

Scathing Denunciation Of Israel Applied To Church

Conditions in Time of Malachi Prevail in Christendom Now Says Evangelist and Church Rich and Prosperous Knows Not Its Own Wretchedness

"We are living in an age of counterfeits. We have olive oil that never saw an olive tree, but that never saw a cow, honey that never saw a bee, and Christians who never saw Christ."

Thus in scathing invective did Evangelist M. F. Ham Wednesday night, with the official boards and Sunday school teachers of the various churches of the city present, arraign the nominal Christians who make up the main body of members of the modern church and imagine because they follow the outward semblance of Christian worship and service that they are true disciples.

In a tremendously effective illustration of the condition of these nominal Christians—the evangelist read from the indictments brought against the chosen people by the prophet Malachi, citing the fact that to every indictment of the prophet the people responded with a question as to wherein they were guilty of the offense charged, thus convicting themselves of spiritual blindness. Turning then to the New Testament the evangelist cited the early Christian Church at Laodicea, which considered itself rich and abounding in good works and an example to all the other churches and in need of nothing, but which in fact, the Holy Spirit declared, was wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, as typical of the fashionable church of this age.

The sermon was delivered before the largest week-day crowd that had yet heard the evangelist, with each congregation in the city well represented as was disclosed when Mr. Ramsay prior to the sermon asked members of the various churches to stand in turn. For this service the audience had been seated by congregational groups so that it was easy to ascertain how well represented was each church of the city.

A distinct departure in the usual musical program came during the collection when Chorister Ramsay led the body of negroes in attendance at the meeting in the melodious negro spiritual "Standing in the Need of Prayer." The colored people were quick to catch the rhythm and sang the old melody reverently from the rafters of the pine temple. A momentary silence followed the rendering of this number and then the audience broke into applause. "You folks," said Mr. Ramsay as he made his way back to the platform, "remind me of an old flint gun I used to have—pull the trigger and you would have to wait half an hour to hear the report."

The outstanding feature of the regular musical program was the obligato solo rendered by Mrs. W. Foreman, accompanied by Mrs. Rogers and the chorus. Mrs. Foreman sang from the speaker's platform and her rich full soprano rang out vibrant and bell-like above the rhythmic chanting of the chorus.

Thursday morning Mr. Ham spoke to another increased audience on "The Tests of Discipleship," another of his helpful messages to the Christians. The subject for Thursday night was not announced. Wednesday night's sermon follows:

A Complacent People We want to study tonight the indictments brought against God's people by the prophet Malachi. It reveals the deplorable condition of this people to whom the prophet was speaking and it contains some valuable lessons for us. The key word of this message is "Wherein." The word occurs eight times and each time was used by the people as an answer to one of the indictments brought against them.

"Wherein hast thou loved us?" the people reply. "You have despised me," said God.

"Wherein have we despised thee?" say the people. "You have polluted my altars." "Wherein have we polluted thy altars?"

"You have wearied me." "Wherein have we wearied you?" "Return unto me." "Wherein shall we return unto thee?" "You have robbed me."

"Wherein have we robbed thee?" "You have spoken against me." "Wherein have we spoken against thee?" ask the people. Notice how the people invariably answer God by this hypocritical question, this insolent, irreverent, impudent insinuation that God's indictment was not true. Here were nominal worshippers of Jehovah apparently wholly unconscious of any separation from God and yet God brings this terrible indictment against them. Can you imagine anything more deplorable than for a people to be so blind to their real condition. And yet this same condition prevails today among our professing Christians and to every indictment of the spirit they will reply,

TWO VILLAGES ARE SUBMERGED

(By The Associated Press.) Moscow, Oct. 16.—A rise of 12 feet in the level of the river Amur has caused disastrous floods in the Nokolavsk region where two native villages were submerged with a loss of 400 lives.

one of these hypocritical church members out trying to win souls. Christ says, "If I don't come before your home, your business, your social set, your father, mother, I am not your Master and don't call me Master. I don't want your hypocritical pretense."

"Wherein have we despised your name?" "In that you have polluted my altars." You come into God's presence with wicked lives and unjudged sins. You even sit at the Lord's table and eat and drink communion to our Lord at the careless way we use the name of God, many of us as a common cuss word and by-word.

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Miners Praise Davis Aid In Coal Strike

Washington, Oct. 16.—Three letters from union men praising the part taken by John W. Davis in litigation growing out of the West Virginia coal strike of 1920 were today made public through the Democratic National Committee.

Barney Flaherty wrote that Davis had made "the best defense I ever heard" if the 35 miners are with a sound stand.

"Get out of my temple," God says. "You traffickers in pigeons and doves, you money changers. I don't want that money you have forced from folks." Get right with God and go down in your pockets and give to Him as you would to the great beneficent Creator and God that He is, not as a miserable despicable pauper. The church is the greatest institution on earth and yet why is it that in matters pertaining to your soul you are satisfied with the cheapest of this world? Look at the betterment of your souls must have the best even if your church suffer. When I look in the collection plates and see the pennies, I often think of the dialogue between the penny and the haughty dollar that met it on the street and said, "Get off the street, you let me be." The lit penny, very much humiliated, got down in the gutter and shook its finger in the face of the dollar and said:

"All right, Mr. Dollar, I know you are a great big American coin with the head of the statue of liberty on one side and the American eagle on the other, but I'll tell you one thing, sir; I go to church and Sunday school oftener than you do, sir."

Making God Despicable Oh, yes, a nickel is good enough for the Lord. All right, if that is your conception of God, but I am by that like my father was by the same conception of the world by the same and when the young man asked him what his charge was he said: "No charge at all. Just whatever you want to give in appreciation for your bribe."

Believe Have Found BENJAMIN FURNELL Kansas City, Oct. 16.—The police today arrested a man calling himself "Jesus Christ Revealed" and are investigating the possibility that he may be Benjamin Furnell, missing head of the House of David.

Investigate Funds POLITICAL PARTIES Chicago, Oct. 16.—The LaFollette-Wheeler national organization has collected a total of \$190,535 in its Presidential campaign and expended \$155,062.

Football Friday The Elizabeth City High School football squad will have its first game Friday at 4 o'clock with Plymouth High. The game will be played on the athletic field back of the old high school building. The game is going to be a fight to the finish in spite of the loss of some good men from last year's team.

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NOL PROS IN SIMMONS CASE

But Trial Justice Spence Exonerates Officer Worsley's Escape

The case of Durant Simmons, reputed bootlegger, of Perquimans County, who was to be tried in the recorder's court Thursday morning for illicit traffic in liquor on evidence that was to have been given the court by Emmett Worsley, colored, and also a defendant on a liquor-possession charge, was not pressed by reason of the fact that Worsley has forfeited his bond and departed for parts unknown.

Police Officer Ben Roughton is completely exonerated by Trial Justice George J. Spence of blame in connection with the failure of Emmett Worsley, colored, to appear for trial Monday morning.

"Your story Wednesday," says Trial Justice Spence, "was evidently written without a full knowledge of the facts and reflects unjustly upon the police officer, I think. It would appear to the reader from your account of this episode that the police officer had allowed the negro to escape from his custody."

The facts are that the negro was indicted and gave a solvent bond in sum of \$200 with E. Y. Albertson as his bondsman and under the law just as soon as a prisoner gives bond he is at full liberty to go anywhere at any time he pleases. While he was thus under bond and while court in session he was to be tried was to the police officers as you have mentioned, and Officer Roughton went with the negro to the place designated.

"It was not a matter of an escape. Had this negro in full view of this officer deliberately walked off, the officer had no power to stop him as he was not in his custody."

The question or matter of whether or not the negro was present at the time set for his trial in police court was with his surety on his bond and it was the duty of his bondsman to see that the negro was present for trial and was not the duty of the officer.

The editor of The Advance, who handled the story referred to by Trial Justice Spence, was aware that Worsley was under bond but was not familiar with the law as to the respective responsibility of the police officer and of the bondsman for the negro's appearance in court.

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