

SPIRITICITY, September 1963

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

By Alden Truesdell

WHATEVER WE BELIEVE we are seeking, whatever our apparent goal, we are all in reality seeking the Kingdom of Heaven. This has been acknowledged by the wise of all ages. We have an inner urge for something better, an aspiration for a more ideal state of being.

Religion gets its power from relegating heaven to a time after death. This causes the members to keep up religious appearances and to strive for a passport into the place of future fun- the place where they will be permitted to do all the things they have refrained from doing here, for fear of future punishment.

Poor people have a sense of superiority regarding this place to which they believe they will go, for it is off limits to the rich. The rich find an escape clause in the contract, which tells them that, though it is difficult for them to qualify, it is possible -and of course each one feels an exception will be made in his case. So everyone is heading happily for this future reward. But it is still future which detracts from present possession.

Men are prone to look outside themselves for the satisfactory solution to the problems of life. As a race, they had (and still have) great need of such saving influence as that of Jesus Christ who called them back to base with definite instructions as to where and when the Kingdom of God could be found. Some heard the instruction (as some do today): "Neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, lo there! for, behold the Kingdom of God is within you."

Jesus warned men: "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in My Name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."

When Christ comes and the Kingdom of God is located, both will be found within consciousness. They will come not with pomp and ceremony, but as a thief in the night, in an hour when we think not.

The Kingdom comes as a seed - in a time of stillness. The spiritual seed is dropped into the seeking soul when, for a moment, the search has ceased, and the seeker rests from his efforts. In this time of quietude, the seed-word descends into the core of the soul, and a new order is ushered into the life of man, a new ingredient is added to the formula of life. Man starts to become a new creature in Christ, a citizen of a new government - the Government of God, the Kingdom of Heaven. The Psalmist, sensing the harvest to come from the germination of this seed, cried out:

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

The Scripture says we have an Adamic perversity and though we are sons of God we are prodigals. We rebel against the pious and sanctimonious presentation of advice that is sound enough, but still does not sound right to us. Because of inapt presentation, we reject the teaching of the Way of Life. We do ourselves disservice. We should discard the presentation, but not the principle.

Adam and Eve were sitting pretty - if only they had not tried to outwit Omniscience. The Prodigal had it made - if only he had not tried to separate himself from Omnipresence. If we accept these parables and allegories as pictures of how man becomes alienated from his heritage and how he can get back into the good graces of That which caused him to be, we see that man becomes bored with perfection and dissatisfied with Divinity.

There is a recalcitrance and a perversity in the race. The Scripture calls this "sin"; those who succumb, it calls "sinners." This enticed Adam and Eve out of Eden. This drew the Prodigal out of the Father's house into a far country where it helped him to get rid of his inheritance. This losing of spiritual Substance is not at all difficult.

Spiritual preservation is one of the first laws of spiritual aspiration. This is why there must be new bottles provided to contain the new wine, so that nothing will be wasted. The spiritual Essence is so potent that the least flaw in the bottle will let all of it escape.

In our spiritual ongoing, we sometimes protest against the seeming slowness of our development. We believe we have done all we know how to do to cooperate with our unfolding Christhood, but nothing happens - it is just the same old routine. But even as we protest, we feel different, we are different. We are aware of a new element working within us, which was not there before. We can't explain it, but we sense its import. We intuitively know this to be the new quickening energy promised to those who give Christ Truth an opportunity to do Its perfect work. For this is the seed germinating while taking to itself the strength from the surrounding soil. It is the working of the yeast, as its leavening influence extends to the outermost area of our sense of being.

We learn from physics that the whole universe is composed of energy, which is identical with light. This recalls the statement of John that "in Him (Christ) was Life; and the Life was the light of men." We learn in metaphysics that the Kingdom of God is the high consciousness of Good. So if all things are made of energy and light, and the Kingdom of God is the awareness of the Highest Expression of that Intelligent Energy, we find a sensible approach to some of the difficult claims of Christ Truth; for example, the statement of Jesus: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

John the Baptist represents the attitude and practice just preceding the coming of the Christ Truth. His message was "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"; his instruction was "Repent." To repent means to change our minds - to stop looking where we have been looking, to turn back to the Kingdom of God at hand - within. As we have seen, all form is composed of energy. Now we have been sustaining all sorts of forms by our attention. So when we turn we release great pockets of active energy, which when released flies back to its Source, much as water seeks its own level.

The release and upsurge of this energy makes for the violent taking the Kingdom by force. After the energy has been freed, it is stepped up to a higher rate of vibration, which is peaceful and powerful. We see in this the action described by Jesus in His Parables of the Kingdom: the seed taking to itself the energy and substance of the soil, to lift itself up into the air, until the birds - the free ideas - come to roost in the branches of the tree.

We see the leavening action of the yeast, improving the quality of the product, until it becomes the very bread of life. We see the "net, that was

cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." We see the "householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

We see too how the Kingdom can be within, and how the Father and Son can come and abide with the people whom they have prepared and will perfect to be inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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SPIRITICITY, October 1963

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

By H. B. Jeffery

THERE IS a Presence that fills the universe, that sustains it and upholds it, that is the Author and Creator of it. It is the Substance of all there is. God is all and in all. The Divine Substance fills the universe; there is nothing else. This we seek. We want to realize the Presence of God as the Substantiality of all being, of all that is.

As we realize the Presence of God, we shall find the mind expanding and we shall find the secret of the Divine. We shall partake of the Divine Nature. We know the words of St. Peter: "Ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature." We shall find in that Nature the love and joy and peace and strength and beauty we seek.

If we perceive love in God, we will not be surprised that the universe begins to exercise its love toward us. Then we shall be blessed by the love of the universe. If we behold the Substance which is God, we will not be surprised if some beautiful thing be done for us, and also through us. That which we realize becomes manifest in our world. So does God work in and through us "to will and to do of His good pleasure."

"It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." It is His pleasure to do it; He is more willing to give than we are to receive. When we realize that, we will open our minds gladly and "come boldly unto the throne of grace."

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SPIRITICITY, September 1963

AN OBSERVATION

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

ONLY ONE MAN in the history of the world has ever finished the work that was given Him to do. That one has changed the history of the world more than all other individuals put together. We recognize this fact in that we entitle Him the Savior of mankind. We recognize it in that we measure time from the date of His birth, and in that we call ourselves Christians. We admit that in Him was "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," and that He proved this by His resurrection and ascension. We admit these facts, because they are inescapable;

but how often do we accept as working hypotheses the logical conclusions of them?

If the Man Jesus Christ was God and Very God, it follows that His words are the most vital words ever spoken. It follows that His teaching is the touchstone, whereby we test every theory and every doctrine to see if it is valid. As John said, "Try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ... Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." The words of Jesus Christ are the light with which we examine the rest of Scripture and all other sacred and profane writing. Further, they are, in themselves, Spirit and Life, as Jesus declared; and they shall not pass away, though heaven and earth do pass away.

The acceptance of the words of Jesus as the norm of doctrine is objected to on the grounds that those who do thus accept them do not agree among themselves, that the early Church substituted a doctrine about Christ for His teaching, and that the Synoptic problem and textual problems make it impossible to determine exactly what His teaching was. None of these objections is valid; and, if any of the objections were, we would be in the sad predicament of having lost the greatest treasure that the human race ever received, the instruction of the Son of God. Disagreements, however, mean simply that we need a more intense, honest, and unbiased study of our sources. The early Church did not substitute a doctrine about Christ for His teaching, because His teaching was primarily about Himself. As James Stalker remarks, "The center and soul of His preaching was Himself." As for the Synoptic problem, John has long been recognized as the most spiritual of the Gospels, and this is precisely what one would expect in a book written by the beloved disciple of the Master, which is what John purports to be.

The substance of Jesus' teaching is clear and unmistakable in spite of differences of opinion with respect to minor details. In any event, the words of Jesus that have been preserved to us are the highest teaching that we have, so we should bend every effort to understanding them, rather than becoming lost in the dead letter of scholarly quibbles.

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SPIRITICITY, September 1963

APOTHEGMS

By Nell Truesdell

O GOD, OUR GOD, Your Divinity is more sacred than our holiest symbols of worship or our most treasured possessions.

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O God, our God, Your Glory transcends the overpowering beauty of nature or the conquests of heroic men.

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O God, our God, Your Majesty surpasses the imposing dignity of kings and the grandeur of queens of the earth.

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O God, our God, Your Mightiness is more powerful than the flash of lightning in the sky or the H-bomb of man's making.

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0 God, our God, Your Radiance brightens our life with joy and gives us strength to continue on our pathway toward You.

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0 God, our God, Your Grace regenerates, invigorates, and blesses us with unmerited Divine Favor.

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0 God, our God, Your Presence compels our deep respect; refines our behavior; inspires our awe; and increases our worth in Your sight.

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0 God, our God, Your Spirit animates, enlightens, and enriches us with all the elements of Your Being: Life, Intelligence, and Substance.

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0 God, our God, Your Love enfolds us in affectionate embrace and warms our hearts in selfless devotion to You.

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0 God, our God, Your Peace, like a fragrance, interpenetrates and sweetens our nature and makes us aware that we are cherished in Your sight.

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0 God, our God, You are Everlasting, Immortal Deity who created man and endowed him with Your own Divinity.

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0 God, our God, may we through love for You, secure conscious oneness with You in blessed sonship, through Christ Jesus our Lord and Deliverer. Amen.

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If we consciously put ourselves under God's laws, everything ungodly in us must be sacrificed.

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We are never troubled by any difficulty that we refuse to tolerate.

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A building collapses when a tornado sucks away the air inside it. Similarly our consciousness collapses when unbridled passions dissipate our forces and suck away the sustaining Spirit.

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"Why," you ask, "does God allow a fault to continue to humiliate me when I have prayed so earnestly for release?"

It may be that your effort to correct a fault is the only discipline you will accept.

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God is the point of rest in the soul. When you know that, you may go in and out, and find pasture.

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Matter is the constricted condition of free-flowing Ideas.

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When God means everything to you, the world means nothing to you.

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All a person's difficulties lie within himself.

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When we do our work by skills that we worked hard to acquire, we achieve success without working for it.

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When the intellect is illumined by Divine Truth, it perishes; for then it has nothing to sustain it.

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Meritorious work is done only after you have worked hard to shed your own human limitations.

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Mystical Truth is comprehended when your attention is based in the soul.  
Then you know you have entered a Realm that transcends all others.

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You have but one Source to look to for the strength you need; that Source  
is God.

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Envy closes your door to receive.

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I look to You, dear God, so that Your wholeness may heal me. Your knowing  
may enlighten me, and Your bountifulness may prosper me.

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How does God abide with us? He abides with us in much the same way that  
our name abides with us. We cannot detach ourself from our name, though we may  
change our personality so as to appear to be a different person.

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Your concerns of the day do not disturb God; they disturb you.

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Learn to live within the limits of your own limitations: the color of your  
skin, your nationality, your progenitors, your schooling, your neighbors; then  
will you escape inherited conditions and set yourself free, where you are.

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Nothing handicaps a person who knows his true Identity and who values his  
spiritual worth.

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Instead of blaming others for your unhappiness or failure, take a square  
look at yourself and see what in you is defeating you.

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You get a double portion of good when you see the other fellow's good.

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Your soul is nearer to God than it is to your body.

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Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day Of the Month

SEPTEMBER, 1963

2. Yea, the ALMIGHTY shall be thy defense.
3. BEHOLD, God is mighty, and despiseth not any.
4. The CREATOR ... fainteth not, neither is weary.
5. DREAD not, neither be afraid.
6. The ETERNAL God is thy refuge.
7. FEEL after Him, and FIND Him.
9. He GIVETH to all; life, breath, and all things.
10. The Kingdom of HEAVEN is like unto leaven.
11. I heard thee ... I helped thee ... I will preserve thee.
12. How should a man be JUST with God?
13. A man of KNOWLEDGE increaseth strength.
14. LIFT up thy face unto God.
16. God ... MAKETH MY way perfect.
17. I am called by Thy NAME.
18. OUR soul waiteth for the Lord.
19. Thou shalt have PLENTY of silver.
20. Many waters cannot QUENCH love.
21. I lead the way of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
23. SEE the SALVATION of the Lord.
24. In Him will I TRUST.
25. UNDERNEATH are the everlasting arms.
26. Ye are of more VALUE than many sparrows.
27. The Light shall shine upon thy WAYS.
28. Preach the acceptable YEAR of the Lord.
30. See my ZEAL for the Lord.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

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SPIRITICITY is the Working Power of the Spiritual Principle  
as electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.

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