SERMON ON "THE DEVIL"

Sunday Discourse By Dr. Chapman, the Noted Pastor Evangelist.

Treats a Forbidden Subject in a Novel Manner —Why Men Are Disposed to Laugh at the Place of Darkness.

NEW YORK CITY.—The following readable and helpful sermon is by the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, the best known evangelist in the country and one of the most popular pulpit orators of New York. It is entitled "The Devil," and was preached from the text "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Job 1: 7.

This is a forbidden subject. We generally speak of him who is the subject of my sermon with a smile, and yet it is a subject with which one ought certainly to be perfectly familiar. We have all had some experience with him who is the author of our distress, and who is responsible for every cloud though it be no larger than a man's hand that has cast itself upon the sky of our life, and yet I doubt not that there are very many of us that could not give a very accurate explanation of our views. There are very many who scout the idea of a personal devil at all, and this view is much more general than we think. I can quite understand how it should be so, for Satan's master stroke of policy is to direct our minds from inquiry concerning his true character and the methods by which he governs his kingdom. Sometimes for the unregenerate he employs the vehicle of darkness that he may blind the minds of those who do not believe lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ should dawn upon them and they should believe. "In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4: 4. And sometimes to those who do believe he transforms himself into an angel of light that he may delude them by his snares. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11: 14.

The late Dr. James H. Brooks, of St. Louis, one of the greatest Bible teachers in our country, said that it used to be his custom in his family worship to read the New Testament through consecutively until he came to Revelation, and then he would always turn back to Matthew and read again to the Revelation, and then back to Matthew once more, until one day sitting alone in his study he began to question himself as to why this was his habit, and it occurred to him as he read the Revelation through that it must be because this is the only book in the New Testament which tells of the doom of Satan, and it is quite easy to understand why he would turn the mind away from that book which tells of his defeat.

"Men don't believe in a devil now,
As their fathers used to do;
They've forced the door of the broadest creed,
To let his form pass through.
There isn't a print of his cloven foot,
Or a fiery dart from his bow,
To be found in earth or air to-day,
For the world has voted so.

"But who is mixing the fatal draught
That palsies heart and brain,
And loads the bier of each passing year
With ten hundred thousand slain?
Who blights the bloom of the land to-day
With the fiery breath of hell?
If the devil isn't, and never was,
Won't somebody rise and tell?

"Who clogs the steps of the toiling saint,
And digs the pits for his feet?
Who sows the tares in the fields of time,
Wherever God sows His wheat?
The devil is voted not to be,
And, of course, the thing is true;
But who is doing the kind of work
The devil alone should do?

"We are told he does not go around
Like a roaring lion now;
But whom shall we hold responsible
For the everlasting row
To be heard in home, in church and state,
To the earth's remotest bound,
If the devil, by a unanimous vote,
Is nowhere to be found?

"Won't somebody step to the front forthwith,
And make his bow, and show
How the frauds and crimes of a single day
Spring up? We want to know.
The devil is fairly voted out,
And of course the devil's gone,
But simple folks would like to know
Who carries his business on."

The other day in Brooklyn a woman threw herself out of the window of a five-story building to escape the brutal tortures of her drunken husband. She left her little boy motherless and worse than fatherless. That husband was in the clutch of the one of whom I speak at this time. Would you make light of such a foe as this. The opening chapters of Genesis give us a picture of a happy pair in Eden, peace, purity, perfection and beauty everywhere prevailed. God looked upon it and said that it was very good, when suddenly all was changed. There is a marvelous transformation; sin appears; the curse is everywhere; trouble begins and rolls high like the mighty waves of the sea, until the world is engulfed in the blackness of the darkness of despair. No wonder that we feel like crying out again and again in the words of the text, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." It is of such an adversary that I speak, and he is not a subject for jesting. I have for the past ten years been laboring in the interests of men, but somehow during the past three months they have been upon me as a special burden. I have listened to their heart breaking cries and their sobs of despair, and it is with the memory of these tears that have ran like rivers, and the cry of many a man who feels himself to be lost as he said, "Is there any hope," that I bring to my readers this message.

The devil is certainly not a myth. I shall give his names in a little while and call your attention to the fact that they are all found in the New Testament, so this is not an Old Testament delusion carried down to the present time, as some would have us believe, for almost all the information concerning him we are dependent upon the New Testament Scriptures. The Old Testament is strangely silent. I call your attention to this fact that if you read in the Old Testament the account of the temptation and fall in Eden, then the trouble of Job, then the numbering of Israel by David, and finally the vision of Joshua, the high priest, and Satan contending with him; you have the four places where Satan is definitely mentioned and his work particularly described. The evidences of his existence are everywhere to be seen in the Old Testament, but these are not in direct statements. This does away with the position of many people who are disposed to say a good deal about the Satan myth, which had its rise in the infancy of our race, when the human mind was exceedingly childish and credulous. The devil is the author of evil, the fountain of weakness, the adversary of the truth, the corrupter of the world. He planteth snares, soweth error, nourisheth contention, disturbeth peace and scattereth affliction. I am sure there is never greater glee in hell than when a church quarrel is engendered, nor when peace is driven away from heart and home in the face of a storm of contention. This is a word picture of him, but we must have more.

I.

It is quite plain that Satan had some connection with the earth before man appeared. He is now supposed to be a fallen angel. If this supposition is true then the New Testament references would seem to indicate that pride and envy were the cause of his fall. When God said, "Let us make man, and let him have dominion over everything that we have made," the envy began, and as another has suggested this seems to be the true fact when we notice the devil's position in the temptation of Christ. Matthew 4: 8-9, "Again the devil taketh Him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and showeth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me." It is as if he were making one last great effort to overthrow the Master and rule the world. Certain direct statements are made concerning him by our Master. No stronger one can be found than that which is recorded in John 8: 44, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it." He is a terrific foe, and in the interests of all young men who desire to be true and like Christ I lift up my voice against him.

II.

The Rev. W. G. Moorhead, D. D., has given us a list of his names as recorded in the New Testament Scriptures. This list is as follows:

Abaddon—Revelation 9: 11.
Accuser—Revelation 12: 10.
Adversary—1 Peter 5: 8.
Angel of the Abyss—Revelation 9: 11.
Apollyon—Revelation 9: 11.
Beelzebub—Mark 3: 22.
Belial—2 Corinthians 6: 15.
Devil—Matthew 4: 1.
Dragon—Revelation 20: 2.
Great Red Dragon—Revelation 12: 3.
Evil One—Matthew 13: 19.
Enemy—Matthew 13: 39.
Father of Lies—John 8: 44.
God of This World—2 Corinthians 4: 4.
Liar—John 8: 44.
Murderer—John 8: 44.
Prince of Devils—Mark 3: 22.
Prince of This World—John 3: 21.
Prince of the Power of the Air—Ephesians 2: 2.
Satan, Serpent—2 Corinthians 11: 3.
Strong One—Luke 11: 21.
Spirit of Evil Working—Ephesians 2: 2.
Tempter—1 Thessalonians 2: 5.

Notorious criminals have a certain number of aliases by which they are known to their partners in crime. They bear certain names because they have committed certain things, so all these names mean something; as they are applied to the devil each name is descriptive of his disposition, energy and power.

He is Apollyon because he is a destroyer.

He is Abaddon because he is destruction itself.

The Man Murderer because he is the assassin of the Race.

The Great Red Dragon because of his bloodthirstiness.

The Serpent because of his craftiness.

The Tempter because he is a deceiver.

Some years ago in the city of Philadelphia there stood outside of one of the saloons a woman clad in rags, who once had lived in one of the best homes in that city. She had a little baby in her arms and an older child was tugging at her skirts. She rapped upon the door and when it was opened she said, "I want my husband." The husband was called out. He had once been of great reputation, a man of real talent, had provided for his wife and children all that money could buy, and, now he is shorn of everything except the merest semblance of manhood. "What do you want?" he said, with an oath, and she answered, "I want you to come home; the children have had nothing to eat and they are crying, and I want you," and the man who had sworn to love and care for her drew back his fist and struck her. The baby fell from her arms, the elder child ran shrieking from her side. Is he not a destroyer with such a picture as this in your mind, and this is but one of the multitude. His names are enough to terrify us, so that we would, while we may, escape from sin.

III.

His Personality. I know it is true that very many people scout the idea of a personal devil, but the following statement has been made by a most distinguished Bible scholar, namely, "Every attitude, quality, action, walk and sign which can indicate personality has been predicated of the devil and cannot be explained away. The argument that would rob the devil of his personality would rob God of His, and if as men say, these attributes simply mean the principle of evil then on the same ground of interpretation the Bible may mean anything or nothing."

IV.

Just a word or two about his work. He begins in a very slow way and his influence is most insidious.

As a fisherman, when he has a great fish on his hook, lets out the line, so that the fish may swallow down the hook, and be more surely caught, even so the devil, when he has a poor sinner upon his hook, does not, at the first, treat him roughly, but stretches out his rod, line and all, that he may make the surer of him, and hold him the faster.

Not long ago in the Tombs a man who had been a brilliant lawyer awoke from a stupor of days, and shaking the door demanded of those who came to answer his summons why he was there. They told him on the charge of murder. "For God's sake," he said, "do not send the word home; at least, do not let my wife know, for it will kill her," and they told him that it was his wife he had killed. I have written these few words concerning one who can take a man with brightest future and greatest reputation, and make him a murderer of his own home's joy. This is his work.

V.

His Doom. He may be overcome in the New Testament. We read, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Jesus did this and when the devil tempted Him He said, "It is written," and then, "It is written again." There is but one weapon that can make him afraid, and that is the sword of the Spirit, which is the sword of God.

There is a legend of Luther that during a serious illness the evil one seemed to enter his sick room, and looking at him with a triumphant smile unrolled a vast roll which he carried in his arms. As the fiend threw one end of it on the floor and it unwound itself with the impetus he had given it Luther's eyes were fixed on it, and to his consternation he read there the long and fearful record of his own sins, clearly and distinctly enumerated. That stout heart quailed before that ghastly roll. Suddenly it flashed into his mind that there was something not written there. He said aloud, "One thing you have forgotten; the rest is all true, but one thing you have forgotten, 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.'" As he said this the "Accuser of the brethren" and his heavy roll of "lamentation and mourning and woe" disappeared together.

If you would know his final doom you have but to turn to Revelation the 20th chapter and read the first three verses. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years should be fulfilled, and after that he must be loosed a little season."

From such a foe as this may God deliver us now.

BRONCHO HAD A BAD TRICK

It Proved Too Much for a Rash Half-Breed Indian.

There was a famous rat-tail broncho picked up in Sunlight Basin whose trick was to try to dash his riders against trees, rocks or any handy obstruction. A half-breed bet his spurs against a leg of tobacco he'd ride him to death.

The animal was caught up, thrown and saddled, and the half-breed mounted.

Buck? Not a bit of it. Away he went—right for the cook tent, and without the slightest hesitation went smash into it. The tent was only a ten-ounce and what would be called rotten.

In a trice all was confusion; tent torn in shreds, hissing of steam from the overturned water on the stove, yelping of the various scalded curs, the followers of the offal pail; yelling of cowboys, each scurrying for his pony, many of which had run away, as had the pack mules from the rope corral near the tent, scared like antelope by the squealing and bucking demon as he plunged about in wild fury, disabling pans, kettles and the like.

As he emerged from the debris he set off up the flat at a high run, and Frank, to our horror, hung left foot fast in the stirrup, while at each jump of that big cayuse he was snapped about like the buck end of a bull whip, now under the beast's forelegs, then at the mercy of his hind legs.

As we cached the body under some stone and earth, says a writer in Leslie's Monthly, the dead man's brother remarked, while he wiped something from his cheek with his brawny arm: "Poor boy, he was al'a's rash, he no careful, and all for bit a tabacca."

Discovered Colonial Coin.

While moving the old De Lancey mansion from its original site on Heathcote Hill, overlooking the sound, at Mamaroneck, N. Y., recently, P. H. Spader, a local builder, found a copper sixpence of Great Britain hidden in a crevice in the interior of the ancient structure, where it had remained for many years. The house was built in 1792, and the date on the coin is 1797, so that it is safe to assume that some member of the De Lancey family lost it, and that it had continued undisturbed for at least a century.

The inscription reads, "Georgius III., D. G., Rex, 1797." His likeness also appears on the same side. The sixpence is nearly as large in circumference as the American silver dollar, and it is almost twice as thick. Since the news of the find has gone abroad the place is being visited by many relic hunters. The hill is noted because it was once the home of Bishop DeLancey of the Protestant Episcopal church, and later of Archbishop Bayley of the Roman Catholic see of Baltimore.

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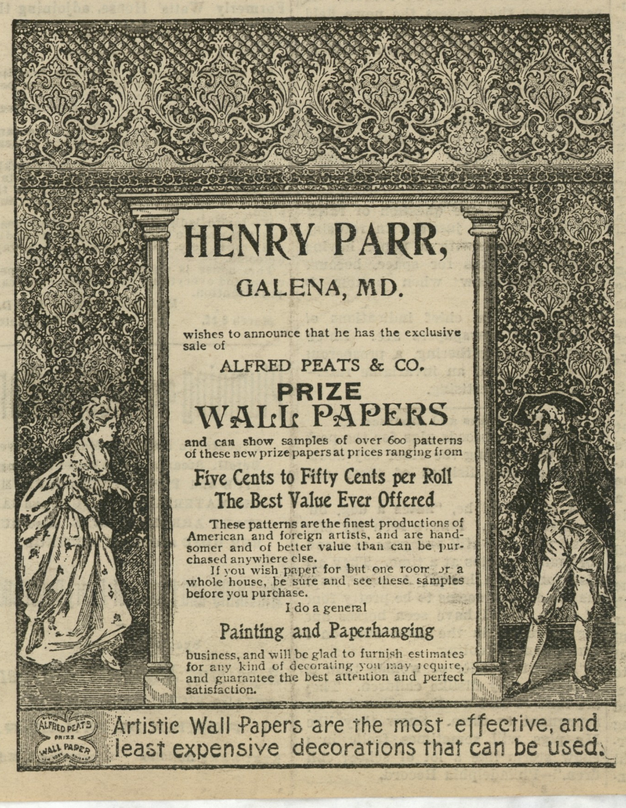
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