

**THE SOCIAL  
MESSAGE  
OF OUR LORD**

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The social message of Our Lord by William Melvin Bell

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**WILLIAM MELVIN BELL**

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*Cordially*  
*Wm M Bell*



# The Social Message of Our Lord

By

William Melvin Geff, D. D.

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of the United Brethren  
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The Search Light, Author of The Love of God.



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## DEDICATION

To Mr. James Knisely, Mr. W. H. Wagner,  
Prof. A. J. Douglas, Prof. Smith J. Hunt,  
Prof. Frank B. Moe, Prof. W. O. Marsh, Dr.  
P. B. Lee, and Mrs. M. E. Sickafoose, beloved  
and helpful above price in guiding my young  
life into the paths of knowledge and religion,  
this volume is respectfully dedicated  
by the author.

*March 10, 1909*

*227 West 51st Street  
Los Angeles, California*



## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The message of the Christ has a marvelous adaptability to the needs and issues of every age. It requires only a discerning interpretation of the message and the age to bring them into vital and helpful conjunction. The author has sought in this humble volume

1. To present conjointly the redemptive and social message of Christ the Lord.
2. To show the fundamental relation which Christ sustains to civilization and a satisfactory social order.
3. To arouse the conscience of the church to enlarged social responsibility and leadership.

—*The Author.*

## INTRODUCTION

This book is wholesome. Its message has in it the integrity and authority of truth. The cure of doubt is not more doubt. It is useless to anchor a ship to a drifting float; it is more than useless to anchor society to the shiftings of an uncertain scholarship, or a selfish statesmanship, or the vagaries of a materialistic socialism, or the strivings of unsaved men, however honest and well-intentioned they may be. "All their foundations are out of line." The gospel for the age of doubt must be surcharged with authority and light. Truth is buttressed deep in the nature of things. "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, 'The Lord knoweth them that are his,' and 'Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'" Build this civilization story on story until it kisses the skies, if you will; if it is built on the basic principles of supernatural truth it will endure and serve the age-long plan of God. The author himself utters this general truth with the tones of Niagara in his words: "Dismiss doubt, live on the positive side of life and thou shalt triumph gloriously."

Where did William M. Bell get the confidence and the certitudes which he has written into this book? First of all, it was stored in the unchangeable message of the Bible; then, somewhere in the years now past, God wrought in the depths and heights of his nature and fashioned him anew after the pattern in the Sacred Word and gave him light, then the illumined man saw objectively the unfolding of the kingdom of heaven in the life of the world. The Word, the experience, and the observation conspired to coronate truth in the consciousness of this man; then he wrote this message.

The basic proposition of the book is that God, indwelling man, functions with the human nature; he operates in the

conduct and the relations of the one he indwells, and thus through the man God permeates society with spiritual wisdom and vitality, and with increase of his righteousness. "Knowing Jesus historically, ethically, and ideally is inadequate." "Christ proposes to come into human life by essential, affectional, experimental approach." The result is that the living Christian, from inherent spiritual power, fulfills in his life and in the world God's ideal as seen in Jesus Christ.

In a passage of great power, I. Cor. 2:9-16, Paul states the fact that God indwells the human and functions with the human nature. There are things unknowable to us through the five senses, which things God has prepared for them that love him; but he hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit, for they are spiritually discerned. A man and an animal cannot converse, they are of different orders of nature; but a man can talk with a man, seeing they are of the same order. So, also, God can talk with God, but how can a man talk with God? Paul's answer is, "We have received the Spirit of God that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." The Spirit indwells the soul, unfolds and vitalizes the spiritual faculties, and thus energized and illumined, we have fellowship with God and are consciously related to the spiritual realm. The intellectual vision and judgment resulting from the Divine functioning with the human intellect is what Paul is speaking of when he says, "We have the mind of Christ." Before this fundamental truth and its conquest in society, rationalism, materialism, occultism, and all false science must ultimately fall. "Christ in us the hope of glory" shall lift the race at last to its ultimate temporal and eternal citizenship. The evangelistic value of this truth is inestimable. A man, a city, a nation of people made in the image of God, bound by heredity, mastered by sin, may by the new, superior, and creative Fatherhood of God rise to new sonship and citizenship. The great business of this book is to put in words the way by which principles are actualized in life, and how society is being set free by an emancipating righteousness.

The message of the book meets a present-day need. Much of it was recently delivered by the author in a series of addresses in San Francisco. Let me illustrate the fitness and