Grace Evangelical And Reformed Church

307 North Plymouth Street

Culver, Indiana

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Dr. William S. Sadler
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago 14, Ill.

Dear Dr. Sadler:

As you know, Sunday I presented the Urantia Book to our congregation. The reaction was much as I anticipated - curosity and interest. To date there have been no negative reactions. You asked about the content of the sermons leading up to this presentation. Before I forget, I will summarize them. All were given under the heading: How Does God Speak to Us?

1. Through His Inner Presence. The Triune God indwells each of us. God the Father dwells in us: "Let us make man after our own image...He is not far from each of us, for in him we live and move and have our being...Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for God is at work in you." This presence might be called the Thought Adjuster in man.
Since Pentecost the Spirit of the Son is with us: "When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...he will declare the things that are to come." Our minds are guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."
There are many references to God's inner presence: "I hear a voice I had not known... The Spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord...Do not quench the Spirit...Guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us...We are a temple of God...The Spirit reaches everything, even the depths of God...All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God...We serve in the new life of the Spirit... It is the Spirit that gives life...Be renewed in the Spirit of your minds."
God indwells you and His inner presence is the most reliable guide to truth. This Inner Spirit is blocked in at least three ways: 1. By wanting our own way above God's way - egocentricity. 2. By the many forms of social authoritarianism, custom and tradition. 3. By the legalism of dogma, theology, rules and formulas. The form can never contain the Spirit. Only the indwelling God can teach you safely. Always remain teachable.

2. Through Our Growing Perception. Scientists tell us that when energy vibrates between 34,000 and 64,000 waves per inch we can see it - this is our physical world. But we know there is a much larger world which we cannot see. Above this frequency are the ultra violet, soft x-rays, x-rays and gamma rays; below this frequency are the heat waves, short radio, micro and long radio waves. Scientists have postulated that if we could extend the range of our perception, we would see an entirely different world. Most scientists believe this is the direction in which man is evolutionizing. Our physical evolution is largely over and our mind-spirit evolution is just beginning as a major development. Gerald Heard in Pain, Sex and Time and Richard Bucke in Cosmic Consciousness give us a picture of this development. Man in his long evolutionary climb has developed through simple consciousness to self-consciousness and is now grasping after cosmic consciousness. In evolution individuals are always in advance of the race. Before 1200 instances of cosmic consciousness appeared around once in every 360 years; since 1200 this phenomenon is appearing about once in every 75 years. Modern examples are Emanuel Swedenborg, Edgar Cayce and Eileen Garrett. There are

many others. Within the last twenty-five years extra-sensory perception has been demonstrated in the laboratory.
This psychic-spiritual evolution will continue until our world has entered an era of what might be called a time of Light and Life. At such time many people may not experience death but be translated out of this world somewhat like Elijah's experience. John may have seen a vision of this kind of world when he said, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."
This is the meaning of scientific progress. Man is slowly being freed from his physical preoccupations and at last will have time for serious spiritual evolutionary development. Each of us should cooperate with this creative evolution. This is the hand of God at work. Listen for inner guidance, a new awareness, a oneness with God.

3. Through Mighty Acts. The Spirit of God always bears witness to His presence in new power. Jesus said, "Go tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them." Those familiar with the history of Christianity know that so called spiritual healing continued for several hundred years after the coming of Christ. Then for many centuries there was a regression of this phenomenon. But in the last twenty-five years it is appearing again on a rather large scale.
Doctors and scientists, more than ministers, have led the way to a new examination of what is usually called spiritual healing. A. G. Tkin - New Concepts of Healing, E. G. Neal - A Reporter Finds God Through Spiritual Healing, and Agnes Sanford - The Healing Light demonstrate the great scope of this development in our day. The Spiritual Healing Seminars being held at the Wainwright House, Rye, N. Y. have attracted a large number of top ranking medical specialists, psychiatrists, psychologists, ministers, and research men.
After three years of research in this field Neal says, "Spiritual healing is not for the saints, not for a selected few, any more than is medicine. It is for you and for everyone, now, today. It is not an ancient myth, a Bible fantasy. It is a demonstrable truth, as positively established, for example, as the fact that the blood in your body circulates. Thousands have seen and know and had scientifically verified their spiritual healings. To them, the healing power has been as indisputably proved as has the circulatory system to the medical profession. There is reliable evidence of the healing power of God."
Why has this healing ministry been revived in recent times? I believe it is a part of a whole developmental picture. There are many spiritual laws open to all which are beyond our present imagination. We will discover them slowly. No doubt these mighty acts of spiritual power are now preparing us for a whole new phase of development, even possible new revelation.

4. Through His Incarnation. Tiger Clemenceau at the 1918 peace conference spoke sneeringly of Woodrow Wilson, "This man talks like Jesus Christ." Today the United Nations is beginning to realize that this is the only way to peace.
The incarnation is the greatest thing that ever happened to our world. We have only seen the beginning of this cosmic event's meaning and power. There is a movement to bring Christ back into Christmas. This is good but the first place to start is with Christianity itself. A pitifully small part of the Bible deals with the teachings of Christ. Much in our Scriptures does not measure up to his superlative teachings. Paul, for instance, never dreamed that his well intended letters would three hundred years later be declared divine revelation.
Scholars have always known that Christianity has borrowed and baptized much that was a part of the mystery religions dominant in the Roman world during the first century

after Christ. Mithraism, for instance, taught that Mitras was born of a virgin and announced by angels and gift bearing shepherds. The Mithraic keys would unlock the gates of heaven and the wicked were to be destroyed by fire. Even Sunday School teachers know that Christ's birth was arbitrarly placed on December 25, the great annual festival of Mitras.
The greatest need of humanity is to rediscover Christ. How? The records admittedly are pitifully meger. But where there is a true spiritual need, God will eventually meet that need. All of us may rejoice this Christmas more than humanity has had occasion to rejoice in more than 1900 years. For, as I shall point out more clearly in the sixth sermon of this series, God has made it possible once more to put Christ back into Christmas and Christianity.
It is true, the teachings of Christ have not failed; they have never, on a large scale, been tried.

5. Through the Vision of Seers. "Quench not the spirit; despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good," said Paul. This is still good advice. For there are many strange happenings which are difficult to understand. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Philadelphia neurologist, was gotten out of bed one night by a little girl who said her mother was seriously ill. When the doctor arrived he found the mother quite ill but she informed him that her only daughter had died over a month ago. The American and British Societies of Psychic Research have investigated thousands of similar incidents. Out of the total there seems to be a hard core of facts that are difficult to explain on the basis of materialistic naturalism. There appears to be at least three types of phenomena that hold up under scientific investigation: communication, levitation and apports (materialization). This suggests that there is no absolute line between material and psychic phenomena and probably no absolute line between this world and what is generally known as the spiritual world. These facts help modern man understand the possibility and even the methodology of divine revelation. Whenever man has gotten beyond analytical thinking into the more inclusive framework of integral thinking, he has realized the possibility of both individual and epochal revelation. This has been the source of his greatest wisdom and the revealer of his destiny.

Such is the general approach I used. Would you give me the name of the binders who separated the various parts of the Urantia Book for you. I should like to have one book made up this way. Sometime when we are in Chicago I shall look forward to speaking with you about the quotations of the Urantia Book.

Sincerely,

Meredith

Meredith J. Sprunger