Scholarly Discourse By Rev. D H. Overton.

· night in the Bushwick Avenue covenant Reformed Church at the union ser- keeping God, loving man vices with His own congregation. doing all that infinite love can The subject was, "God's Obligation do for man's salvation. Says Dr. | Magnus Temple, No. 3. to Man." The text was from II. ".m- Abbott: "The Old Testament is the othy, i:9: "Who saved us, and called gospel of the obligation of God to ns with a holy calling, not according man in the bud; the New Testament | Jerusalem Temple, No. 4, to His own purpose and grace, which is the gospel of God's obligation to was given us in Jesus Christ be ore man in the flower."

is the gospel of God. Often have I from beginning to end, if only we Mocha Temple, No. 7, spoken of the law of God, now I interpret that book aright! would speak of the gospel of law. But before we boast of that gos-The law of God may be defined as pel, or pride ourselves that God is Union Temple, No. 8. Loat which xp: s d man's obliga- under obligations to us, let us seek tion to God, and the gospel of God to know the ground of that obligaas that which expresses God's obligation. Let us know that we have not Ora Temple, No. 9, tion to man. The Old Testament and put God under an; obligation to us the New Totament unite in this, by anything we have done. "Not that they give not only the law of according to our works, but according Mecca Temple, No. 10, God, but the gospel of God. It is to His own purpose and grace," Paul this fact that makes the Hebrew religion and the Christian religion difown purpose and active love, for
ferent from all the other religions
grace is love in action, that has put of the world. Many other religions God under obligation to man. "God so Arabía Temple, No. 12, give directly or indirectly the law of loved"—and there it all began—this God, but nor of them gives the gos- gospel of God's obligation to man. pel of God 2- thus defined as the God so loved that He voluntarily and | Marriac Temple, No. 13, obligation of God to man. The gos out of His great love, and for no of the heathen nations round a out other reason, placed Himself under the Hebrew nation were of such a obligation to the whole world of hunature that they must be appeared manity, so that whosoever in that and pleased by worship and sacrifice world would believe in that love, and Platta Temple, No. 15, on the part of man or they would would let God fulfil His obligation torment and crush man. The lar toward him, should not perish, but of the gods must be obeyed, but only be saved. This is John iii: 16, in the St. Joseph Temple, No. 16, that man might escape the punish- light of our text and in the words of ment of the gods, and not from any our theme. This is the gospel that particular love of man for the gods. Jesus Christ came to proclaim and to

that must be appeased and pleased Himself in Jesus Christ—as much of crush men. Men must obey the laws lieve in. It is because He is the of God or perish by them. This is, great loving universal Father and of course, true as far as it goes. "The He has placed Himself under obligasoul that sinneth, it shall die." Men tion to every child of His, to every cannot sin with impunity. Man is man and woma- in all the world. responsible to God, and under obligations to Him to keep His law and do | we have put God under any obliga-His will. We must never forget this, nor | tion to us by anything that we have get far away from this in our thought done, but that God out of His infinite of God. But we must not stop with love for us and according to His own; this thought. If we do we will have loving and eternal purpose has placed only a partial view of God-we will Himself under chligations to us. Tris

ington e com-nonie: harles

have only a heathen god. or a heathen god, then -e shall have That is, it was born in God's eternal only a partial or a heathen religion. Father-Heart before time came to be If fear is our only motive in religion | reckoned or counted. God ever a, or worship, then our religion and Father must ever have had a Son. escaping the wrath of an angry God, Father, and in that love for that eterand it will find expression in our nal Son we see God's purpose for all an angry God by propitiations and purpose has now been manifested to servile obedience to His laws. We ing of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. must rise above fear, and even above | That is, Christ came to show God's, the thoughts of future rewards, to the Father's, eternal purpose to the coming of God's kingdom upon the one in all the world. This is the gosearth. We must rise above the ob- pel that Christ carne to proclaim. ligation of man to God, as expressed This is the gospel that shines forth by law, and think of the obligation in all that He said or did. must think of the gospel of God eternal purpose, has led Him to pe well as of the law of God. This for us, or the result of His obligation will not belittle our respect for the to man. law of God, nor in any way lower gospel of God's obligation? our sense of obligation to Him.

was the greatest shought that ever thing that infinite love can do or member, that it was the thought of vation. The first part of the text man's responsibility to God. That gives this answer: "Who saved us, certainly is a great thought, and yet and called us with a holy calling. the one I bring you to-day is greater. He has called us to salvation and to God's obligation to man is, I believe, holiness through faith in Him, as the the greatest inought that can enter loving Father, and in His Son, as the

man is newer than the thought of enant that God waits and wants to man's obligation to God. It may make with every one of us. It is not, be new to many of you who are hire His will that any should perish, but who will den that God is under any life, and live the life that is abun-, obligation to man whatsoever, and dant and eternal. It was God's oblisome of you may be among that num- gation to us, born of His love for us, ber, but I believe that the thought is that led Him to send Christ to suffer true, even if it is new, and that is and die for us. in order that He might why I proclaim it to you to-day.

gospel of God to man. The gospel is this that led God to do the very best good news, and what be ter news is that He out of His infinite power and there in all the world for man than love could do for us and for all of this—that God, the God of infinite His children of the earth. love and Fatherhood, is under ob- we may be sure of this—God has ligations to him? Let us see if this kept, and God will ever keep. His . is a fact, and if we find it so, let that part of the covenant that He has fact rest in our minds and bless our made with us and for us. He has

ships for proof of the fact. Children have obligations to their parents, but parents have obligations to their you to-day. This is the gospel of children also. My boys are under Jesus Christ—the gospel of God's obligations to me, but I am under obligation to man born of God's great obligations to my boys riso. Why? love for man. Because I am their father, with a father's heart and a father's interest. I cannot leave them to perish, exhausted for their good. So Gcd, morals," which the late Heroert excepting Richmond City, address, by becoming the Father of the nu- Spencer proclaimed to be imperative- 306 Chestnut street, Portsmouth, man family, has placed Himself un- ly necessary, has already made some der obligation to the whole human progress. The tendency to minimize, Va. family. The very meaning of the sin-by characterizing it, not as a word religion implies this. Religion, personal crime against Gcd, but true religion, is that which binds a rather as "indiscretion," a "disease." man. to God in right relationship. or as the inevitable result of "hered-Which is it that binds a man closest ity" in irresponsible persons—is deto God? Is it man's obligation to veloping in quarters where there God, or is it God's obligation to man? ought to be clearer and more accur-

acknowledged His obligation to truth.—London Christian. man, even if man has not always acknowledged his obligation to God. What is a covenant but an obligaple? God has made many covenants and you will understand Jesus. Not tion on the part of two or more peowith individ pls and with His chosen by studying Him, but by doing His

with many others that we might mention. He made covenants with the nation of Israel and of J-dah again the obligation of God to man, as well as man's obligation to God, else they would not have been covenants, but, simply laws. These covenants are the gospel of the Old Testament and of the Hebrew religion. This gospel, of God's obligation to man unites the Old and New "estaments as one book,

There is no doubt, I think, about Egyptian Temple, No. 5, anifested by the appearing of our the fact of God's obligation to man. Saviour Jesus Christ." Mr. Over- It is really the central fact of the Old Allah Temple, No. 6, and New Testament alike. It is the There is the law of God and there very gospel of God in His great book

It is strange how this heathen con- live. He came to tell every man that ception of the gods has crept into the God so loves him that He is willing

thought of so many about the to place Himself under obligations to true and living God. He, too, in him. It was for this reason that God the thought of many, is a God gave us His greatest gift—the gift of and sacrifice or He Himself and even more than man torment and would or could comprehend and be-Be this our boast then: not that purpose was given us in Jesus Christ, And if we have only partial God before times eternal," Paul says. n will be for the purpose of else He would not have been ever a appease and please His sons in all the world. And this and the world and to us by the appear-

And now we are ready to see what We this obligation of God to us and His thas it led God to do for us? It has d, replied, you re-that we will let Him do for our sal-

revealer and example of the Father's This thought of God's obligation to love and character. This is the cov-There are some, I expect, that all should receive the light of become our Saviour and lead us to God's obligation to manis the great salvation and to holiness. It was | fulfilled and He ever will fulfil, His

First, look at our human relation- full obligation to us. This is the gospel of the Old and . New Testament that I proclaim to

The Sinfulness of Sin.

Unhappily that "secularization of I believe it is the latter. Close as the ate views of life. There can be no ville, Fla. law may bind man to God, love binds successful sin." It may be hidden! Now, all true human relation- in the divine order its inevitable reships involve obligations on both sult is death (Rom. 6:23), and no and from both parties to preacher can be true to his Master God has always who fails to declare that immutable

How to Understand.

Hpainade covenants with will, shall you learn how divine He Noah. Braham, Isaac, Jacob, is. Obedience completes itself in un-Mose. Elke Si Elisha, David and derstanding.—Phillips Brooks.

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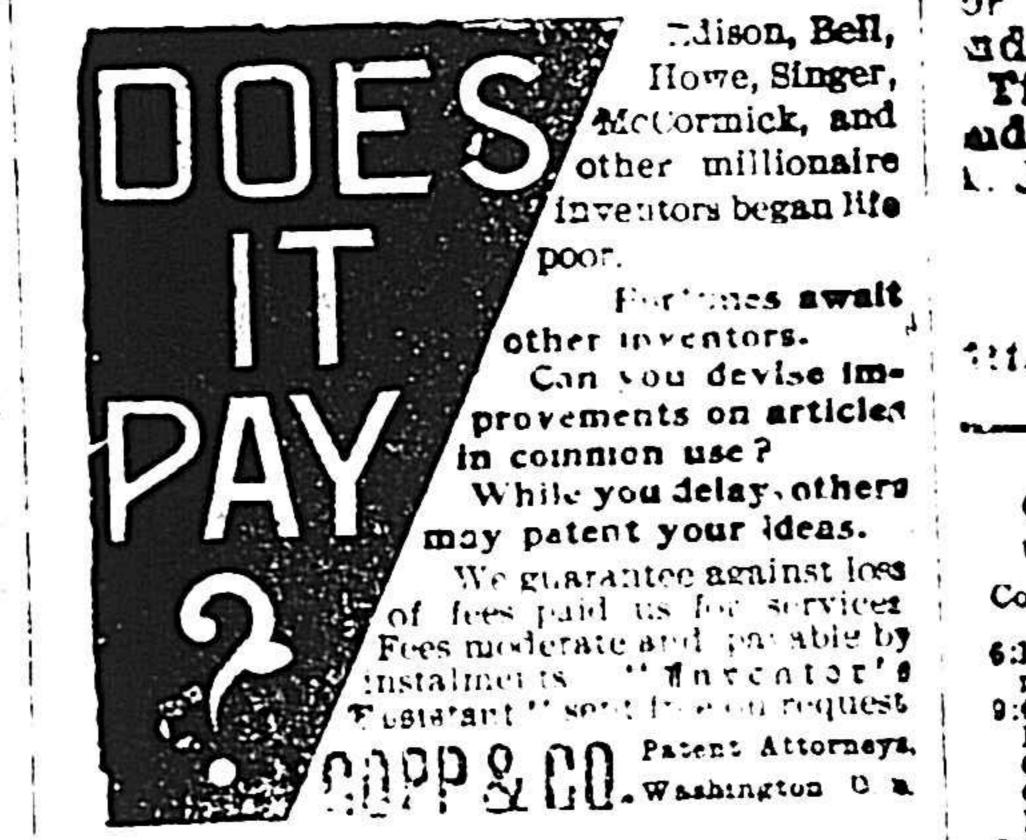
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