

THE CONFUSION

20, 55, 6, 13-18

China and India have been spoken of as the continents of suffering. But no life escapes suffering at some time or other.

Buddha said that existence and suffering are one and that the only way to get out of suffering is to get out of existence. — gloomy, and yet hundreds of millions of our ^{human} brothers repeat that for a creed as they say, "Impermanence, suffering, emptiness" In Ecclesiastes we read; "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity & striving after the wind."

Job said: "For affliction cometh not forth from the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; but man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward."

A more modern man cries:
"My son the world is dark with grief and graves, so dark that man cry out against the heavens."

A young woman lives and aeroplane and in mid air steps out of it leaving this note: "I have had nothing but discord and I long for harmony — I guess there will be music where I go."

In Pompeii there are the ruins of a theater where only comedies were played and by the side of it the remains of another where only tragedies were played - But it is not that way in life.

There is much of tragedy in life to-day because of transition - many things on which men have stood have crumbled not only from material standpoint but also from the spiritual. The breath of modernism has hit them and former beliefs have faded.

Some one has said, "you cannot be happy except in the sum total of things" and many are asking the question as to whether the sum total has any meaning or motive!

Some tragedy comes from the transition other comes from the fact that we have infinite desires and yet are embodied in finite world.

The hog side of us would naturalize us in mud but our eternal side cries out for the eternal and a conflict follows which is not conducive to happiness.

Then we have special Calamities.

- a. Stanley Jones' daughter and graduation class mate - a window only daughter fell and killed her self.

Why not some body else's daughter?

b. Two missionaries in China - each had a child go down with diphtheria - one died and was only child.

c. English young man said, "I had a brother wounded in the war and I prayed for him to live and any decent person would have heard me but God let me down."

d. "My sister was a good woman she most died at childbirth why did God let her suffer since she was such a Godly woman?"

e. Prof. struck down by a truck and had leg broken when able, came back to school and told the students that he did not believe any longer in a personal God - said he, "Why did not God whisper to me that the truck was coming"

Here are all these examples converging on one thing "God should save the righteous from trouble!"

Does the gospel teach that diphtheria will not kill the child of the righteous, that a good man's brother will not die when wounded, that a good woman will not suffer at childbirth, and that God will tell you when a truck is coming?

Suppose we were guaranteed that calamity would hit wicked only and righteous always saved - what kind of world would that be? Its laws would always be in process of suspension - gravity would not pull you down if you lent over a precipice.

God runs universe by order rather than by whim or notion.

The Christian solution of suffering does not lie along that line for such would make him a cosmic pet.

Christ was not delivered from the Cross but was given something better and it is this something better for Christians that we hope to talk to you about at future services.

