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Weaverville, N. C. - Wednesday August 19, 1959

BEGINNING AT 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
Conference on Christian Problems in Today's World

Sponsored By

The Southern Presbyterian Journal

SUBJECTS TO BE PRESENTED

The Church-sponsored Christian Day School

By Dr. William E. Hill, Jr.

Evangelism in The Local Church

By Dr. Arthur E. Fogartie

The Christian Sabbath, Bulwark of a Nation

By Dr. L. Nelson Bell

**The Relevance of The Westminster Standards
To The Problems of Today**

By Dr. Robert Strong

**Mass Evangelistic Efforts With Report
On The Australian Crusades**

By The Rev. Leighton Ford

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horse, he met his death, like Israel's ancient enemy Sisera, by the hand of a woman. For the wife of one of the soldiers, seeing Simon just beneath her, took up a stone and dropped it. It hit his head and he fell to the ground.

The legate still intent on exterminating the heretics persuaded the King of France to send his son against Toulouse. The besiegers were again driven back with a great loss. To comfort themselves, they attacked the nearby town of Mirimande and massacred about 5000 men, women, and children.

But time had been passing, and now the legate was old and sick. He requested the Pope to appoint another legate in his place. This was done, and the new legate persuaded the King of France to attack in person. When the Albigenses learned of the new preparations, they sent their women and children into hiding, in the mountains; they destroyed the crops on the farms around, and drove the cattle away, so that the King's troops would not be able to find food.

It turned out as the Albigenses had planned, and even the King himself fell ill and died before the siege was ended. But the siege continued nonetheless. In one of the sallies, which had on previous occasions been so successful, the Earl of Toulouse was captured. Without their leader the people of the city were forced to yield. The catholic soldiers poured into the city and thousands were brutally outraged and massacred. Thus the light of the Gospel was pretty well extinguished in southern France.

—G. H. C.

Which Is Prior? Word or Church?

The Knights of Columbus are advertising that "the Catholic Church was carrying on Christ's work for the salvation of men some 60 years before the Apostle John wrote his books of the New Testament." At times one hears of Protestant scholars slipping into the same position by suggesting that Pentecost occurred a score of years before the Epistle to the Romans.

On the other hand the Reformed Reformation came to articulate statement in the theses of Ilanz and of Berne which begin: "The Holy Catholic Church, of which Christ is the only head, was born of the Word of God, lives of the Word of God and hears not the voice of strangers." The echo of the thought of our Lord given in the tenth of John is clear in this thesis.

Of course, Pentecost preceded both the Epistle to the Romans and the Gospel of John. But Pentecost did not precede the Word of God. The Church of the living God in its Christian or New Testament form was never without a Bible. She began with the same Scriptures on which Jesus was reared, namely the Old Testament.

On the day of Pentecost, the Word of God was present in its three forms. The Old Testament Word, that is the Word of God written, was present as Peter cited from Joel and from the Psalms to set forth the

meaning of Pentecost. The Word of God in the eternal sense, that is, the eternal Word Who became incarnate as Jesus Christ, was present as the One Who shed forth the Spirit and the phenomena which men saw and heard. Then the Word was present at Pentecost in its third form, namely the Word of God preached. It existed in this form as the one hundred and twenty testified of the mighty deeds of God in raising Jesus from the dead and as Peter more fully expounded the meaning of the occasion. And God the Holy Spirit came so mightily from the Word Incarnate upon the Word preached citing the Word written three thousand souls were converted that day.

In earlier times the Church was established in the house of Adam when God spoke to the fallen pair His Word of promise. It was re-established in the home of Abram when God's Word of promise came to him calling him to leave the city of his fathers and become a pilgrim. Under the preaching of Paul, the Word of God created the Churches of Ephesus and or Corinth and the *kerygma* or the Gospel preaching of the Word has called and is calling Churches into being through the centuries and the nations.

Yet we would not be understood as placing the Word against the Church. The same God gave both His Word and the fellowship it creates. Our prayer is for a faith resting on God's Word which does not divide the fellowship; and a Church of the living God which, instead of compromising the faith, stands as the pillar and ground of the truth.

—W. C. R.

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