

**Pastor Russell's Answer To Haldeman**  
(Open Letter)

BROOKLYN TABERNACLE

To Bible Students of all Denominations, and all lovers of Truth and Righteousness:

In my sermon of May 5th I charged that the Christian ministry is hiding the Key of Divine knowledge from the people, as did the Doctors of Divinity of Jesus' day. This has aroused much comment. I am asked in substance: Why, Pastor Russell, did you not specify the particular subjects on which the Pulpit is seeking to keep the Pew in ignorance—hiding the key of knowledge? If what you say is true the laity must awake to this unsuspected danger! But prove to us that it is true!

Sad I am that it is true that the ministers of all denominations (with some noble exceptions) are the chief foes to real Bible study. Christians of all denominations love and reverence the Bible as the Word of God. Under the light now shining from one page of it to another, they would soon discard the creeds of the darker past and become one united church—with “one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,” were it not for the ministers. The preachers having lost faith in the inspiration of the Bible are “higher critics.” They do not wish to show their unbelief, hence avoid Bible discussion. They await the ripening of unbelief when they can publicly say, We educated ministers have not believed the Bible inspired for many long years. We kept quiet until you would not be shocked by the statement. But to the proofs:

(1) The preachers know that the only Hebrew word translated hell in our Bibles has no reference whatever to a great torture-chamber such as their people believe contains nearly all humanity. Privately they will admit that “sheol” means the tomb, and that its equivalent in the New Testament Greek is “hades.” They will admit, too, that “Gehenna” is the name of a valley outside Jerusalem where rubbish was consumed and explained Biblically to symbolize the Second Death.—Rev. 20:14.

(2) I charge Rev. Haldeman, D.D., with attempting to throw dust into the mental eyes of Baptists by horribly misrepresenting my teachings, to hinder his people from studying Bible teachings to which I call attention, by cracking over their heads the whip of fear. When he declared my teachings to be “the blasphemous religion which teaches the annihilation of Jesus Christ” he intended his untruthful words should scare timid “sheep” and hinder Bible study. He not only helped to hide the “key of knowledge,” but in this unscrupulous way he tries to keep the Lord's people from finding it. I am positive he would not think for a moment of defending his own Church Creed in public. The misrepresentation of my teachings is to rally the old spirit of the “dark ages,” the spirit of hatred and sectarianism. His followers will not so closely examine their own creed if

they are busy fighting a supposed enemy, and Dr. Haldeman misrepresents me to be that enemy. Alas! what a heavy penalty we may fear at the hands of the Lord upon those who, posing as light-bearers, are serving the cause of darkness—hating the light and misrepresenting it.

I might multiply facts, but these may suffice for the present. If Christian people once realize the extent to which they are being hoodwinked by the clergy they would soon find abundance of proof. If they ask for Bible instruction along simple lines (bread) they will be given a stone of evasion. If they ask for stronger meat (fish) they will get a serpent—a stinging rebuke, for meddling in matters theological, as though they doubted that the preacher knew everything, and as though they supposed that the laity were capable of understanding anything! Abraham Lincoln well said, “You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can’t fool all the people all the time.”

Faithful to the Morning light (2 Pet. 1:19),  
June 15th, 1912.  
C. T. Russell

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You ask, “Has the New Creature flesh?”

Yes, the Apostle answers. While we were reckoned dead according to the flesh, yet our reckonedly dead flesh has been quickened through the power of God to serve Him; for we are risen with Christ to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:11,4). But our flesh is now counted as the body of the New Creature, and the Lord deals with us only as New Creatures.

(1915 Convention Report, Supplement, page 160-1.)

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Wasn’t it merely for the Church then living that Christ appeared? Oh, no, in God’s plan the whole Church is one company from first to last; even as Jesus prayed the Father on the night before his crucifixion, saying, I pray for those whom thou hast given me and yet I pray not for these alone, but for all of those who shall believe on me through their word. We come in under that score, my dear brethren. We belong to that same class, that same body of which Jesus was the head, of which the Apostles were the first members, and of which all the faithful in Christ Jesus throughout this Gospel Age are the members in particular. So we have had reconciliation with God through His blood.

(1913 Convention Report, page 131, Col. 2, par. 5.)