

1 Corinthians 1:12-13, Friday, February 15, 1935 (four pages)

February 15, 1935 (Friday)

I Cor. 1:12, 13 "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

In these verses and this scripture we have the beginnings of a division that came into the early church and has continued to this day. Christendom has not perceived the awful extent to which this division has been carried nor apprehended nor appreciated the harm that is done and still being done by various sects that class themselves as Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or Peter because they liked his style, and others as of Christ just as some do today. And the Apostle asked them this question by way of answer. And their answer, of course, would have been "no". We don't find the Apostle writing against the division that came into the church but I think that Paul knew that it would come for he said grievous wolves would come in. They would bring in division and strife and when those things come into any church, no difference what profession that church makes, Pentecost or otherwise, wherever you find division there you find a hopeless condition. God only works where harmony and oneness is discovered. He couldn't work unless he finds divine harmony. The saints in 18 centuries have not apprehended the terrible harm that is still among us because men want to follow some and others Christ.

That was the condition then and it is the condition now. This entering wedge of division and strife and difference of opinion as to who were the leaders in the church and the ones to be looked up to. Oh, this human nature of ours, it has caused all the distress and strife of men's path. This idea of us getting our eyes on man. Paul was a wonderful disciple and Peter was a wonderful teacher in the early church and the eyes of the people got on them. I don't care how great the man's life maybe. When you have your eyes on the man you have your eyes off of Christ. You may excuse yourself by saying that you see the Christ in him. No, that is not so. But Paul said, "I will speak of things God has done through me, not by me, unless you think of me more than you ought." And the Apostle refrained from telling of the great experiences that came to him, but it is not written in the life of Paul because he only expressed himself in the briefest terms. He showed that he was not one of the original twelve, yet he was called just as the others were by Christ.

The eleven disciples, prior to Pentecost, said, Now that Judas has gone to his own place we must select someone to take the place of Judas, (because they thought that twelve must be a prophetic number and possibly they had in mind the twelve tribes of Israel), and so they called the assembly together and cast lots after the fashion of the law.

Everyday in the temple of Solomon the Priest's office was chosen by lots. This order/superintended the opening of the temple, as to which Priest should offer the sacrifice of incense, who should slay the lamb, who should sprinkle the blood, and every phase was settled by casting lots in the Hall called the "Hall of polished stones." After this fashion they did everything and the disciples, while Christ had out-breathed on them the breath of the resurrection and they had been born again and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God, yet there was that in them that lacked the grace of divine guidance. They had not been baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. And I suppose there lies the mistake of the church for eighteen centuries. They proceeded along the natural lines of the law and chose by lots Mathias, who was put in place of Judas, but Christ Jesus is the only being in this universe that can appoint an Apostle. No combination of men, nor Presbytery, nor

council should ever dare to try to appoint an Apostle in the church of Christ. And men should not try to appoint themselves as Apostles. Well, you say, Christ is in heaven. Yes, he is in heaven but he is still the head of the church and is as able to appoint Apostles today as when he over-ruled the selection of Mathias and put Paul in his place. Christ Jesus alone has that right in the Church of God and a great deal of distress and strife has come by reason of these men-ordained appointments. If men could only follow the bible. After Pentecost they never undertook to appoint an Apostle. The Holy Spirit revealed the fact that Christ was still the head of the Church and is today. He never surrendered that right. No man has ever become the vicar of Christ in this earth. He reserved that place for himself and it is spiritually impossible for any one else to be the head of the Church. Christ will never recognize that church on this earth that is not governed according to the revelation of God's bible. Never! It doesn't make any difference what name they apply to themselves or to ourselves. Thank God, the time is coming when there will be one church. It doesn't look possible, but it is possible because the bible reveals that fact. The real word used for church in the bible is Ecclesia and signifies a called out company, a company that Christ has called to himself.

No man has a right to follow Paul. One may say to follow Paul, but another says, Apollos suits me and I will follow him, and another wants to follow Peter, and others will say, Well, brethren, you can follow Paul, or Apollos, or Peter but I am going to follow Jesus Christ. Oh, the wreck and ruin. Where are the souls that should be getting saved in every church and every denomination on the face of the earth? Brethren, there isn't a church that rears its steeple towards the sky but what ~~men~~ and women should be born in it every day. Always some one should be getting through to God in these days.

32000 churches were condemned and closed by the Council of Churches recently. There is just one power behind this division. Every denomination on this earth is man-made, the production of the mind of some man. The Presbyterians liked John Knox. He was a magnificent christian and would to God we would have some more like ~~John~~ Knox and the Presbyterians have stood for the fundamentals but they have their own rules and form of government and it is a Pres. church. John Wesley never dreamed what was coming on the Methodist church when he went to heaven. If he could come back he would say, What has happened to the Meth. church? And I suppose if John Knox could see the Presbyterians he would say, "What has happened to you folk?" If Paul could come back he would say, "You all look half back-sliden; you better get right with God." And if Christ should come! Oh, Lord, give us more time to brush up. I think Christ would want to go back to heaven in a hurry. But the order of Christ Jesus never changes. When I see what this Paul, Apollos, and Peter business has done. It has written into the history of the church the blackest chapter ever written. For 18 centuries this world did not know what the baptism was. A gentleman said, I tell my congregation they receive everything when they join the church. It wouldn't be so bad when they preach a gospel like that if it wasn't that they were telling a falsehood. They are robbing the people of the only thing that will carry them through. When you know what the baptism is, you know whether you have it or not.

One of the most terrible apostacies of the church has been the blindness to the Holy Ghost and Fire. You look at the Jews and say, "Why don't they wake up and study the evidences presented and accept Jesus as their Messiah and Saviour?" Yes, but turn your eyes inside and look at your own church. Why don't preachers of this day and dispensation face the truth of the bible? Any man that tells his people they receive the Holy Ghost and the baptism when they are born again doesn't know his A-B-C's of the bible. It is a shame and in the last days of time when so much is at stake and tens of thousands are telling the people, "You are all right, you have everything." It is ridiculous



in the line of gospel truth.

I will agree with you that when a man is born again he has attained a wonderful experience, but he has not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Christ was born the Son of God. When you are born again you become a son of God. For thirty years there was not a soul who knew Christ besides his mother. The arch angel Gabriel came from heaven with a choir and sang the song, "Good will to men", and told them that a child had been born. Steven said, "You received the law by the disposition of angels and you never kept it", and they stoned him to death for telling the truth, but I am saying to you the church received the Holy Ghost and are letting it go. Christ was not too proud to go into the river and be baptized by John. Thank the Lord, a day is coming when everyone of us will come down off our high horse and God will put us through according to the plan. Christ began in the middle of Jordan and as he came up out of the river baptised in water (folk will say it is not essential to be baptized in water because their grandfather did not believe that way. The Lord is not going to ask you what your grandfather was. He is going to ask you what you are. Thank the Lord for his great mercy. He looks on the heart first of all and when a man is ignorant he doesn't charge it up but I think today if men are ignorant of God's bible it is wilful. Under the law there was a sacrifice and offering for the sin of ignorance. I don't know whether there is a sacrifice under grace. Paul says, "If a man is ignorant let him be ignorant." If christians are ignorant it is because they don't study God's bible. As you study the word the revelation of God Almighty will come upon it. We don't get enough knee drill. God has given to the church the greatest teacher. "When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come he will teach you all things."

What an awful thing this is with an open bible before us and the teacher, the blessed Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth. Only Christ understands this bible. In chapters four and five of Revelation you will find the seven sealed book and this is it. This is the only book God is interested in, and when John was in Glory, translated in Spirit, when the book was brought forth there wasn't a soul in heaven or earth or under the earth found worthy to open this book, and John began to weep and I don't blame him. It is enough to make angels weep. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, hath prevailed to open the book. And later an angel came to John with a little book and said, "Take it and eat it; it will be as sweet as honey but inside it will be bitter because thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings." When you are going to prophesy in these days you need God's bible.

Thank God, that the Lord handled me as he did. I was brought up on a prayer book and loved it and was always first in church. What a magnificent thing that church was. That preacher was just on fire. All kinds of mission halls and street meetings. I was in street meetings like you have forty-five years ago.

So, my brethren, this is some question. The thought of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or Christ suggests the divided mind, the divided heart. You can't be warped up in Peter, or Paul without leaving Christ out. Paul said, "Who died for you? I didn't."

The people themselves have been largely responsible for turning the heads of the preachers. Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. Division is the thing that has cursed the church from the moment it started until the present time. It put a stop to the Spirit of God in the church. The dark ages came because God could not break through the debris. A man came to me today and was saying what Polycarp and others believed. I don't care what they believed. The

early saints don't mean anything to me. - Their writings are good but if you get your eyes on them it causes division. People get to the place where they don't know what is right. "Sitting in the market place, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept." Don't expect the preacher to do all the praying for you. These are the days when men must stand on their own faith.

Reading of scripture in Math. 18:15-20

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee," If anybody has injured you go to them. Don't go to everybody. We love the heathen and we go out of our way for them. Because a person has injured you doesn't mean you can tramp on him. Let him be as one who doesn't know the first thing about Christ and make things right. The Lord made it so easy for three people to get together. God can't work over a fault-finding congregation. If I had a congregation like that! When God sent me to preach I said if I find anything wrong I will take it in the bible way, we will love each other. We have tried to keep our eyes on Jesus. On the day of Pentecost they were all with one accord. Also, at the dedication of the temple they were with one accord and the blast of the 120 trumpets was supernatural. The Holy Ghost was on the 120 and they made one sound. They had one vision of Christ. One purpose, to live for Him. The reason for 18 centuries of dark ages was this one thing. Preserving a lovely spirit between you and your fellow-men and neighbors is the greatest testimony. A love for one another.

I think of the love of those who have gone to the uttermost parts of the earth, of their love for souls. Keep away from division and strife. Never let the wedge get into your heart. Love all men. The only additional command ~~the~~ brought was "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

It is LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.

WHO:ME

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