

The Book of Truth

"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Such was the gracious message and invitation given by the Master during his ministry on earth. Could we think of any more acceptable, or gentle invitation?—the promise of rest and peace. Does it not seem strange that the whole world didn't accept such a wonderful invitation? But strange as it may seem, there were but few who accepted; and they were the meek and the lowly, the halt and the blind, the poor and the afflicted; they came to him seeking comfort, care, and salvation.

Who was this that had come to them to offer them consolation, and hope of new life? The Jews looked with ill-concealed wrath and jealousy on this man who did such works of power; and "spake as one having authority," and who looked on the poor with compassion and mercy; and who, despite their bitter opposition, trod the highways and byways of Palestine for three and a half years, offering the Divine invitation.

Then, by one of his own disciples he was betrayed, sold for thirty pieces of silver, and slain by cruel and wicked men. But these cruel men could not stop the message of love, of hope and salvation; and invitation to partake of God's love and mercy. Other valiant voices were raised, and speaking with the authority given unto them by Christ, it has come down through the ages, and humble men and women have heard the call and obeyed with joy and gladness in their hearts. And after 1900 years since the day of Christ, when the times of the Gentiles seem to be nearing the end, Christ's call came to each of us—

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Even in this century of turmoil and strife, in all the Babel and clamor of a world gone mad seeking after vanities and follies, the still small voice came to our ears; earnestly, urgently, offering us life, hope, comfort, peace, above all, *Faith in God*.

The call came to some in the vigor of youth, with strength in their faculties; some received the call in the evening of their days, when the faculties had become enfeebled in their struggle with the world. Some of us perhaps, were engrossed with the cares of life, and some perhaps were careless of things spiritual; seeking and finding pleasure with all the trumperies and foolishness that can be found on almost every street and highway. But of this we are sure, that without exception, all of us laden with sin, were laboring in transgression and corruption.

Have you—have I—ever pondered on what could be the cause of the circumstances that brought Jesus Christ to the door of our heart, and knocked upon it? For Jesus said—

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:10).

Why did we open the door? Why did we let the visitor come in to us? How did we learn of his virtues? Was it not a blessed and a wonderful thing when God in His unfathomable love and everlasting mercy chose to reveal Himself to us through His Word? And all the mysteries and complexities of human existence were no longer a mystery to us. We found the answer in the BOOK; and no where else can the answer be found. By reading the Scriptures we found that all the longings for something real, something that we could put our hope and trust in, can only be found in God and His Truth.

What a joy to be free from all the make-believe religions, with all their deceit and vanity; all their empty philosophies, all their false teaching! What a relief to be free from the toils that had shackled the most of us to their ignorance and superstition! But let us take heed lest in the fleeting

years that go by as on the swift wings of the swallow, that we forget not our great deliverance that a merciful God effected for us.

What would we have been today had not the call of the Truth come to us? We would still be in alien churches, still the fervid idolatrous worshippers, still following after the vain philosophies of man-made creeds, promulgated by apostate theologians, who prefer the pagan works of Greece and Rome, to the Divine teaching of God and His Christ. How thankful we should be that the finger of God, with the way of Truth, beckoned unto us to follow in the road of light and glory.

Brethren and sisters, we are gathered here on this first day of the week, to rededicate ourselves to the service of Truth, to celebrate the feast instituted by our Lord the night in which he was betrayed, to partake of the symbols of him who said, "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" As a Christian body we may be few in numbers, and have but a meagre share of worldly goods; but what is that compared with the opportunities God has granted unto us, of worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness?

And if we keep our ears tuned to the Truth, we will hear the still small voice saying unto us, "*This is the way, walk ye in it.*" For that has been the guide, and the stay, and comfort to all the pilgrims that took the way of God from the beginning of time. Those who are in the Truth have the secret of all the ages,

"For the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him."

We have the Book, on the pages of which are written the words that God has revealed to us in all the riches of His Divine Truth. In this Book can be found all the harmony and beauty of the plans of God for salvation; which is centered in the message brought to the world by Jesus Christ in the Gospel of the Kingdom. From the fall of man in the garden of Eden, to his exaltation to immortality and glory in the Kingdom of God there runs the golden thread that will bind the heart, and the will of those who seek after him who said—

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

And we, with faith and hope, look forward to the consummation of the great and precious promises made to the fathers of old time, and the life giving promises of love given to us by Christ our Lord. By all these promises we can see clearly what has been prepared for those who will be worthy—a plan of Atonement and eternal life.

For us, could there be a task giving greater pleasure, or a finer intellectual study, than to open this Book of Truth, and behold the vision of God in His Words as they unfold to us on its every page? From what other occupation could any brother or sister derive such benefits, as to trace the development of God's purpose from the day of Moses as he looked at the burning Bush; until that day when the Lord will be manifested in a Host of mighty Ones upon the earth, when he comes in great Glory with all his holy angels.

As we read this Book, we find from the beginning to the end, human life revealed, just as it is today; revealed in all its vanity and frailty. We meet the king in all his arrogance and cruelty, sitting on the throne he obtained by the murder of his nearest relatives. We see the loathsome beggar in all his degradation as he sits at the doors. We learn of life in all of its unspeakable bitterness. But seldom is life in sweetness shown to us who desire to follow the Master. In all walks of life we find virtue and vice walking side by side. In this Book we have 6000 years of life in all its phases pass before us.

We meet with the most faithful of men, whose characters were pleasing to God. With them, we are in company with God's elect. We are with them in the family of God. With *Noah*, who in the earliest days went about earnestly proclaiming the Truth to an evil generation; a generation so vile, that in the day of destruction, only a few, which is eight, were saved. *Abraham*, the father of the

faithful, who was called to be the father of many nations. *Joseph*, sold into Egypt by his jealous brethren, yet, the loving and compassionate. *Moses*, who was meek above all the men that were upon the earth; yet, was the great leader of the people chosen of God. *Samuel*, the last judge, and great prophet. *Job*, whose patience and trust in God was so amply rewarded by God; whose faith was such, that he cried—

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him!"

Daniel the fearless, and the well-beloved, to whom God revealed so many things, and stopped the lions' mouths when Daniel's life was placed in jeopardy. *David*, the man after God's own heart, the Psalmist of Israel.

And so on down through the ages to that one whose life was matchless among men, who with divine grace and truth moved among the Judean hills, giving freely to all renewed life and strength. The *Lord Jesus Christ*, he it is who should shine in our hearts, for he gave his life that in the future age of glory, we may be with him in his glory and his Kingdom.

He had perfect righteousness, supreme dignity, and spotless purity; he had zeal and earnestness, humility and perfect obedience. *He stands alone on the mount of unassailable virtue*; and all down through the darkness of Christendom, he has been a beacon of glorious Light and Truth.

And as we turn the pages of this Book, we come to one whose dauntless faith, and unswerving zeal reveals to us the valiant *Paul*. Can we read of his steadfastness and courage without arousing in our hearts the eager desire to have but one spark of his faith and courage and determined resolution?

What examples we have in those men of God! But if we would be with them in the Household, then we must cultivate that family likeness, if we would be with them in the family of God. For the Lord will see to it that only those who have excelled in faith and works, can be worthy members of the Household of God. And not only does this Book supply us with the Truth, and many examples of faithful men, but abundant precept to teach us to follow examples of devotion and godliness.

In reading the Proverbs, we cannot fail to notice that these gems of wisdom can give us much food for thought; and instruction in the ways of wisdom; if we will but give heed to them. Consider how emphatic was the wise man on wisdom, humility, uprightness and diligence. If studied in that light, they cannot fail to furnish men and women with help in our present life. Turn to whatever page we will; we can find courage and strength.

In the Psalms we can find inspiration in those wonders of Messianic Prophecy. And we have the divinely inspired prophet Isaiah, who looked down through the mist of centuries, and saw the dawning of the glorious age, when Jesus shall reign on earth.

To read of the terrible trials and sufferings of Job, our minds are stirred, even as was the mind of Job, when the handiwork of God is arrayed before us. And we marvel, even as did Job, when God challenged him to perform the mighty miracles of Creation, which God had wrought in the earth saying—

"**Where wast thou** when I laid the foundation of the earth? Declare it, if thou hast understanding."

This Book of Truth has everything that man can want. It can set our feet upon the Rock, and establish all our goings. Yea, it can put a new song in our hearts and mouths. Yet how many times we forget to praise and thank Him for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us! Is there really anything in this world that matters, except the Truth? It gives us all that a human being can want, or needs. It gives us comfort, and peace of mind, and a glorious Hope of some day gaining that Crown of Glory.

This Book of Truth has the most profound thoughts. It gives to us the Glory and Majesty of the Law that at one time ruled the children chosen of God. And it gives to us the sublime teaching of Jesus Christ. And these riches are given to us, that we may dwell and meditate on his love and patience with his people. And if we would attain to a nobler attitude in our dealings with the brethren and sisters, then we can glean the essence of virtue from the words of the Master who said, "*Learn of Me.*"

If we would drink of the living waters, then we can have our fill with that greatest of all sermons, given by the Master on the Mount—the Truth that cannot be gainsaid, for it is assertive, given with the authority of God — given to cultivate in us humility, mercy, and purity, so that we may attain to that state of blessedness which will exist in the Kingdom of the future age.

When we turn to the Epistles, and study the reasoning skill of the Apostle Paul, and read his letters to the different ecclesias, we marvel at the wealth of encouragement given by his teaching, and of his thanks and praise to God—how he spent his life teaching and setting on record the precepts and examples of righteousness, to help the brethren that they may attain to glory.

In this Book of Truth there is guidance for every eventuality of life. All the problems of pain and suffering and uncertainty are resolved. For such is the chastisement of the Creator, for the purpose of molding and refining the character. Even the sorrows of isolation are greatly helped by a loving Father's assurance—

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

When we are perplexed by all the problems that press upon us in this age in which we live; we can, through the Words in this Book envision the Kingdom that will stand forever; for in that Kingdom there will be security, and joy everlasting.

And while we pass through this weary world of confusion and disruption and strife, we can find in this Book the words that will give us that wonderful peace in the innermost depth of our being. Though the surface waters may be convulsed by the storms raging around us, yet we can be peaceful as the depth of the ocean if we have love and peace with God in our hearts.

Every brother and sister has in this Truth riches far beyond the dreams of avarice; they have at their disposal a storehouse of treasures which, if used rightly, will assure for the worthy, a life of glory and power in the age of refreshing under Christ.

And this earth which has been marred so cruelly by the hands of evil men, will be blessed with splendor and grace. And as it was at the dawn of the world, when the angelic host sang with ecstasy as they beheld the handiwork of God, all the splendor will be renewed and increased a thousandfold; for—

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

War and confusion may disrupt and convulse the world; wickedness and vice may flaunt themselves in all their vile tawdriness. But if the brethren will hold firmly to the Truth as they know it in Jesus Christ, through the mercy of God, have they anything to fear? No. Why? Because they can look beyond the murky darkness of this world, and discern the "Light of the world," shining in all his beauty.

Brethren and sisters, if we are to be at the death struggle of this out-worn savage world of blasphemy and sin, then let us give heed to it, that we so live to be worthy to be at the birth of the new dispensation in Jesus Christ. None can tell the day or the hour when the Son of Man cometh. "Watch therefore," for he will surely come to make his ransomed Bride his own, for on the Hill of Calvary he died for her. That is the picture we see in this Book of Truth.

"He that **overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations" (Rev. 2:26).

All things in the Truth are perfect for the Glory of God. His wisdom, His law, are in the pages of this Book, which should be the priceless possession of all of us. Cherish it above everything, for by it we can be raised into the regions of peace, and communion with God. Its Divine wisdom can guide our steps to the everlasting Kingdom. If we will make this Book motivate our lives, in that day when the Lord cometh, we shall, by the mercy of God, be in that cloud of witnesses, who shall behold the Son of man, crowned with Glory, Righteousness and Honor.

God grant that we may be gathered together in unity in that Glorious day of Christ, to ascribe—

"Blessing, and glory and honor, and power unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever."
—C.H.T.
