



## What is God for, anyway

There used to be people, maybe there still are some, who claimed that the world owed them a living. Such people were not highly respected. In more recent days a large number of people have been claiming that the government owes them a living. What is a government for, they ask, if not to take care of me after I have squandered all my high wages? These people are often credited with a high degree of social consciousness, and are not so widely condemned as their predecessors were.

And there is a still larger class that thinks God owes them a living. If God rules the world, if He created people, then it is His business to take care of them. What is God for anyway? And these people are usually highly respected and are thought of as up to date theologians. God is good—even better than the bureaucrats — and He will never punish anyone. He is the Father of all men; and are not fathers supposed to spoil their children? Anyone that believes God will punish a person has a dismal conception of God. That conception went out with the horse and buggy.

Now this modern theology would deserve some attention, if it could be shown to have come from God. God knows best what He intends to do. And it is wiser to find out what God has said, than it is merely to guess.

God has declared His intentions, and they are not what this modern theology teaches. By the mouth of Peter God said, "If God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell . . . and spared not the old world but saved Noah . . . the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:4, 5, 9).

The Lord Jesus Christ said to some people who thought highly of themselves, "Ye shall die in your sins; whither I go, ye cannot come."

God indeed is good — good enough to send Jesus Christ to die as a sacrifice to pay the sinner's debt — good enough to save some. But God is also righteous — sufficiently righteous to punish others. How do you stand?

G.H.C.

## WHERE DEATH SHOULD FIND US

The following quaint lines may be deciphered from a weather-beaten grave stone in the old Tenpant Church Yard near Freehold, New Jersey. "Here lies the mortal part of Gilbert Tennant. In the practice of Pysick he was successful and beloved. Young, gay and in the highest bloom of life, death found him hopefully in the Lord. . . . O reader, had you heard his last testimony you would have been convinced of the extreme madness of delaying repentance."

The ancient stone has spoken silent truth for over a century. Repentance is necessary for salvation. One must be sincerely sorry for his sins and turn from it to God for forgiveness with earnest purpose henceforth to seek to do God's will. Peter's words to the sin-convicted multitude were, "Repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ." (Acts 2:38). And folly it is indeed to delay repentance. ". . . Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

Death strikes without warning and is no respecter of persons. None can know the day nor the hour of his summons. It may be that death will strike in the early years, or it may be at the close of a long life. One thing is certain—the grim visitor comes to all.

May it be said of you after your departure as it was said of the fine young physician who lived so many years ago, "Death found him hopefully in the Lord."

To repent of sin and believe the Gospel is to receive now a life that is eternal, a life that death will only serve to usher into Heaven's fullness and glory. Ah, repent of your sins NOW while there is opportunity and put your faith in Him who will "save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him" (Hebrews 7:25).

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