

FOOD FOR (CAREFUL) THOUGHT  
(Theodore A. Smith)

(Over the years we have been in the habit of jotting down little items from the Pastor's pen. We have scores of these in a little black notebook and they are listed under appropriate headings. These have been a great blessing to us. Recently we have jotted down a few special items in another notebook—items that appealed to us as applicable to some of the questions and subjects that have been occupying the minds of the Lord's people the last few years. We try to take our cues from the Pastor and we think there are some very important statements and principles in the Pastor's writings that solve some of our problems if we only have sufficient interest to dig deeply into his expressions and try to catch the exact meaning (and spirit) that is there. We offer these more current notes for consideration and if they turn out to be helpful we will be very happy and thankful to the Lord for the privilege of being useful as one of the members of the Body of Christ. We are copying these notes in the order we find them in this special notebook, with no attempt to arrange them in any subject or alphabetical sequence. If you find these notes helpful, we would be pleased if you would tell us; and we can furnish more notes at future dates.)

1. Christians—whom we recognize as such: “In these Studies we make no attempt at impassioned appeal; but rather in the words of Jesus, we suggest that each one, when considering whether or not he will join himself to the Lord, become a follower of Christ, shall first quietly ‘sit down and count the cost,’ as the Master directed. We do, however, earnestly urge the importance of decision, and a positive decision as being essential to proper peace of mind and to proper Christian progress, and to an inheritance with the saints under the terms of this Gospel Age.—Col. 1:12.

“Those who do conclude to give their hearts to God should know that ‘there is no other name given under heaven or amongst men’ whereby we can be recovered to God's favor, so as to be permitted to enter the house of sons, than the name of Jesus. In his name means in, by and through all his name stands for to have faith in God, obedience to his terms, etc. But when the decision is reached, it means, ‘Thy God shall be my God.’

“Decision is reached to join the house of sons through Christ. Be it noticed that we have not recommended the joining of any denomination, nor does the Bible. The instruction of the Bible is that each, to be a member of the house of sons, must be joined to the Lord—to Christ and through him to the Father—in order to be an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. Such as do this have their names written, not on an earthly roll of membership, but ‘in the Lamb's Book of Life,’ ‘whose names are written in heaven.’

“Their next step should be to say, ‘Thy people shall be my people.’ And so surely as any of God's people are found, they are all brethren of one family, whether they be found amongst Roman Catholics or Baptists, amongst Methodists... or they be found outside of all denominations. God's people are all one, because by one Spirit they are baptized into the one spiritual body, the Head of which is Christ, whose spirit must pervade all his members.—1 Cor. 12:13.

“Not only should we seek for the people of God, but we should acknowledge and fellowship them, whether they be white or black, rich or poor, learned or ignorant; for ‘ye are all one in Christ Jesus’ and ‘One is your Master, even Christ.’

“The proper course for all those who come into Christ is to inquire for and search out ‘the old paths’—the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles, their teachings, their practices—and not be influenced by modern digressions philosophies and sciences falsely so-called or by creeds and

theories of the dark ages. 'They shall all be taught of God' is a promise which belongs to the entire household of faith; and the Word of God is 'meat in due season,' and is the strength provided for their strengthening, upbuilding and preparation for a share in the kingdom."

(Foregoing from Z. Jan. 15, 1915, 5614, under subheading: How To Become a Christian. Written after World War I had started.)

2. "... all should see that the fellowship and faith of the early Church, under Divine direction, were built upon the first principles of the doctrine of Christ; and nothing more or less should be the basis of Christian fellowship here and now." (From Bible Student Monthly, Vol. 6, #9, Page 4:3-5. Written in 1914 after World War I had begun.)
3. "... the really consecrated believer, who has passed from death unto life, finds in them [in the churches] but little real fellowship, except as he discovers here and there a kindred spirit, similarly begotten to newness of life—to new motives, thoughts, words and deeds." (From B.S.M. Vol. 6, #9, page 3:3-2. Written in 1914 after World War I had started.)
4. "This true faith is that all were sinners, justly under God's condemnation to death through the fall; that Christ Jesus our Lord died *for* OUR SINS according to the Scriptures, and that he was raised from the dead by the Father, who thus gave assurance to all that Christ's sin-offering on our behalf was completed and fully satisfactory, under which those of Adam's race who are sick of sin and desirous of harmony with God can be justified and return to His love, favor and blessing. (1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Rom. 5:1, 6, 12, 18) Whoever holds this simple faith is a believer, a member of 'the household of faith.' Whoever *with this faith* fully consecrates himself to the Lord's service is a baptized believer, a probationary member of the one true church, whose names are written in heaven. If he run the Christian race as he has covenanted to do, he will win the Prize and be one of the Elect Church in glory, granted a place with the Lord in His Throne.—Rev. 3:21." (From B.S.M. Vol. 6, #9, page 4 top of first column. Written after World War I had begun.)
5. Begetting—experiences to prove: "And begetting of the holy Spirit is indicated by his appreciation of the deep things of God, as represented in the altar of incense and the table of shew-bread; in experiences of chiseling and polishing, and by opportunities to serve. In some cases these various steps are taken almost simultaneously." (5411-1.)
6. Begetting since 1881 - how to determine—same as above and on.
7. Believe - those who truly accept God's offers. (5433:2-4.)
8. Babylon - do not urge unready to come out of. (3593-6.)
9. Babylon - no one should be called out of until her (Babylon's) true position is seen. (5092:2-1.)
10. Begetting - we are drawn by God's Word and providences to Christ. (1698:2-8.)
11. Begetting of Spirit - same as par. 4 above.
12. Brethren - we recognize all the consecrated as such, even though in nominal church. (5564:2-6.)

13. Brethren - recognize all such who are loyal to Redeemer, whether in Babylon or out, babes or mature, whether they oppose us or not. (4593-1.)
14. Begetting of Spirit - "... the consecration which the truth brings is identical with our begetting of the spirit; and the energy for service corresponds to the quickening of the spirit." (3005-2.)
15. Babylon - some there worthy of our Christian fellowship. (2991:2-3; Z. 1902, April 1.)
16. Babylon - some of Lord's people in up to very time of its fall. (3643:2-2.)
17. Begetting - "It is the Word of God, the Gospel message, that will bring people into relationship with God. So whoever will receive the holy Spirit must first receive the knowledge of the truth; and then this truth will operate upon him. First he must take his stand for righteousness; next he must receive Christ as his Redeemer. Then, after having accepted Christ as his Savior, he must go forward and make a consecration of himself to walk in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus. If he merely understood that this is the will of God, we believe that he would be received of the Lord—begotten of the holy Spirit. Then it would be God's order that he receive more instruction, because he had taken the proper steps thus far." (5550:2-1; Z. 1914, October 1.)
18. Babylon - how to call people to come out of. (5478- col. 2; Z. June, 1914.)
19. Begetting in Nominal Church - "such fruits cannot be credited to the creeds, but to the Word and spirit of God, despite the confusion of human creeds." (Vol. IV, page 258-1.)
20. Begetting - consecration might come about by just reading the Bible. (1912 Convention Report, page 363, col. 2, about half way down.)
21. Brethren - all who profess to love Christ and have faith in him as Redeemer should be treated as brethren. There are two classes of brethren. (3219-7.)
22. Brethren - all who accept simple truths. (2133:2-5.)
23. Babylon - collapse of different from "fallen from grace." (2553-1.)
24. Churches - "There are doubtless saints in every church, in every sect, in every party. And these alone constitute the true church, the saints of God—the church of the first-borns, whose names are written in heaven." (5516:2-7; Z. August, 1914.)
25. Church Nominal - We should feel a relationship with all the consecrated. "We do not know how many may really be saints and merely, for the time blinded by the errors which the adversary has caused to be promulgated." (4692:2-1; Z. Oct. 1, 1910.)
26. Church Nominal - We should serve our brethren who are in. (3932-last par.)
27. Church Nominal - true people of God still in. (5478-4; Z. June 15, 1914.)
28. Catholics of Past in Papacy - "But Papacy does not possess the truth which sanctifies, and the few

real saints who in past centuries belonged to her communion did not really belong to her faith.” (1769:2-5.)

29. Church Nominal - “And it is because this doctrine of the ransom has been held, and that as the foundation of faith, that even in the dark ages of great corruption, the nominal church has been recognized of God at all, or been worthy at all of the name ‘Christian.’” (1452-10.)
30. Church Nominal - many in hold to doctrine of shed blood, but superstructure is recklessly built of error. (1205:2-5.)
31. Consecration - “... there will come various siftings or testings to this class of *inferior* [italics ours] consecration to separate them from the company and fellowship of the Elijah class.” (3416:2-1.)
32. Differences of opinion - love the brethren by being careful not to be dogmatic when we philosophize. (4994-bottom article. Also 4008:2-2.)
33. Error - saints in past shut their eyes to error and were sanctified by what truth they had as proved by their writings. (2851:2-1 to 3.)
34. Great Company - “When the Little Flock shall have passed beyond the veil, there will still be the Great Company of the Lord’s people left here. Many of these will apparently continue in Babylon until the time of trouble shall cause Babylon to fall.” (5383-5; Z. Jan. 15, 1914.)
35. Great Company - their characteristics and position in Babylon. Possibly a million. (5411:2-2 to 6.)
36. Great Company - includes some, in the Pastor’s estimation, who are noble but are deceived by riches and unwilling to sacrifice. (5056-1.)
37. Great Company - doctrine of not fundamental and differences of opinion need cause little concern. (4078-2.)
38. Great Company - “faith structure largely composed of error.” (3748:2-6.)
39. Great Company - “Question. - Is there any one at the present time (written March 15, 1915) outside of present truth who has the holy Spirit” (The Pastor replied with 6 paragraphs.) “So we have reason to believe that the numbers of God’s people begotten of the holy Spirit and still in Babylon are considerable.” (5656-1 to top of column 2; also 5411:2-8.)
40. Great Company - “... the great company, which will come through great tribulation, and will get out of Babylon only when she has been cast as a great millstone into the midst of the sea—in the time of anarchous trouble with which this age will close.” (3884-4.)
41. Gospel Net - not full yet as per Pastor’s remarks at convention in 1911—Page 87, above last par.: “Get them into the Gospel net.”
42. Nominal Church - 200,000 professed ministers. 180,000 lost faith in God’s Word. 20,000 still hold Bible as God’s Word, but sadly confused. B.S.M. Vol. VI, #7, page 2, col. 4, par. 2.

43. Truth is a sanctifying power, even 1/10 truth sanctifies us. (3193-bottom first column.)
44. "Thorny Ground" class - Great Company. (B.S.M. Vol. 6, #3, P. 3, C. 4-1.)
45. "However, inside and outside of all denominations we may expect to find the Lord's little flock..." (B.S.M. Vol. 6, #11, P. 3, par. 5.)
46. "We realize that there is a difference between the nominal church and the real church of Christ; that God's real saints are to be found in all denominations, and that he will perfect his glorious plan of selecting the church to be the spiritual seed of Abraham." (5611-2; Z. May 1, 1910.)
47. Babylon - fallen from grace not same as collapse of. "Collapse of will be sudden and awful... none will be ignorant of her collapse when it does come." (2553-1.)
48. Babylon, collapse of - expected after World War I. (5950-6, written Nov. 1, 1916.)
49. Christians: "We believe that there are some now living, perhaps a good many, who are consecrated to God and whose consecration has been accepted, but who are not in the light of present truth. This number may include some who are what the Scriptures term 'babes' in Christ, and others to whom the Scriptures refer as the 'great multitude.' (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2; Rev. 7:9) The 'foolish virgin' class are probably in very large numbers all around us. The fact that there are some in Babylon seems to be indicated by the command 'Come out of her, my people.' (Rev. 18:4) If they are in Babylon, their presence there shows that they are not yet well developed; and if they are God's people, they are not enjoying the full strength of the present truth, although Spirit-begotten.
- "This fact does not signify that they may not yet receive present truth. On the contrary, we think it quite likely that some may be helped out of Babylon and into a better understanding of the divine plan; for some of the babes may be strengthened built up, to a full appreciation of the things of the Spirit. We are to have in mind the fact that God has so arranged that 'the deep things of God' cannot be known instantaneously; this knowledge comes gradually as an evidence of faithfulness to God.
- "Those who have not yet learned fully to reverence God and who have not yet made progress in the development of the graces and fruits of the Spirit, cannot expect to understand the deep things of God. It is our duty and privilege, not only to assist these brethren, but to build one another up and to strengthen one another. Let us see that we do these things."  
(5134:2-3 to 5; Z. Nov. 15, 1912.)
50. Christians: "When the Little flock shall have passed beyond the veil, there will still be the Great Company of the Lord's people left here. Many of these will apparently continue in Babylon until the Time of Trouble shall cause Babylon to fall. And by the fall of Babylon these will be set free. Before all this is made plain in them, they may use language of our text, and later come to see clearly. In the 19th of Revelation this company are spoken of as rejoicing in the fall of Babylon and saying, 'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and His Wife hath made Herself ready.' (Vs. 7.) All things had seemed to them to be failures; and now they see that God's Plan has not failed, but has been fulfilled." (B.S.M. Vol. 7, #7, P. 1:2-5, dated 1915.)

51. Babylon - parallels do not apply to gathering out of Babylon. (Question Book-150-4 and 156-2. Dated 1911.)

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Those who wish to study still further may refer to Item #92 entitled Spirit-begettal in the Nominal Church, a study by a few brethren in Chicago. Also Item #154 (renumbered later 412F) entitled Regarding the Great Company—a Few Quotes, by T.A.S.