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# Good News

(FORMERLY THE FOOL-KILLER)

When you  
get hold of  
something  
good, pass  
it around.  
Send in a  
big club.

VOLUME 8

BOOMER, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER, 1918.

NUMBER 12

## TO THE WAR-BEREAVED.

I have been impressed here of late that I ought to make Good News carry a sort of special message to the War-Bereaved—to those who have lost and will lose sons, brothers, husbands, sweet-hearts and friends in this Great War.

The list of Bereaved is now growing long, and every name in it means a saddened and broken-hearted home. If ever people needed a message of comfort, consolation and cheer, these bereaved ones certainly do need it now.

Good News feels that it has a very timely and very important message for the world—a message that ought to appeal to every one, but especially to those who are suffering the pangs of uneasiness for the absent and of bereavement for the dead. If your Soldier is fighting Over There, or if he has finished the fight and laid down his life for the cause of humanity, you have passed through an experience that others cannot know. The red-hot fires of suffering and bereavement have burned away all the dross of selfishness, hypocrisy, pride and prejudice out of your heart, and you are ready to come right square out and accept the truth wherever you find it. If you have never been honest before, you are honest now. You are in too serious a state of mind to be otherwise. I may never have seen or heard of you, but if you have just received a telegram that Your Soldier is dead in France, I would not be afraid to trust you. And you would not betray the trust, either. You are honest. Your sorrow has lifted you above all the little mean things that you might have been guilty of before.

And so I want to make friends with the bereaved. I want to talk to you through this little paper, and see if I can help to lighten your burdens and comfort your sorrowing hearts.

It is a sad fact that the established creeds—the orthodox churches—haven't much in the way of comfort or consolation to offer you. All they can tell you is that your Soldier—if he happened to be out of the church—is doomed to eternal torment in hell. I want to tell you, and I want to prove to you, that such is not the case. There is no place of eternal tor-

ment, never has been and never will be, and I think you dear people who are now brought face to face with this great question would like to know the truth. So let everybody rally to the support of Good News and we will all learn a few things.

## Are You Tied to a Post?

Some folks are so hide-bound and prejudiced toward their old-established views that nothing in the world can change them. They seem to think it would be an awful sin to change their views about anything, even though convinced that they had been wrong. They prefer to go on in a way that they know to be wrong rather than to acknowledge their mistake and get right.

But that's not me. If I know my own heart, I am entirely free from prejudice. But it was not always so. I used to be just as hide-bound a Baptist as you could find in forty states. I swallowed all that unreasonable dope about the immortal soul, going to heaven when you die, eternal torment, and all the rest of it. Why? Simply because I had been raised that way and hadn't yet begun to do any thinking for myself.

However, when I did get my thinker to working, I soon discovered that the ready-made creeds wouldn't do to depend on. Right there ended my creed-worship, and right there began my search for something both sensible and satisfying. To this good day I have not found any man nor any set of men that I am willing to follow all the way through. Some have one truth and some another, but all have a lot of error mixed along with it. To feel absolutely free in my mental and spiritual life, and to form my own opinions and change them when they need changing—that is my method now.

The wise man changes, but the fool never does. I am going to edit this paper to day according to the very best light I have to-day, while I keep right on trying to get better light tomorrow. This old world is moving these days, and a stationary creed is out of date.

Now, mister, if you've got breadth and liberality enough to travel with old Pearson along this road, come ahead.

## Where Reason Is Needed.

Good News never tries to get you excited. A person in an excited condition is not capable of sane reasoning. And I contend that if God had not meant for us to use our reason He would not have given us any such a faculty. Furthermore, if cool and calm reason is ever needed it certainly is needed when we come to consider our future destiny. It is unthinkable that an All-Wise God would have given man a *reason* to guide him in the small and unimportant things of life, and then refuse to let him use that reason when he comes up against life's greatest problems. It would be like furnishing a man a compass to explore his own plantation, but driving him out to cross a strange continent by guess. No sir, God would never do a thing like that.

Your reasoning powers were given you to use in every time and condition of life. There are doubtless other gifts, and they may serve a higher purpose, but there is nothing to take the place of reason. Go to using your reason, mister man, and you will soon see that most of the things taught in the orthodox creeds are entirely unreasonable and out of place in a common-sense world.

There are several hundred different creeds, and each creed claims to be absolutely right. But they are all wrong to a great extent. Doubtless each one contains a few grains of truth mixed along with great oodlins of error. Just to walk in what light I have and get new light as fast as possible—that is my only creed.

The "immortal soul" is the only leg that "eternal torment" has to stand on, and it is an artificial wooden leg and is about worn out. People are beginning to read and think for themselves. You can't cram any old dope down the folks like you once could.

You can just depend on it that this Great War will end exactly like it OUGHT to end. And since it is a clear case that Germany is in the wrong and OUGHT to be defeated, therefore she WILL be defeated. But it is liable to be a hard, bloody job yet. Give the Allies every bit of help and encouragement you can, and don't get out of heart.

## Notes and Comments.

It is absolutely necessary for me to repeat from time to time a good many things that I say, in order to emphasize them. One light tap on the head won't kill a bear. It takes hard licks and often repeated. It is the same way with getting the truth into the noggin of the average person.

Once more let me remind you that the things you look ahead to are never like you think they are going to be. You can read a description of a place you have never seen, and you think you know just how it looks. But when you really see the place with your own eyes it will hardly resemble the mental picture you had formed of it. And that is just the way it will be with the future events that the Bible tells about. They will be so different from the common conception of them that they will scarcely be recognized when they come. The Last Trumpet, the Judgment Day, and all these things, will probably be nearly over before the people realize what is happening.

There is no way of knowing for certain just yet whether the Ten Toes of the Image will develop at the end of this war. But it looks more and more like it every day. Just listen at all this talk about a Federation of Nations, and just keep your eye skinned to see who gets up the peace terms that will finally be accepted. If the Pope of Rome gets up the peace terms, you can just watch out. He will become the head of the Federation of Nations; he will be the literal and personal Antichrist; he will not last long, but while he does last there will be more trouble than any of us would like to think about. But remember this: Even if the Ten Toe phase of Gentile dominion is still to come, it is certain to be short; and then will come the Golden Age of peace and joy. Keep your eye on that.

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