

Repairing the New Testament?

"But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away" (1Cor. 13:8-10).

A gospel preacher in a religious debate on miraculous gifts, after citing Mark 16:20, 1Corinthians 13:8-10, and other passages, illustrated the purpose and passing of supernatural gifts by the scaffold. He said that the gifts were to the written New Testament as a scaffold is to a new building. When a building is being built, the scaffold is used in aiding its construction, but once it is completed, the scaffold is removed. Similarly, once the written New Testament was completed, being duly confirmed as the word of God, the miraculous gifts were no longer needed and were done away.

His opponent, when it was his time to speak, replied by saying that it would be perfectly suitable to replace the scaffold from time to time to make repairs on the building. He said that scaffolds are often replaced and, likewise, miraculous gifts often reappear from time to time. The gospel preacher, at his time, responded by saying that he would gladly grant his opponent's affirmation, if there ever came a time when the written New Testament needed repairs!

Worrying Unnecessarily

We often worry about things which are unlikely to occur. There is a story told of a man standing on a crowded bus. A young man standing next to him asked, "What time is it, sir?" The man refused to reply. The young man moved on. The silent man's friend, sensing something was wrong, asked, "Why were you so discourteous to the young man asking for the time?"

He answered, "If I had given him the time of day, next he would want to know where I am going, and then we would talk about our interests, and if we did that, he would invite himself to my house for dinner, and if he came, he would meet my daughter, and if he met her, they would both fall in love, and I don't want my daughter marrying someone who can't afford a watch."

Let's not worry about something that might happen in the future. We have enough on our plate in the present without adding tomorrow's fears (Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:6-7).

I can think of only one kind of person who needs to fear tomorrow: the one who is unprepared to meet God. May your sleep be troubled, your meals unsatisfying, and your quiet moments fretful until you obey the Gospel of Christ. Your soul is too precious to treat casually (Heb. 10:26-27).

A Moments Wisdom

On sharing responsibility: No single raindrop believes it is to be blamed for the flood. Light is the task where many share the toil.

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.

If you want the rainbow, you must put up with the rain.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

A ship in the harbor is safe -- but ships were not made to remain in the harbor.