places them on one side or another. Mankind has been classified as "good, bad, and indifferent", and most people fall into the last of the three classes.

Occasionally we hear of a man who becomes a hermit. He thinks that he can live a life of complete seclusion, and, if he does not molest anyone, he supposes that his way will not affect other lives. But his silent example has its sure influence. He may impress others that life is not worth living; and at the least he teaches selfishness and lack of human responsibility. And only a few of life's many hermits live in caves and isolated cabins.

Life's great Book informs us that "none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to him-

THE NEUTRALITY DELUSION

self." (Rom. 14:7). This is universally true. And when a man takes what he is pleased to call a "neutral" position, he deceives himself. Every man knows in his heart which side he takes. He may loudly profess his indifference to the great issues of life, but there is a side which he prefers; and in his heart he takes that side.

If you cannot learn a man's decided prejudices by talking with him, you may learn by his indefiniteness that he is a hypocrite. Many fear the criticism of others, and when popularity is at stake they hedge about, failing to declare their convictions. And all men have convictions, though some appear utterly devoid of them.

The revolutionist, whose words are like the hiss of a serpent, has convictions. And the modern "crooner," who fawns upon the baser affections, and in slithering, lounge-lizard tones, pours his filthy dreams into the itching ears of degenerate and degenerating humanity — he also has convictions. The former is convicted that he will be a hero if he turns

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

the world into a madhouse; and he is right, for only the insane can admire these mentally unbalanced fanatics who would take peace from the earth for their own ill fame! And the latter embraces the demonized conviction that life's most enjoyable thing is the lust of the flesh, upon which he pours his slimy adoration! Alas, who can fathom the depths of iniquity to which souls descend through such convictions!

The people who claim neutrality are depressed because of their hypocrisy. Sin brings its woeful reward, and the insincerity of the compromiser is not the least of sins. The man who flatters me because of the integrity of my position and goes to my enemy and speaks fair and agreeable words to him, is either brainless or a common liar. And the irrevocable command is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." When men disregard the principles that sustain prosperity, the inescapable alternative is *depression*.

A man's attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ, determines his state. The question, "What think ye of Christ?" is one which every

THE NEUTRALITY DELUSION

man must answer. "Whose son is He?" The person who answers "The carpenter's son", "A great teacher", "A good man", "Divine as all men are divine" — is bound for depths of depression from which there is no deliverance. But he who confesses with one of His Apostles, "Thou art THE CHRIST, the Son of the Living God"—has boundless deliverance.

CHAPTER XIII

RESTLESSNESS—THE SPIRIT OF TO-DAY

THE DEVIL has his own way of explaining things. And his explanations seem very plausible. Most men accept his theories without question.

Restlessness is explained as a "good sign"—an indication of progress. When a troubled soul desires rest, the minister of Satan gives no hope of rest. "Your unrest is a sign of a healthy, progressive soul", says he. And with such infernal ministration, hearts continue to ache, and souls choose strangling rather than life. Religious teachers are called upon to explain the doctrines of Truth, and they explain them away. When they call unrest a good thing, heartaches remain. The denial of Hell's unrest does not remove it.

The rising tide of restlessness so evident to-day, reveals man's unsatisfied heart. And this tide will continue to rise until the consummation of this evil age. "There is no peace, saith

my God, to the wicked." (Isa. 57: 21). Man is seeking rest, but not in the right place, and so does not find it.

In the far off long ago a great prophet described the days in which we are living. He designated this as "the time of the end"—God spoke and the prophet recorded, "many shall run to and fro" (Dan. 12:4). Surely a decade or two has witnessed rapid strides in the fulfilment of this prophecy. Travel increases daily, but does not satisfy.

Restlessness is a sign of progress—toward Hell! And this restless tide of humanity will not completely disappear from the earth until it is swept into the everlasting restlessness of the lake of fire. Humanity is on the run, and it looks as though we should get somewhere soon. We are making great progress, but in which direction? It is evident that the majority of people are running down hill, for who could gain such momentum while ascending the heights?

There are happy exceptions in life. Some souls are as serene as the Hope that possesses

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

them. Many a weary heart has been satisfied by answering the call, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Mat. 11:28). The only Shelter in to-day's restless storm of depression, is the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him there is no depression; and to hide in Him is your only Salvation from Depression.

Everybody is busy — so it seems. Unemployment does not quiet this motion-mad race. An uncanny force seems to drive humanity on to its inevitable end. Engagements are the doom of man—he is so much engaged that he has no time for the all-essential things of life. Man's brief span ends all too quickly; and his soul — where does it go? No man has ever refuted the fact of the everlasting consciousness of the spirit of man. He must spend eternity somewhere, either in conscious bliss or in conscious torment. Such facts may irritate, but though they are disregarded by arrogant souls, they remain. And Satan is robbing man of his power of decision by keeping him on the run. Indecision encourages depression.

But not alone are sinners on the run to-day; saints are also involved in much wasted motion. True Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are so busy doing things that they will not allow God to speak to them quietly; He must chastise them severely to get their attention. "The still, small Voice" is not recognized by many in these time-saving, time-wasting days. So there is depression among true Christians, with the individuals who are out of the center of God's directive will. The most unhappy person in the world is a child of God out of the Father's control. The cure is to return!

CHAPTER XIV

SIGNIFICANCE OF LIFE'S DISTRACTIONS

THE human race is distracted. No one will dispute that. Ominous fears lurk in human hearts everywhere. Statesmen are haunted by an indescribable dread of the outcome of to-day's depression, And when one fear seems to be stilled by a promise of peace, other things rise to disquiet the heart.

The creation of man was not a purposeless thing of chance. There is a reason why we are here. Fools philosophize to the contrary, but they cannot rid themselves of that spectre of ultimate failure that hounds the path of all who miss the real purpose of living. The doubter's uncertainty about life is proof that something is required of man, and none but the children of Faith can know what it is.

God is not a myth. Only blind and hopelessly deluded people can receive the vagaries

SIGNIFICANCE OF LIFE'S DISTRACTIONS

of evolution with its consequent rejection of the Supernatural. God is a Person of enduring reality. Of course, it takes a clear, sane mind to receive this fact, and we cannot hope to convince the victims of spiritual insanity of it. The man who is merely "natural", whose fallen nature has not been affected by Supernatural regeneration, whose spirit is still dominated by his soulish nature, is powerless to receive such profound Truth. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2: 14). The only way that the cobwebs of spiritual insanity can be brushed from the human intellect, is through the power of an endless Life. No wonder that the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot SEE the kingdom of God." (John 3: 3). Only the native-born citizens of a country can truly enter into the spirit of its peculiar purpose among the nations. Much more is it so in the indescribable Kingdom of the One whose thoughts are not as man's thoughts.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

Aliens abound; and they are easily recognized by those who know their earmarks. Any one who is hostile to the Truth concerning God and His Kingdom, is an alien. Such self-destroying creatures may arouse an uncomfortable feeling in us by their ignorant scorn, but our true attitude should be one of pity, if we would be known among men as the children of the Highest (Luke 6:35). But we should not permit these aliens to rob us of our legitimate joys.

A well-ordered life, controlled by the perfect will of the Creator, is a stranger to monotony. A desirable succession of varied experiences make such a life so spicy that joy is never lacking. Programs and routines that weary the soul, are not found in the God-planned life. Despite the inroads of severest trial, the joy in the heart of a child of God overbalances it all. To others this unspeakable Joy is not known. And the only way to become a child of God is, "by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26)—the Faith that recognizes Him as the Son of God and **GOD THE SON** — the only Saviour of fallen man.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LIFE'S DISTRACTIONS

But the world has an abundance of joy-killers. And their methods are many and varied, in their efforts to rob the sons of men of all that makes life worth while. The most common method, however, is distraction by substitution. The best things in life are far more delightful than those which are merely good. God's Will for a man is certainly the best for him, and produces enduring happiness. But the devilish thing about human life is, that there is a myriad of "good things" to choose from, and man is devoid of the inherent power to choose the *best*. If, therefore, a man is too arrogant to commit the keeping of his soul unto a faithful Creator, life's many distractions beset him about, and the god of confusion shows him "a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 16: 25). The Adversary robs mankind of the chiefest joys by substituting "good works" for the Will of God.

Many are the victims of life's uncanny distractions. Opportunity knocks at a man's lowly dwelling, and before his wondering eyes,

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

stretching into the dreamy distance, is the golden path to enduring success and boundless joy. His exulting heart is immediately filled with dreams and bright flashes of the plans which he determines to bring swiftly to a definite consummation. He talks with confidential friends about his good fortune; and as he becomes more and more engrossed with the matter, he tells less intimate acquaintances, dropping a word here and another there. As the newness of the things wears off, an occasional fear grips the heart of this fortunate man, lest he should let it slip from his grasp. Then he sets to work with a grim determination to accomplish the task that promises success. But as he works along, a thousand attractions interrupt him. He suddenly becomes amazingly popular. Other promising opportunities loom up before his wondering gaze, and he scarcely knows what to do. Soon the light of that first beloved opportunity grows dim, and he grows a little weary of the seeming monotony that is attached to its accomplishment. Friends clamor for interviews, and many precious hours are wasted. He grieves

SIGNIFICANCE OF LIFE'S DISTRACTIONS

at the delays, but still that host of warm friends presses upon him. Finally a "wise" counsellor comes on the scene with a logical argument and persuades the bewildered man to take another course — to embrace another opportunity, one that promises brighter things—and he consents.

The days pass, then weeks, and months. The newness of the second "opportunity" also wears off, and the monotony of carrying out the plan develops into drudgery. Years slip away. The young man of promise becomes an old man with dying hopes. One by one his admirers forsake him as he descends life's western slope. But the thing that turned his heart to stone, was, to see another take up his first opportunity at the point where he forsook it, and press on to amazing success. An unseen Adversary had robbed him by the art of substitution—and the "good thing" proved to be his undoing.

Since God has created man for *His* pleasure, the ones who do His Will instead of their own will are the possessors of Joy in spite of adversities—delights that endure for ever. But Satan,

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

that Adversary who is not merely an "influence", but a real (though unseen), *personal* Devil, is not content to see man rise to the heights of "joy unspeakable and full of glory"; and so he offers man the alternative of doing many "good works" instead of the Will of God.

Not one of Life's distractions is without significance. Behind every one there is a diabolical genius. And what a world of power is dissipated in these counter-attacks of Satan. As "an angel of light" he appears with a captivating "way that seemeth right", luring many to depths of depression from which there is no deliverance beyond the grave.

CHAPTER XV

THE CURE TESTED IN AN ACTUAL CASE

THE suicide rate rises steadily. In these intense days it is not difficult to trace the cause of some things that strike terror to the heart; and suicide is no exception. Humanity is pressed beyond measure. It is no wild guess when we say that a host of demons—a numberless multitude—is at work in the human race. There is no other way to explain the terrorism extant to-day.

The evolutionary guess is at the bottom of more folly than we realize. Materialism darkens the mind and leaves the victim hopeless. Then when trouble comes, as it surely does in human life, suicide seems an easy way out. If we are only a more highly developed class of animals, and no more than animals, that is true. But there are too many missing links between the highest specimen in the animal kingdom and the lowest type of man. The fact of the Hereafter stares mankind in the face.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

graced the home, and were a measure of satisfaction to the unhappy mother. Although the work of the father was so satisfactory that he was assured of a lifetime position, he was a despiser of the things of God. He persecuted his wife in a most bitter fashion. She was a true Christian, but the cross seemed too heavy to bear. Having no one of like mind with whom she could have fellowship, her heart seemed ready to burst under the awful pressure. If she could have unburdened her heart to some sympathetic fellow-believer, the trial would have been lessened. But she was alone with her cross, and it seemed as though God no longer cared for her. So in her great extremity, desiring some way out, she was planning to take her own life.

In that frenzy that threatens to unbalance the mind, when one is planning suicide, she went to her radio to find a little relief in listening to a musical program. Her letter, which I received after my farewell message in the series of fifteen broadcasts, tells the story vividly.

“About three weeks ago I went to my radio

THE CURE TESTED IN AN ACTUAL CASE

to tune in the U. S. Navy Band. There was something wrong with my radio. I couldn't get one station, so I thought it was an S O S call. I kept on turning the dial and I heard somebody speaking over W R N Y. It was the only station I could get, and I listened to find out who was speaking. To my surprise I heard the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, and a man speaking who had been with Jesus.

"Yesterday at three o'clock I tuned in the same station, and I heard a man over the air say, 'Give us another jazz tune.' This morning I tuned in the same station and heard a man say again, 'Let's have another fox trot.' The glorious Gospel of our Saviour was off the air and the jazz music was on. Let us pray. Prayer changes things. I will send you five dollars every month. I know it isn't much, but it will help. I don't spend money on myself, and I don't put any in the bank.

"One afternoon you were praying for me. You were praying for those who were discouraged. I was sitting beside my radio crying — someone had been very mean to me. The

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

About five months had passed. Two months before the visit, on that clear December afternoon, I had returned to the metropolis to resume the Bible broadcasts, but this time for only one half-hour period each week, on Wednesday afternoon. Her prayers had been partially answered. From a little surplus in my personal funds I had returned to the radio station to speak again on behalf of depressed people. But soon the funds ran out, and I preached another farewell sermon, early in December. The second day after my return home, the following note came from the writer of the previous letters:

“Don’t give up the broadcasting. I will send you the money. Your sister in the Lord,”

(Signed).

Having never met the writer of that note, it would not have been “good business” to have resumed the broadcast on the strength of such a promise. Others had promised and failed. I was grieved for her sake. Her note was the only request I had received. And the strain of the whole matter was too much for me. I

THE CURE TESTED IN AN ACTUAL CASE

was sure of God's will in the matter—I *knew* He desired me to continue the work; but the way was extremely dark—so gloomy indeed that I became ill as a result of the pressure. But the next day brought relief, while I was in bed. This letter tells the story:

“My dear brother in Christ:

“Enclosed you will find a check for \$——. This is my whole life savings. I haven't kept back one penny. I want this money to be used for broadcasting, telling unsaved people about our Saviour; and I know, dear brother, that you are the man that will do it. It would be nice if you could speak from 2 to 3 o'clock. A half hour is so short. . . .”

(Signed).

There was the check—her whole life savings, even to the very cent! The joy of answered prayer, the gratitude to my Lord, the grief at the thought that one Christian should bear such a burden—these mingled feelings overwhelmed me. It seemed like a dream—a check large enough to make up hundreds of dollars for matters that had been deferred, through paying the

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

radio bill with personal funds, and a sufficient balance to continue the broadcast for many weeks to come. To my own heart I could repeat the chiding of my Lord, "O ye of little faith!"

My human side was stirred. Had she acted hastily? Perhaps she would regret giving all, if she were not a well established Christian. So I put the money in the bank for safety, and took a train early the following week to visit her, and offer to return the money, if she had begun to regret her great sacrifice.

* * * * *

As I beheld the joy that shone from that countenance where patient sadness was mingled, I knew the sacrifice was fully purposed. Nevertheless, I offered to return at least part of the gift; but that was out of the question. Then she told how, after the previous week's farewell broadcast, she had knelt at the radio and promised her Lord that she would give every cent of her life savings that others also might be delivered from depression and distress.

THE CURE TESTED IN AN ACTUAL CASE

Then I learned what I had long suspected. She was the one who had been saved from suicide. However, there was another who had also been saved from that dire fate, through the broadcast—one about whom she knew definitely.

The Cure had worked. As I left the beautiful estate, and walked down the pleasant lane between other fair earthly estates, the sun was setting in its December glory. A sense of indescribable peace flooded my soul, as I meditated on these weighty issues of life. And then the hazy realm of my vision was set aflame with the glory of God. This same Cure would work in the lives of earth's depressed multitudes! The Word of Truth that assuaged the grief of that burdened soul, is of sufficient Power to take away every vestige of world depression. But the world must first have the knowledge of this liberating Truth before relief can come. Who will bear the tidings?

CHAPTER XVI

DELIVERANCE FOR DISAPPOINTED YOUTH

IS the youth of to-day happier than the youth of the past generations? Perhaps you should ask them. Surely there is an abundance of gaiety among them. But as I watch the crowds of young people emerging from the day's routine at high school, I study sad faces and listen to forced merriment. Are they really happy?

Less than two decades ago I saw an occasional pretty girl and a handsome boy. Now, as I unconsciously make use of a smattering of physiognomy, I see boys with that pale, drawn, distracted look, or that loose, expressionless appearance; and the girls,—should I refrain from expressing myself?—who can estimate the heartache beneath their forced merriment, or the physical weakness and distress that would be written on their faces if it were not for skilfully arranged cosmetics? Don't misunder-

DELIVERANCE FOR DISAPPOINTED YOUTH

stand me—I am not condemning our youth! It is because of a very deep sympathy with young people and their problems, that I take up this question! What could I gain by condemning them?

Knowing the diabolical forces that are at work to rob our youth of every possibility of success and happiness, I desire to sound an alarm on their behalf. Human beings are created with a capacity for joy so vast that it cannot be estimated. Man's Adversary seeks to fill this void with a counterfeit joy, emphasizing thrills that are illegitimate before God and man. And his chief mediums are modernistic clergymen.

In my possession is a little manual for leaders, called "Young People's Relationships", produced by the Federal Council of Churches. It is written by a man whose "wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." (James 3: 15). It is a manual of modern rot, which, if assimilated by the classes of young people for whom it is intended, will fill their minds with immoral conceptions that take

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

away moral fortitude and make easy victims for these "filthy dreamers" who teach them. It is an established fact that these wretched charlatans seek to demoralize girls especially, to make seduction easier, and fulfil their unchaste desires. Surely "evil men and seducers" are growing "worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13).

When the vile motives of these beasts are established, the castles of Joy are laid waste. Contraceptive devices will not hold back "the wages of Sin" (Rom. 6:23). Many fair maidens have seen their dreams of happiness dashed in pieces before the advances of sex-mad religionists. Balaam taught these things to the daughters of Moab, and many of his modern sons are running "greedily after the error of Balaam for reward" (Jude 11). False teachers first demoralize by their doctrines, and then use their victims to fulfil their lusts, driving them down to Hell.

The Book of Proverbs should be taught to our youth, instead of this demonized literature. By Inspiration of God, King Solomon exposed

DELIVERANCE FOR DISAPPOINTED YOUTH

the sorrows of an unchaste life. Surely every fallen youth can witness to the disappointment in the pleasures of sin. If you place any value upon the abiding joys of life beware of the one who tells you that "stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." (Read Prov. 9: 13-18).

The heart is the seat of the affections. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23). The affections are easily tampered with, and great diligence is required to keep them flowing in safe channels. How much affection is wasted upon the altars of Sin? And when it is wasted there, affection never returns. Eventually the sinner loses the power to fulfil his desires. Senility overtakes him prematurely, and having nothing else to live for, he seeks relief in suicide. The female sinner becomes a physical wreck, and dies in middle life. The prostitution of God-given powers brings remorse from which none can escape.

There is hope, however, even for those who have started a life of sin, if they turn from it

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

as soon as warning comes. But they cannot reach the pinnacle of joy that is for those who remain virtuous. The wounds may be healed, but the scars remain. They have forfeited certain of life's chiefest joys. But it is better to have even a little joy than none at all.

The absolute Cure for disappointed youth is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible presents Him faithfully. Faith in His Shed Blood (Heb. 9: 22) will take away the stains that haunt their souls and cast dark shadows upon their hopes for happiness. Then, "being born again" (1 Pet. 1: 23), even their earthly joys are insured while they set their "affections on things above" (Col. 3: 2).

CHAPTER XVII

DEPRESSION'S END, AND THE ONLY POTENTATE

WORLD PEACE involves a myriad of unspeakable delights. It is beyond our finite comprehension to appreciate the rapture of creation when deliverance truly comes. And the certainty of that wondrous event cannot be refuted. It will come. And because we know this, our optimism is not staggered by to-day's increasing depression.

The Golden Age, expected for many centuries, beheld by wise men and prophets, will surely come. But man cannot usher in that period of blessing. Only the Living God, Who directs the course of the Ages, can bring it in. And He will finish the Work in His own way. Man cannot coerce Him to hasten that Day. He has a plan from which He will not depart; and wise men await His pleasure.

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

As a fever must reach the climax before it breaks, so must this uncanny fever of Iniquity reach its climax before it will be broken. Hatred toward a wise and beneficent Creator is obviously unreasonable. It is spiritual insanity. The oppression of the demon world is the only cause of this unreasoning attitude toward the God of Love. The reason men hate God, is because they do not know Him. To know Him is to love Him (1 John 4:19). But a host of unseen enemies blind every one who is willingly ignorant of the Truth.

In these climaxing days of world events, demon activity becomes more and more pronounced. Heaven is being shaken. The first heaven is the realm of "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). The increasing fierceness of Satan and his emissaries is very evident in the mysterious troubles among the nations of this world. And those troubles are increasing. Statesmen are alarmed, and with good reason. This shaking in the heavenlies will continue until it affects

the planetary heavens, in a great future day (Rev. 6:13). But the third Heaven, where the Throne of God is, cannot be shaken. It will remain for ever!

Blind men have existed from time immemorial. And there are many kinds of them. The most hopelessly blind people, however, are those who will not see the Truth as to the Unseen. Unseen things are more intensely real than things that are visible to the natural eye. It is established Truth that "the things that are seen are temporal; but the things that are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18). And the unseen personalities in the universe play a more active part in world affairs than is usually imagined.

Any unbiased traveler is aware of a change in the times. Uncanny influences are at work in the modern mind. Most people talk about the times, but who can *interpret* the drift of to-day's stirring developments? God has declared what would prevail in the days immediately preceding the greatest Change of all Time. God cannot lie. But man's opinion fre-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

quently challenges the veracity of God's declarations.

All who are prejudiced in favor of Truth against modern "philosophy and vain deceit", are more than delighted when the relentless wheels of Time crush the serpent of godless theory. God is never mistaken; and before the Holy Bible all "profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" are sure to fall.

Many "moderns" are graphically described in the "Second" Epistles. Beginning with 2 Peter 3:3, we are informed of certain modern clergymen, who are designated as scoffers. The exact time of their appearance on the stage of history is specified—"in the last days". Their inclinations are described—"walking after their own lusts". And that expression describes not only the general inclination, but also the actual *walk* of the majority of these moderns, as their conduct proves. A casual glance at church notes in any newspaper reveals the "banquetings" of 1 Peter 4:3, and the "revellings" and frequent "abominable idol-

atries" will not escape the notice of thoughtful readers.

So they walk "after their own lusts"—follow *their own* thoughts instead of the Lord's! And when we proclaim the prophetic evidences of the near Return of our Lord Jesus Christ, you can easily catch the sarcasm in their query: "Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:4).

Only their "willing (or, wilful) ignorance" mentioned in verse 5, could inspire a statement so untrue to facts. Even a meagre knowledge of the Past will convince any honest person that all things do NOT continue as they were from the beginning of the creation!

The changes in world events will become more intensified as humanity nears the climax of Gentile misrule. Injustices will increase among the nations, "and unto the end wars and desolations are determined" (Dan. 9 : 26; Mat. 24: 7). Many unpleasant disturbances

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

must take place in the world, until iniquity comes to an end.

A great elimination must be brought about in world affairs, to end this wearisome depression. Iniquity must be eliminated. But who will accomplish the task? The man who is able to do it is evidently not in the world now. Lawlessness abounds, and does not *decrease*. It will reach the climax, very soon, perhaps; and then the Almighty Potentate will come to earth "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (read 2 Thes. 1: 7-10).

Creation has been groaning for thousands of years under an abnormal strain. It is the incalculable weight of the burden of sin and its curse. And the groans on earth are increasing. Thousands of people are daily being engulfed in sorrows from which they see no deliverance. The suicide rate increases because of this despair, and many thousands yearly are the victims of death by the violence of demonized creatures in human form. Modernistic preach-

DEPRESSION'S END, AND THE ONLY POTENTATE

ers are spreading salve on humanity's sores, but the disease is in the blood. Political fanatics are inoculating the victims with the revolutionary vagaries of Communism, but the effect is to *kill* instead of *cure*.

Sensible people are disregarding these quack doctors, and are turning to the Reasonable Cure. Sin has a sickening effect upon the whole being: the body is weakened so easily that man is scarcely aware of it, because of the pleasing sensations produced by the opiates of the Destroyer; the soul is degraded, and the powers of the soul which are expressed in the higher and finer affections, are destroyed—so we are besought as strangers and pilgrims to “abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2: 11); and the spirit of man—that indefinable part of the being which is capable of God-consciousness—is dragged down to the level of the ruined soul. And surely the whole being is sick (Isa. 1: 5, 6). Only the Word of God has power to separate the spirit from the soul (Heb. 4: 12), and deliver the mind of man from that darkened, “natural”

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

state (1 Cor. 2: 14). Therefore, the *Reasonable Cure*—and the only reasonable one—is found in the redeeming principle declared by the Word of Truth, in Isa. 1: 18, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” This is the *Cure* for individuals; and if a world of individuals would accept this, the world would be saved from depression. The details of the Cure may be studied in the revelation of Redemption, as set forth in the New Testament (Heb. 9: 22; Eph. 1: 7; Rom. 10: 9, 10; John 5: 24; Eph. 2: 8, 9; 2 Cor. 4: 6). Many other passages could be given, but if these are studied in the order in which we have given them, the way of deliverance from *all depression* will be made clear to all who sincerely desire to know the Way. Of all who come to Christ, not one will be turned away, for He declares in John 6: 37, “Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.” And John 10: 27, 28 gives the assurance that He knows His own and will guard them for ever.

DEPRESSION'S END, AND THE ONLY POTENTATE

But few seem to take advantage of the Cure; and because the great mass of humanity refuses to take God's Way, He must end depression in another way. And that way is Judgment. Humanity's appendix must be removed or human civilization will die a terrible death. If man will not take the Better Way, he *must take the worse*. God is not willing to destroy the arrogant (2 Pet. 3: 9), but He *must* do it to end the awful depression caused by the increasing rejection of His Son. The verse that follows that gracious statement, assures man of the certainty of Judgment (2 Pet. 3: 10)—“But the day of the Lord will come”. Yes, the Day *will come*, and who can prevent it? Surely not the pacifistic, modernistic rejecters of God's Way of deliverance! And the rest of us would not try to prevent it. We pray earnestly that the Only Deliverer will soon cause earth's groans to cease, and set up His own Righteous Kingdom in His *own way!*

Yes, the Golden Age is coming! Those who have obeyed the Gospel have a most optimistic prospect for the future. Even our present de-

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

pression will fade into the most minute insignificance when we are settled in the Truth as to what is before us! We cannot truthfully say *perhaps* it will come; for we *know* it will surely come. As to the time of that great Event, we may say, *perhaps*, soon! And the present political, commercial, moral and religious manifestations speak in no uncertain terms, that it must come *very soon!* Second Thessalonians chapter two, and Second Timothy three, help identify the times in which we are privileged to live. Privileged? Yes, many, many saints—since the days of the Apostle Paul—have awaited *The Event* which may take place at any moment *in days like these!* In 1 Cor. 15:51-53 and in 1 Thes. 4:13-18, we find the revelation of the most rapturous moment for which any generation has ever waited. What could be more optimistic than a view of such positive deliverance from every vestige of depression? But it is for those *only* who accept the terms of deliverance set forth in the Gospel of *Blood Redemption* through the Lord Jesus Christ!

Then, and not before, the *cause of depression* will be removed from the earth in God's own

way—through the mighty apocalyptic judgments foretold in the last book of the Bible. The One Who appeared on earth nineteen centuries ago as the meek and lowly Lamb of God, to take away the sin of the world (Heb. 9: 26; John 1: 29); Who has entered “into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” who are saved (Heb. 9: 24), will surely *appear again* on earth the Second Time for a different purpose, entirely apart from the sin question (Heb. 9: 28) which He settled long ago. Then it will be as Judge that He will appear. In the last reference there are two inferences: He will appear to the Joy of Believers (1 John 3: 2), and also to Israel, the Messiah Who will bring their long expected joy (Isa. 66: 5). He—The Lord Jesus Christ—will come to judge. Somewhere in the air He will gather His Body the Church before His Bema Throne, to Judge and Reward the saints (2 Cor. 5: 10); but He will not *condemn* a single one there (Rom. 8: 1; John 5: 24). That event is imminent. Then a prophetic “week” (Dan. 9: 27 — *heptad*, a generic term — “a seven of years”) will intervene, after which the Lord

THE CURE FOR DEPRESSION

Jesus Christ will come to earth with His Church (Rev. 19: 11-21), and execute Judgment in Righteousness. The nations will be gathered before His Glory Throne here on earth, to be judged (Mat. 25: 31-46). Then "the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalms 37: 11). Judgment will come—God will bring it; and with judgment, *depression's end* will also come! Things are in a wretched state now; but Light is shed upon our pilgrim pathway: "The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged." (Ps. 37: 32, 33).

The Day is "appointed", and also the Man (Acts 17: 31). And *that* Man came the *first time* as "a Man of sorrows" (Isa. 53: 3); but He will *come again* as "the Lion of the tribe of Juda" (Rev. 5: 5) to establish his rightful Authority. He is the earth's only True King. Truly, as one said, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown"; but most of earth's crowns have been cast aside, and many of the thrones have been cast down. The True King is not

DEPRESSION'S END, AND THE ONLY POTENTATE

unhappy, and "in His Times He shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"! All who trust in Him are partakers of His Joy, and their depressions will soon be everlastingly ended.

AFTERWORD

The writings of men leave the reader hungry or dissatisfied. *Only one Book satisfies*—The Bible. But the reader wonders how to get a better knowledge of That Book. It is the Book that baffles study, and no man has ever been able to give an exhaustive explanation of It. What then shall be done for man's unutterable hunger?

Gifts have been given to that section of humanity which has been regenerated (Eph. 4: 8-16). The Great Teacher gives instruction through human channels. If this truth is regarded, the hungry will be satisfied. Those who desire to follow this line of study will be interested to know that the author of this book is the Evangelistic Editor of the monthly magazine "Our Hope", of which Dr. A. C. Gaebelain is the Editor-in-chief. A copy of this monthly periodical will be mailed without charge to those writing to A. C. Gaebelain, Inc., 456 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Many books concerning the Truth of Scripture may be secured from the publishers of this book, as well as from the aforementioned.