

THE ANSWER

"He shall not fail ... till he have set judgment in the earth." Isaiah 42:4.

Ours is a bewildered world. Man gropes his way through mist and fog. Problems confront him on every hand, for which he vainly seeks solution. Vexing questions assail him, for which he finds no answer. He fails in his quest because he seeks in the wrong direction. There is but one answer to his needs, to the whole world's needs; and that is Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who is at the right hand of the Father, from whence He shall "appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

We are hearing much about failure: political failure, social failure, and religious failure. Without God, man is always a failure. When men turn from Him who is the Fountain of Living Water, there is no water. All other fountains are failing fountains. All other cisterns are broken cisterns that can hold no water.

When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world, he declared Him to be equal to all its needs; and Jesus has lived up to that introduction. Everything else may go to pieces, but He shall not fail. His Person will not fail. Hebrews 13:8. He is the same kind, considerate, loving, long-suffering, faithful and forgiving Saviour as He was when He was upon the earth. His Promises will not fail. There is a promise for every condition and circumstance in life. His Power will not fail. His Provision will not fail. When we are where the Lord wants us, and doing what He bids us, He will provide for us.

There is but one panacea for this world's ills, and that is Christ crucified, risen, and coming again. There is but one answer to humanity's needs, and that answer is Christ. There has never been a time since the tragedy in Eden that, in what is termed "the world," Satan has not been its god. It was through the old deceiver that sin entered into the world; and he is deceiving still. Through political deception, mad men went forth to rape the world. Only out of the politics of despotism could have come that tyranny which refused to recognize the sovereignty of God and the rights of man, that resulted in the disaster of war which afflicted the whole world.

Today this world faces anew the contest between paganism and Christianity, the satanic effort of chaos to supplant Christian order. Back of all this are the moral and religious deceptions that have captured so much of present-day thinking and out of which have grown the God-defying, man-glorifying spirit which has put Christianity on the defensive against a brutal and sensual materialism that is undertaking to overrun the world.

While there is chaotic thinking, chaotic action will follow. The "new philosophy" — which is not new at all but is as old as paganism whose child it is — would turn sin into saintliness and make us believe all is right that popular sentiment decrees, no matter how inherently wrong it is. This philosophy claims that what is wrong in one generation is right in another generation, according to the sentiment of the times.

Out of this vain philosophy has come the depraved doctrine of humanism, the gist of which is: "Follow your natural inclinations and do as you please. Be your own moralist and let the code of Christian morality go hang." Out of this doctrine of demons has grown a code of morals that is our civilization's shame. Sin is sin, no matter how dressed up, and "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

I. Jesus Christ Is The ONE Answer For A Time Like This.

He is the answer to the world's need politically, morally, socially, economically, and religiously; the Christ of the virgin birth, the victorious life, risen from the

dead and exalted at the Father's right hand, to whom is given all power in heaven and on earth. For humanity's ills He is the panacea.

1. Three things sum up the world's need and find their answer in Christ Jesus.

(1) The World needs a Teacher.

Call the roll of the great teachers of all time, and Jesus Christ overtops the list. When His enemies undertook to trap Him in His words, seeking wherewith to accuse Him, they acknowledged their defeat, saying: "Never man spake like this man."

Their verdict is the verdict of history. If His teachings were accepted, every question that troubles mankind would be settled; every problem solved. In the political worlds, wars would cease, His golden rule put into practice would settle all race questions, stop class seeking vantage against class, etc. The world's philosophy is, "Every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost." Out of that false concept of life grows strife and conflict that disrupt society and set nation against nation, and man against man. Instead of peace there is strife, and instead of constructiveness there is confusion, and instead of plenty there are want and famine.

Weigh Christ's teachings in the balances of history, and they are never found wanting. What unspeakable folly for men to try to get rid of Jesus Christ! "He shall not fail." He will "set judgment in the earth." He and His holy religion constitute the only savory influence and preserving power civilization has.

The apostles of the modern paganism, after their attempt to rob the world of the Christian faith, offer nothing in its place. They lead their followers into a blind alley and leave them there. They take away the hungry man's bread and give him a stone. Men not only need the teachings of Jesus; they cannot live as they ought without them.

(2) The World needs an Example.

Call the roll of history's great, and none can measure up to Him. His equal is not to be found in Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Madam Blavatsky, or Mrs. Eddy, nor in any of the propagandists of new religions ancient or modern. Not one of them can stand close inspection. Even a pagan governor could not find any fault in Christ. Friend and foe proclaim Him the one and only model.

In no word Jesus ever spoke, or step He ever took, or move He ever made, can mankind go wrong in following Him. Civilization's ill-fitting clothes are such because the cloth has been cut by the wrong pattern. Men in blindness may see in the Man of Galilee a failure. God in His wisdom has declared that "He shall not fail." Richard Watson Gilder said:

If Jesus Christ is a man, --
And only a man, -- I say
That of all mankind I cleave to Him,
And to Him will I cleave away.

If Jesus Christ is a God, --
And the only God, -- I swear
I will follow Him through heaven and hell,
The earth, the sea, and the air!

(3) The World needs a Saviour.

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." That sin is here, there is no room for argument. It is here in all its ugliness

and deadliness, in spite of the polite phrases invented by man to explain it away. In spite of the wrecking of homes, destroying of youth, debauchery and crime, they say there is nothing in it that is bad enough to be alarmed about.

This smoothing-over-sin disposition of our times is the fruit of humanism that has developed into a cult. In their self-sufficiency, men have come to feel that they have no particular need for God; that the good life is not dependent upon the one called Jesus. The result is a world of moral chaos. Redemption by the blood of Christ is sin's only remedy. A Church house in Norway has a lamb carved in marble on its steeple. While working on that steeple a workman fell. A flock of sheep was passing, and the workman fell on a young sheep. It was crushed to death, but his life was saved. Our sins fell on Jesus, the Lamb of God. He was crushed to death, but by His death we are saved.

II. Sin Plunged The Race Into The Need That Brought Jesus Into The World.

1. There is no minimizing God's attitude toward sin.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "The wages of sin is death." God will judge sin. ".... Behold the Judge standeth before the door." He will punish sin.

Frequently in travelling from one country to another, inspectors will board the train and inquire if the travellers have any contraband. Then they go through the baggage to see if the travellers are in the clear. Sin is not carried into heaven. When you come to the crossing, will you be in the clear?

2. We need to be on guard against the insidiousness of sin.

Stanley told of the Wambute dwarfs in Africa, a deadly, dreaded, warlike tribe. They fought with poisoned arrows that would kill an elephant, let alone a man, and the poison was made from honey. Well may we beware of the honeyed sweetness of sin! It sings with the voice of the sucking dove, while it strikes with the poison of the adder. It is like the vampire that fans the sleeping victim with its wings while it sucks away his blood. It is like the Arab's camel; first its nose is in the tent and then its whole body.

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

3. There is the certainty of punishment for sin.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." The law is irrevocable. The reaping is in kind of the sowing, and in greater quantity than the sowing.

III. Every Man's Need Is Voiced In the Exhortation Of John The Baptist: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

1. To behold Him is to love Him.

Anything less than our love is an insult to the love wherewith He has loved us. Love is the only coin with which we can repay love. How can a son repay his mother for going down into the shadows to give him life; for caring for his infant days of helplessness; for bearing with his faults and loving him back from his wanderings, save by the bestowal of his own love upon her? We preach the gospel to get lost souls to see the Saviour and fall in love with Him. May the Holy Spirit help us to so preach Christ that lost souls may see Him as "the fairest among ten thousand" and bestow upon Him their love!

2. To behold Him is to realize one's need of Him.

We do not see ourselves as we are till we see ourselves in the light of what Christ is. Then we are "the chief of sinners." Weakness is revealed in the light of His strength. Impurity is revealed in the light of His purity. We had not known ourselves as sinners, had our sins not been revealed by His righteousness.

3. To behold Him is to believe on Him.

When one believes on Christ, he finds in Him the Forgiver of sins, the Cleanser from sin, the Saviour and Keeper of the soul, and he trusts all to Him.

May I ask you the pointed question, Have you found Jesus to be the answer to all your problems? If not, then come to Him now. He is the answer.