

TABERNACLE ON SOUTH FIFTEENTH STREET

RICHMOND, IND., MAY 16, 1922.

AFTERNOON AND EVENING SERVICES

If You Choose to Go to Hell You Are Going; But God Gives You Opportunity to Save Soul

If There Is Something Within You Inimical to God's Word,
Cast It Out, Is Plea of Billy Sunday—If You Turn Away
God's Salvation You Are a Big Fool—Choose God While
You Have An Opportunity.

The text—"So he made it again,"
Jeremiah 18th chapter, 4th verse.

In his sermon Tuesday afternoon
Rev. W. A. Sunday said:

Among all the human crafts none is more wonderful than that of the potter. It's a mingling of the vision of the mind through the functions of the fingers. They give expression to the vision—otherwise it could not be seen. Man is peculiar among the animals in that he has the power to originate and create. Also he is the only animal that has a thumb, which permits him to be dexterous with his hands. The combination of these two peculiarities is what permits man to build anything from a wrist watch to a steam engine. He should see that he builds according to God's wishes.

At the time Jeremiah called upon the prophet, the people of Israel were in a desperate condition. They had literally given themselves up to sin, and the heart of the old prophet was almost breaking. For 40 years he had stood as a bulwark against the idolatry, and he cried out to the nation which was rushing headlong. He made his way to the house of the potter. He watched the potter as he put the clay upon the wheel—he watched and listened to the whirling wheel, saw the shapeless, inert clay take form and shape, and my subject today grows out of this incident.

"Marred in the hand of the potter, as he made it again." For some reason the potter was unable to make what he had in mind to make, but he did not crush and throw it away. He softened the clay, picked out the pebbles and dashes it again on the wheel. Jeremiah cries out in the words of my text, "O God, Israel is the clay and Thou art the potter. Fashion us again according to Thy will."

Cast Out Evil Influences.
If there is something within you inimical to God's interests, cast it out. Take God's word and salvation to yourself.

You wouldn't turn away a doctor if he came to cut a malignant growth out of you. If you did you would be a fool. When you turn away God's salvation you are a bigger fool.

Be honest now. Cannot you look back and see the pathway over which you have travelled all littered with broken vows? Somewhere concealed is the hidden secret sin which has become a part of your nature, marring and ruining your life.

You have fought against evil, but you are being defeated by the devil. Remember that you are the raw clay, inert and unbecoming. But remember also that you are the very stuff that God needs to do His work with.

God might have sent an angel to preach to you people here, but He said: "Bill, I want you to go down there and preach."

God might have sent a choir of angels here to sing for us, but He didn't. God likes to use earthen vessels for His work.

There was a time when your life was rising into fair and beautiful shape. I look at the clay, it's a symbol of myself, of yourself, inert and lacking form, lacking beauty, but the very stuff that God wants to do His work with.

Man Has Right To Choose.
Jeremiah thought the potter would reject it, but instead he picked up the broken pieces and made it again. Men say, "The clay has no will power."

That's true. The clay cannot elect or decide what to do. But you can choose. The central glory of man is that he can elect—that he can choose.

If you choose to go to hell you are going to hell. If you elect to go to heaven you can go to heaven. God has given you your choice; it's up to you.

But remember, old boy, that you're electing yourself to go to hell if you persist in serving the devil.

God has revealed to us His will, and He wants you to exercise your individual will in harmony with it. If you do, everything is all right. If you don't you're a fool.

There are senses in which the distance between God and man is greater than between the potter and the clay. God is creator, man his creature; God is infinite, man finite. God can do all things. Between the potter and the clay there was an all-around communion. Between God and man there can be and there is. When you say the clay cannot wish, it cannot desire, I tell you clay can choose, but man can elect, he can choose and he can resist.

I can fling myself against the shield of God and be broken. I can lay my head upon His heart and have the comfort of a mother.

If I place myself in submission to and in harmony with the government of the United States, the will and power of 90,000,000 persons is behind me. I can buck that government if I want to, but then I have 90,000,000 people opposing me.

Put Heaven On Your Side.
I can put myself in submission to and in harmony with God Almighty, and then I'll have all heaven behind me giving me support. I'll get myself against God, all heaven is my opponent. Thank God, friends, I've got heaven on my side.

When I was preaching up in the coal regions of Pennsylvania I held a meeting near one of the toughest mining centers of the country. In the midst of my sermon a huge, drunken fellow reeled into the tent. He interrupted me all through my talk. When I had finished and called for converts he stumbled his way up to me, put out his grimy paw and said:

"Bill, I'll go you one for luck on it." He said he'd go me one for luck, but he meant it in earnest. That man was a graduate of Yale university whom the devil had dragged down to the paths of inanity in which I found him. He was a drunkard at that time.

His wife and two children lived with him in a miserable hovel, half-starved and never warm. Two years after he gave himself to Christ he was elected mayor of the city. At his own expense five years later he built and organized a church. That's what God's grace will do for a man.

Several years ago I went through the great American desert in a train. I looked out over that wide expanse of waste and sand and another passenger said, "Isn't it great?"

"What do you mean?" I asked him. "Why," he replied, "a few years ago Pasadena was a desert like this. So was Redland, all that beautiful farming desert. All this needs is for Uncle Sam to bring some water to it from the mountains and it will bloom like Paradise."

Many Lives Need To Be Refreshed.
I thought then how many lives there are like that desert, which need only the touch of God's grace to make them bloom with sweetness.

God has a plan for every life. He alone knows the possibilities of each human life.

Has something come into your life, some secret sin, some unholy passion? Has the vessel you thought you would rise beautiful become marred and broken? Have you peace, no purity? Take heed, God gives you a chance to prove yourself.

Several years ago Patti, the great singer, went to a postoffice in France and asked for her mail. There were letters waiting for her there, but the postmaster wasn't sure of her identity and refused them to her.

"You will have to show me proof that you are Patti," he said.

Then Patti raised her voice and she sang "The Last Rose of Summer."

The postmaster recognized her then and said: "Take these letters. No one but Patti could sing like that."

Oh, let us show the world that God is in us by our lives, so that people will say: "None but God could cause this."

What matter to us that the sensitive clay Be beaten and moulded from day unto day; To answer not, question, not, just be still, And know Thou art shaping us into Thy will.

What is the last thing Jeremiah said? "So he made it again." That is the Bible; that's God; that's Jesus. The fact of His plan, of His purpose. If you rebel I am flung out, if I yield He will make me again.

Does Wonderful Carving Work.
Herkamer, the wonderful sculptor, was the son of a Black forest wood-chopper. When he had won fame he lived with his father in an apartment.

The old man used to try to carve but his weak eyes and failing hand spoiled his work. But while the father slept at night the great Herkamer would go over the old man's figures and they would emerge from his hands as wonderful bits of sculpture.

Yes, give yourselves to God and let Him put the Master's touch to the things you do. It is wonderful.

A group of tourists were once about to enter the catacombs in Rome. While they were still in the daylight the guide gave each a candle and lighted it. The tourists laughed at the feeble rays of the candle, because their light hardly showed in the bright sunshine. So it is with us. In the glare of the world of society, wealth and pleasure we don't think of God, or if we do it seems a feeble thought, but when we are sick or in trouble then we think of Him and the glory of His presence illuminates everything.

I knew a girl who gave up her home to go to China as a missionary. Her family wanted to send her a present in her new home. After much de-

Sunday Revival Program

TUESDAY
7:30 P. M.—Song service and sermon. West Side night.
WEDNESDAY
9:30 A. M.—Miss Kinney meets High School girls at New Paris.
10:00 A. M.—Mr. Sunday preaches at Portland.
10:15 A. M.—Miss Kinney holds public meeting at New Paris.
Noon—Shop meeting, Pennsy shops.
Noon—Business women, Reid Memorial church.
12:30 P. M.—Business men, Y. M. C. A.
2:30 P. M.—Business women's invitation committee. Reid Memorial church.
2:30 P. M.—Song service and sermon.
3:30 P. M.—Bible class, Miss Kinney; leader.
4:00 P. M.—Parent-Teachers association union meeting, First English Lutheran church, Miss Kinney speaks.
7:30 P. M.—Song service and sermon. Lutheran night.

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late they decided upon a phonograph. Each member of the family made a record of her voice, and when the girl opened her gift thousands of miles away she heard again the voices of those who were dear to her, and tears flowed down her cheeks like a river as she listened to the verbal messages of love which only a mother can impart, to the fond greetings of her proud father, to the crying of her baby sister. Ah, it was a wonderful thing to her.

Bible Sends Message To Us.
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Thus may we plead with Thy work— Press down on our substance some symbol of Thine: Thy name and Thine image, and let it be shown That Thou dost acknowledge the work as Thine own.

Well, thank you Lord. We don't deserve all Thy mercy and goodness, but we're grateful for it. We thank You that You didn't cast us into the devil's heap. We thank You that You gave us a chance.

O Lord, we know that those who are sinners today walk in the paths of wickedness and misery only because they thwarted Thee. Help us to yield ourselves to Thy will. May scores and hundreds here today yield themselves to God, and we'll praise You forever, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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SUNDAY Says—

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TODAY'S BEST STORY IN BILLY'S SERMON

Make yourselves plastic to the will of God so that He can mould you in perfect form. Don't thwart Him, don't resist. Let God tell Richmond. His message through your lips and your lives. I was out in a town in Indiana, some years ago, and I went to a pottery there, and I saw a friend of mine at work. He said, "Bill, I'll make you a Corinthian vase."

So he started in to make the vase. But when it was almost finished the clay developed some defect, and he couldn't make a perfect vase out of it.

My friend, the potter, looked at the vase that wouldn't be formed right, and he said, "Bill, there's something wrong here; can't make a Corinthian vase out of that. The only thing I can do with this now is make it into a spittoon."

I expect that God Almighty meant to make Corinthian vases out of a lot of you, but you've thwarted Him and the best He could do with some of you is to make cuspidors.

So whether we are on the wheel of circumstances, trials, disappointments, suffering, let us say:

Thou art the potter and we are the clay. Morning and evening and day after day. Thou turnest Thy wheel and our substance is wrought into form at Thy will, into shape at Thy thought.

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