

THE GREAT COMPANY



DEAR FRIENDS, I want to talk today about the Truth as it applies to you and me—and you know we must have a text for a sermon, so we take our text from the first chapter of the first epistle of John, the seventh verse: ‘If we walk in the light as He is in the light, then have we fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.’ (1 Jno. 1:7.) So we want to talk a little while about walking in the light. This is not in the general sense of the word, to be a discourse—it is to be a talk. I want to characterize this as a ‘heart-to-heart’ talk. I do not really know how to define a heart-to-heart talk, excepting this: I am going to tell you some things that are on my heart, and if they lodge on your heart, I suppose that will be a ‘heart-to-heart’ talk; and if I say anything, my dear friends, that hurts any of you, why I am glad of it. And so I shall not make any apologies either at the start or the finish. I do not mean by that that I am going to say anything offensive, I will guard my utterances against saying anything offensive. I am going to speak regarding the light of God’s Word (Psa. 119:105.) and the application of the Truth as it applies at this present time, (2 Tim. 2:15.) and if it hurts us, why, I believe it will be a pretty good hurt; and if it stimulates us to greater activities, and better consecration (Psa. 50:5.) and more earnest zeal, we surely ought to rejoice. . . .

If we are going to be of the Kingdom class we must stick very close to the light, and don’t try to make ourselves believe we are going to be in the Great Company. (Jas. 1:22; Rev. 7:9.) Some of us have an idea that is where we are going to land up. We had better put that out of our mind right away. I was in the Great Company for many years, and then I promoted myself, and now I am out of it. Well, where are you now, Brethren? I am a prospective member of the Body of Christ. Are you going to get it? I am going to try; I am not going to throw away 18 years of work. I am going to try and get into the Little Flock for which I am called. (Luke 12:32.) God never said anything about the Great Company to you or me either. If you are walking in the light and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all sin, you will have no spots on your robe to wash, but you say, Brother, I do not know all the truth. I cannot remember all the details about chronology, justification, etc., and I am afraid, therefore, I shall not get into the Little Flock.

A sister once told me that she did not think she would



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get the crown of life as she did not have the brains, she said she could not understand the covenants, etc. Well, I said, that is too bad. Let us see what the Book says about it, sister, 'My son, give me thy brains'. I do not see anything about brains, but I do read, 'My son, give me thy heart'. (Prov. 23:26.) Did you give your heart to the Lord? If so, that is all he has asked for. He will attend to the brains. I want to tell you for your consolation and comfort, that the Lord does not say, 'these are they that receive the seed in a large and fertile brain', but 'these are they who receive it into a good and honest heart'. (Luke 8:15.) 'Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of *it* are the issues of life'. (Prov. 4:23.) The Lord never chooses anyone who has not brains enough to place the blame where it belongs—in your heart.

If you are walking in the light, you have the fellowship. The Great Company have not this standard, they are not walking in the light, they are largely walking in darkness and are children of disobedience. (Eph. 2:2; 5:6; Col. 3:6.) You remember what the Revelator said about this matter: The four winds were to be held back until the sealing of the servants in their foreheads, and he said: 'I saw the number of them that were sealed, and there were sealed 144,000'—and the Great Company. (Rev. 7:4.) No, it reads *144,000*, not a word about the Great Company being sealed. Then we turn to the 14th chapter of the same book, and the Revelator said, 'I saw a lamb standing on Zion's hill and with him 144,000'—and the Great Company. (Rev. 14:1.) Oh, no, *144,000*, that is all. And then again, we read, 'No man was able to learn that song excepting the 144,000'—and the Great Company. (Rev. 14:3.) No, no, *only 144,000*. Then the Great Company do not sing that song? That is what the Revelator says, I cannot change it. And do not the Great Company have anything to do with the song? The Great Company agree to sing that song, but they slip on the first note, and they have to go down to the great time of trouble and learn music. (Rev. 7:14.) Oh, yes, they will sing all right when they come back again.

And I tell you another thing, friends, no man was able to learn this song except those who were sealed in the forehead with their Father's name. (Rev. 7:3.) 'They shall be mine, saith the Lord, in the day that I make up my jewels'—the 144,000. (Mal. 3:17.) 'I heard the souls who were under the altar who were slain for the witness of Jesus, cry out, How long, O Lord, how long?' (Rev. 6:9.) Yet a little while, is the answer, until I seal your brethren, but you notice the souls of the Great Company are not under the altar. You remember in that altar there was a grate and ashes of the goat fell through the grate. The 'scapegoat'* never was on the altar at all. (Lev. 16:5-10, 26) There were only 144,000. They are those who follow the lamb whithersoever he goeth. They walk in the light as he is in the light, and they have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses them from all sin.

I know just exactly the trials and temptations that come to all—to count ourselves as something else from what God has called us to be. You say, I do not aspire to the Little Flock, I do not believe I could get there. I often use an illustration like this: Suppose a king had planned a banquet which was to be with great pomp and ceremony, and sent me an invitation to dine with him. (Matt. 22:1-14.) I know the invitation is genuine, and it was very kind of the king to send it, but I cannot go. Why can't you go? Well, I have no court dress, etc., but just then the court tailor calls on me and furnishes me with the necessary apparel, but still I cannot go. What's the trouble now? Well, I do not know court etiquette. I might commit some breach at table, or I might not face the king in the proper manner. Then I receive a call from the Lord Chamberlain. And he instructs me in court etiquette so there will be no mistake when I dine with the king. And then the carriage calls: I have my invitation, my dress, and understand all the manner and details of etiquette, and I get into the carriage, and get as far as the palace, and then I jump out and go to the back door and dine with the servants. I think the king would say I did not appreciate his invitation at all. That is what the Great Company is doing. We have an invitation, the proper clothing (robe of righteousness) and

* **The scapegoat**—Representing the consecrated followers of the Lord who through fear of the sacrificial death are all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Heb. 2:15) T60; R5196:5, R5873:5; Q631:T

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then Lord Chamberlain Russell is sent to instruct us. (Matt. 24:45.) I am going right into the Palace by God's help and sup with the King. . . .

Now, my dear friends, what are we going to do? Shall we walk in the light? It is not what we are or what we have from the human standpoint. God is not trying to get your poor old flesh into the Kingdom. (1 Cor. 15:50.) I am not fit for the Kingdom and you are not fit for the Kingdom from the natural standpoint; but look at your new heart, look at your new will, what does it want to do? Why, it wants to serve the Lord, with all its strength and might. (Mark 12:28-34.) That is a pretty good intention, and if you do all in your power to cooperate and work out your salvation with fear and trembling, you can rest assured, my friends, that you will gain the Kingdom. (Phil. 2:12.)

Let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:16.) Are we going to walk in the light and have fellowship one with another so that we can take each other by the hand and look one another in the face without any malice or hatred or any such thing? If so the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse us from all sin, and if we [continue] walking in the light...we will be in the Kingdom, and live and reign with Christ a thousand years. (Rev 20:6.).

—Extract from the 1913 discourse by BROTHER E. D. SEXTON: 'WALKING IN THE LIGHT'.—

(For the complete, unedited, discourse, see the 1913 Convention Souvenir)



This horse was ridden 73 miles by Bro. Sexton while doing Pilgrim work in the mountains of the West. It was also used by several other Pilgrims.