

On the Around the World Visitation when Dr. Dowie was in Zurich Switzerland he gave the following sermon on Thursday Evening, May 26, 1904.

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## THE LOVE OF GOD FOR ALL MEN.

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### INVOCATION.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, be profitable unto this people, and unto all to whom these words shall come, for the sake of Jesus, our Lord, our Strength, and our Redeemer.

I desire to speak to you tonight concerning the Love of God in the Salvation, Healing and Cleansing which He has provided for us, and which will at last reach All Men.

In the 3d chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, the 16<sup>th</sup> verse, I read:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have Eternal Life.

Also in the 22d verse of the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians, I find:

For as in Adam all die, so also in the Christ shal all be made alive.

I desire you to believe that.  
It is a very Great Word.

### False Teaching Limits God's Love.

The Love of God is limited by a great many preachers.

They do not tell you that God loved the whole world; that He sent His Son to save the whole world

They tell you on the contrary, that there are only a few who are to be saved; all the rest are going to be damned forever, and there is no help for them; that if they do not do what the church says now, they can never be saved throughout Eternity.

That is not the Word of God.  
The Christ said:

I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw All men unto

Myself.

The apostle says that He "is the Savior of All men, especially of them that believe."

Again he says that "God hath shut up All unto disobedience, that He might have mercy upon All."

God tells us that a time will come when all enemies shall be put under His feet; when Satan, and sin, and disease, and death, and hell shall pass away; for death and hell shall be cast into the Lake of Fire.

The Millennium is the Day of the Lord.

The "Times of Restoration of All Things, whereof God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets" have begun.

It will be sometime before the Restoration is complete; because, even when the Lord Himself comes back to reign, He will reign upon this earth a Visible Person, throughout the millennium—that is the Thousand Years—and during that time, the Restoration will go on.

That Thousand Years is the Day of the Lord.

When that Thousand Years has been completed, the greatest fight of all will take place.

Satan who will have been bound, will be loosed for a time.

Then the Final Conflict will come, which the Book of the Revelation tells us will be closed only by the Fire of God coming down from heaven and destroying the bodies of those who fight against His Kingdom.

Then the earth will be God's.

Then there will be no more fighting, because the conflict will have ceased.

Final victory will have come.

All men will know the Lord, and the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

The Preaching of the Christ in Hell.

Make no mistake about the teaching of the Word of God.

It is true that there will be a Judgment.

It is true that multitudes will find their way to hell;

but the Christ went down to hell to find those who were disobedient, and hateful, and wicked away back in the days of Noah, when God could find only eight on all the earth who would believe.

At that time the whole race except those eight perished.

The wicked went into hell and remained there for the thousands of years until the Christ died, went down into hell, brought to nothing the power of him that had the power of death, and preached to the spirits in prison, as the Apostle Peter declares He did.

As truly as He took the penitent thief to Paradise, did He take those also who had dwelt in misery for thousands of years, and who believed His preaching—He led captivity captive.

Some will tell you that there is a parable which says that the rich man went to hell, and Lazarus went to heaven, and Abraham told the rich man, when he cried out of hell for Lazarus to come and touch his tongue to cool it, that there was a ‘great gulf fixed’ which they that desired to pass from the one place to the other could not pass.

That was true; but did not the Christ bridge that gulf? Did He not put the bridge across it, and did He not Himself go down into hell?

The Word of God says so.

You constantly repeat it in the Apostle’ Creed; “He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.”

He bridge that gulf.

Over that bridge, He brought multitudes from hell to heaven.

### **“Everlasting Punishment” Is Age-long Pruning.**

You tell me our Lord Jesus, the Christ, in His description of the Last Judgment, says to the righteous, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” and to the wicked on the left hand, “Depart from Me, ye accursed, into everlasting punishment.”

“He said that the righteous should go into Life Eternal, and the wicked into Everlasting Punishment; that settles it, “ say some.

Why are not the preachers honest?

They tell you that the word, “Punishment” means a hopeless misery.

It means no such thing.

Why do they not tell you that the word “everlasting’

means age-long, and that the word translated punishment” has no thought of misery, has no thought of separation from God.

The Greek word *koladzo* (κολάζ), used there, means to prune, as a gardener takes his knife and prunes the vine.

The word prune means not to kill the tree, but to make the tree bring forth good fruit; to make that which had been useless or fruitless worth something.

The meaning is the punishment of the offender for his betterment.

God does not hate any of His children, it matters not how much they have sinned.

God is not glorified by their destruction.

### **It is Impossible for God to Destroy His Own Offspring.**

God is the Father of our spirits.

These spirits are immortal.

They cannot die, because our Father cannot die, and the spirit that He has given to us is indestructible.

It cannot possibly be that God would keep in misery, hopeless and endless, His own offspring.

No matter who grave their sins are, they are only temporal acts, finite acts, acts that have only a temporary life and power.

It would not be possible for God to make the punishment infinitely greater than the offense.

The great majority of those who are sinful are so because they are ignorant.

They do not know that they have been kept from knowledge.

Many wicked people have kept them from knowing God.

Even in Christian lands, multitudes have never really known the Love of God.

I remember how that fact went to my heart when a poor criminal, a murder not twenty-years of age, was hanged in Chicago.

He had committed two hundred crimes. He had been in hands of the police for little crimes from the time of his childhood, and was continually at war with law.

Why was it?

He was the offspring of harlot and a murderer.

His mother and father, after he was hanged, fought each other in the public streets over his coffin as his dead body was being taken from the jail.

He had lived in sin.

He had never known honesty.

He had been taught to be a thief and liar as soon as he could speak.

He was driven out, a drunken profligate, and nobody cared for him. The churches did not seek him, and when he was about to be hanged, he lifted up his hands and cried, "I never had a chance!"

### The First Impetus of Zion Restoration Host.

I said then that I would visit every home in Chicago, and take the Message to every sinner in every saloon, in every harlot's house.

Last year, through Zion Restoration Host, we visited every house in Chicago eight times.

I have determined that, as far as my power can extend, Zion Restoration Host shall carry the Message of God's Peace to every house in Zurich; to every mountain and valley in Switzerland; to every city in Europe; to every part of every continent.

Already I have reached one hundred twenty million of the world's inhabitants; because I believe that God loves every man, and wants to save every man, and will eventually do it.

Although many will go to hell, because they will not obey God, yet it is written by the Psalmist himself, who was inspired by God to write it;

If I ascend into heaven, Thou art there:  
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold Thou art there.  
If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there shall Thy hand lead me,  
And Thy right hand shall hold me.

I believe that.

### Restoration Work After We Get to Heaven.

A man said to me one day, "Well, what are you going to do when you get to heaven? It seems to me that your principal work will be over."

I replied, "No, when I get to heaven with God, and with the angels, and the redeemed of earth, and I meet my loved ones gone before and they who come in at the Gates of the City one after another, the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of my own people, who will have served God, I shall ask God to let me go to preach to those in hell."

I hope He will forgive me if I do wrong; because He knows my heart, and I want my prayer to be right.

I know that I should have a hard fight, but I do not think it will be very much different from the fight I have here.

I have to fight the Devil all the time.

Sometimes I have to fight the Devil in solution; because when you see a bottle of whisky there is devil in that.

I find a great deal of Devil in the churches here too.

They fight me as if I were the Devil himself, although I am fighting sin, and Satan, and disease, and death, and hell, and getting multitudes saved.

I do not do it their way, and the consequence is that they fight me.

I fight with the Devil now; it will not be much different when I get to hell, only now I have devils to fight who say they are Christian, and when I get to hell, the devils will admit that they are devils; and I will make no mistake about it.

God will follow the lost.

He has provided a way by which His banished may return to Him.

He is the Father of all spirits.

He mourns over the sinful and the lost, and He will seek them until He finds them.

He is the Shepherd who will seek in every street of every city of earth, in every valley, and in every mountain.

The Christ will send Zion to seek them and we shall not rest until we have found them.

You will never get rid of me, you sinners.

I will follow you through earth, and I will follow you through hell, until I get hold of you and bring you back to God.

When I come down to hell and find some of you there you will say, "Well, you told us that in Zurich." [Laughter]

That is my faith.

My Faith is that God means what He says.

My Faith is that the Christ means what He says; that God so loved the world that He sent His son to save the world, to draw all men unto Himself.

Although some crucified the Christ, He did not say, "You go to hell," but He prayed to God, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The Same Christ Is Pleading for All Men.

He is the Intercessor for all; not only for the good, but He pleads for the wicked.

His Love touches our hearts; because while we were yet sinners, and wicked, and far from God, He loved us, He died for us, He pleaded for us, He sent the Holy Spirit to us, and has raised up men to seek the lost and the perishing.

He has told them to tell men at the very margin of the grave when they are burying their dead—the words are there; they ring over the grave;

As in Adam all die, even so in the Christ shall all be made alive.

I believe God's Word.

God will, at last, even if it takes Him a million years to do it, seek, and save unto the uttermost every poor, sinful spirit that in its folly, has gone to hell.

**No One Would Want to Live in Hell, Even for a Short Time.**

“Oh,” some one says, “do not preach like that, because they will be sinful and wicked! If they know that they can get out of hell, they will not mind going there for a while.”

That is not true.

Every man of common sense can see at once that it is far better to be good, to be saved, to be healed, to be cleansed, to be happy on earth, to obey God here and go straight to heaven when he dies, than to be wicked, sinful and hateful, and go to hell and live with devils and bad people, and find his way to heaven at last, after thousands of years, perhaps, in hell.

If you and I are traveling together to a beautiful city, and I show you a good road, and tell you that all along that road there are beloved friends who will entertain us, and cheer us and help us and make us happy, and take us straight to the city to which we desire to go, will we not go that way?

Or shall we go down into the valley away down the dark river, into mud flats, and wallow in the mire, going ten thousand miles around about, miserable, hungry, naked, beset by enemies and surrounded by serpents that sting us and bite us?

I show you the pleasant way to go, and I tell you that although you take the other way God will follow you and will find you, but it may take long.

Will you go the right Way, the loving Way, the Way that the Christ opened up by His blood—the Way of

Salvation, of Healing, of Holy Living?

Go the straight Way.

Our Father, if it takes Him a million years, must seek His sons and daughters, and He will, until at last He has brought them all home.

If any one tells you that the mercy of God is limited, tell him that God's mercy is above the heavens.

Tell him that the Word says it over, and over, and over again, that “the mercy of God endureth forever.”

**I Preach a Gospel of Hope.**

I hate sin.

I hate disease.

I hate the powers of death and hell; but I tell you that Satan will be conquered by the Christ; that Sin and Disease and Death and Hell will be conquered by Salvation, and Healing, and Life and Heaven.

I know that God will win, for the Times of the Restoration of All Things have begun; and that work will go on until All Things are restored to God.

I love the Gospel.

It is a Gospel of Love, a Gospel of Life, a Gospel of Health, a Gospel of Heaven.

May God give you that Gospel and make your spirit happy while you live.

No pillow is so soft as that Gospel when you lay down your head to sleep and awake in heaven.

All who desire the blessings of this Gospel rise and tell God so. [Nearly all rose.]

Now pray.

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.**

My God and Father, in Jesus' Name I come to Thee. I thank Thee that Thy love never fails, that Thy mercy endureth forever, that Jesus will draw All men unto Him, the most miserable on earth—yea, the most miserable in hell; that He came to seek and to save that which was lost. I thank Thee that He cannot stop seeking and He cannot stop saving until all the lost are found; until all who die in Adam are made alive in the Christ. Oh, help us to tell the story that God is Love; that He is good to all, and that He cannot limit His mercy, for it reaches all, and it endures forever. In Jesus' Name we pray Thee, give us a True Repentance; give us the True Faith; give us the True Obedience that we may obey Thee. If we have made bad vows to bad men, let us break the bad vows, and obey God, no matter what it costs. For Jesus' sake. [*All repeat the prayer, clause by clause, after the General Overseer.*]

Beloved, do you believe what you have prayed?

People—“*Ja.*”

General Overseer—Then do not be afraid to live it

Do not be afraid to say it out, and unborn millions will bless you; for that Gospel will be a blessing to all the generations to come.

### BENEDICTION.

Beloved, abstain from all appearance of evil. And may the very God of Peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus, the Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus, the Christ, the love of God our Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our Comforter and Guide, one Eternal God, abide in you, bless you and keep you, and all the Israel of God everywhere, forever. Amen.