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PARKER MAXEY'S EDITORIALS -- (1984)

Editorials from The Missionary Revivalist
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

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January 1984 Editorial
WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

It is good to take time to sit down and meditate on the priorities of life, to determine in one's mind what are priorities and then, with the help of God, see to it that they are put into practice. While pastoring a congregation a number of years ago I asked members of the church to write out at least a dozen guide lines that they would put down as priorities in their life -- priorities that a Christian would want to incorporate in his life. We did this at the beginning of a year. The start of a year is a good time to meditate on life and those things that make for spiritual success. Following is a list of priorities that came from this request. Read these over carefully. Why not make a list of your own-priorities that you would desire to adopt as guiding principles of your life. We list the following in the order of their importance as they were presented.

1. Live moment by moment in His presence and in an attitude of prayer. This appeared in the following modified forms:

- 1) Regardless of what you do, take God with you even in daily chores.
- 2) Put God first in all things.
- 3) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"!
- 4) Acknowledge God in all thy ways and trust Him for grace in the darkest hour.
- 5) Pray without ceasing.
- 6) Live by Romans 8:28.

7) Make the most of all that comes and the least of all that goes.

8) End each day with a prayer of thanksgiving, believing whatever has happened is for the best -- study the Bible and meditate on God's word just before going to sleep.

9) Instead of complaining about the things we have to do, thank God we are able to do them.

2. Keep clean and pure in thought, speech and actions.

1) Learn to say the right thing at the right time and keep quiet when your words might hinder and not help.

2) Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips that they speak no guile.

3) Keep your thoughts so you could say them out loud and don't say anything you would be ashamed of before God.

4) Repeat no harmful report until it has passed these three tests: (1) Is it true? (2) Is it kind? (3) Is it necessary to tell?

5) Keep thyself unspotted from the world.

6) Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.

7) "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Ps. 101:3

8) Keep your thoughts, your eyes, your ears above worldly things.

9) Stand for what is Christlike without compromise and be unyielding against sin.

10) Abstain from all appearance of evil.

11) Keep your body under and be temperate in all things.

3. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

1) Be fair with your fellowmen.

2) Be prompt, dependable and courteous.

3) Be courteous to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

4) Live by the rule of love as found in Romans 14.

- 5) Be friendly and kind in your attitude at all times and have a Christlike spirit.
- 6) Have a Christlike attitude toward your pastor, fellow churchmen and sinners.
- 7) Keep so close to Christ that you can overlook the frailties of your fellowmen.
- 8) Watch your attitudes and keep a guard against spiritual pride.

4. Attend every means of grace possible.

- 1) Attend all the regular services of the church, putting into each service what you expect to get out.
- 2) Be regular in church attendance.
- 3) Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.
- 4) Seek the fellowship of God's people -- Colossians 3:16.
- 5) Have a regular time to pray and also to fast.

5. Begin each day with God, Prayer and the Bible.

- 1) Have regular, personal devotions-read the Bible and pray.
- 2) Begin each day with a fresh contact with the Lord through the reading of His Word and prayer. II Timothy 3:16
- 3) "Early in the morning will I seek Thee."
- 4) Pray until you have touched heaven.
- 5) Learn how to be an interces-sor.

6. Be active in testimony and personal evangelism.

- 1) Do your best to win the lost to God.
- 2) Testify regularly in church and wherever opportunity arises and witness to the lost of God's saving and sanctifying power.
- 3) Witness to the unsaved, but be sure that your life measures up.
- 4) Do your best to get people to go to church with you.
- 5) Be faithful in praying for lost souls about you.

6) Have a plan whereby you witness regularly, if possible daily, to some lost soul.

7) Have as your goal not only to witness to lost souls but to win them to God.

7. Keep active in church work.

1) Participate in church activities.

2) Be busy in Christ's work for His sake -- serve the Lord, Ephesians 6:6, 7.

3) Be an active member of the church -- not just a bench warmer.

8. Keep an open mind toward the truth -- walking in the light as God gives it.

1) Do your best to live as God shows you, not looking at what others do or do not do.

2) A Christian should be thoroughly truthful.

3) If there is a question, give God the benefit of the doubt.

4) Keep a heart that is tender and sensitive to the checks and leadings of the Spirit.

5) Do not be satisfied with your state of grace, but constantly reach out for more of God.

9. Be a faithful giver of tithes and offerings.

1) Give tithes and offerings willingly and cheerfully and faithfully of all your means.

2) Be diligent in business.

3) Pay your tithes regularly and give offerings as God directs, making your offerings as much, and more if possible, than your tithes.

10. Conduct or participate in daily family devotions, including prayer and Bible reading.

1) Endeavor to spend more time with your family discussing the Bible and less time discussing people.

2) Have a family altar daily.

11. Read and study good books.

1) II Timothy 2:15

2) Read and study good, spiritually edifying books as a means of grace to improve your mind and strengthen your faith and your soul in the things of God.

3) As a student, be diligent in your school work.

12. Choose spiritual people to associate with.

1) II Corinthians 6:16, 17.

2) Separate yourself from the world and worldly associations and seek your friends among the more spiritual people.

13. Read the Bible every day with the goal of reading it through within a year.

1) Read the Old Testament through at least once every year and the New Testament several times each year.

14. Endeavor to have a stated purpose in life, a plan to follow and a goal to strive for.

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February 1984 Editorial TRUTHS THAT FIT THIS DAY

One story is commenced in the Book of Ezra, and completed in the book of Nehemiah. The period covered by the two books was about one hundred and ten years. As history merely, it is the history of a decadent people, the story of a ruined economy. It is pitiful in the light of the former things. All that is left of a one time glorious past is a poor remnant, paying tribute, rebuilding the temple, frightened in the midst of work, leaving it for long years, taking it up again and bringing it to such completion that old men wept as they remembered the former glory. It is a dark and sorry page of human history.

The question comes, what does all this mean in the economy of God? The divine purpose, as seen in Nehemiah, was that of putting the people under law, locking them up, until the faith should come. It is God working His eternal purpose, working in Nehemiah's day, to bring salvation to sinful man. Nehemiah was not a king, a priest nor a prophet. The king had failed and was set aside; the prophet's message, though delivered, was not persuasive. The priest was corrupt, though still in the midst. Then God took a common man, and made him neither king, nor priest, nor prophet, but a plain, blunt man, who went right on and flung up a wall in seven weeks, and made a chance for the law to be read and expounded. The Law of God was that instrument designed to drive men to the only source of salvation, Christ, and it was the one thing in that day that needed to be preserved. Nehemiah's task was divinely-inspired, courageously carried out and triumphantly completed, and by his presumably insurmountable undertaking, he presents us with a timeless challenge that can be summed up in three words (4:14); fear not, forget not, fight.

Let's look at this business of fear. We are commanded to fear not? What are we not to fear? God's people are not to fear the hereafter. If we keep true to God, He promises a "safe" tomorrow. Read John 14:1-3. It is sin that brings fear on the soul, but perfect love casts out the fear of the future. We read in Hebrews 2:14, 15, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

God's people are not to fear the here and now. It is estimated that during this past year 28,000 Americans took their own lives, an estimate that reveals only the tip of the iceberg. For whatever the reason for one to take his own life, the suicide represents those who are not able to cope with life here and now. With the Christian, it is different. We read in Hebrews 13:5, 6, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Again in Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." A Christian is able to commit his way unto the Lord and to trust in the Lord with all his heart, acknowledging God in all his ways, knowing that it is God who has promised to direct his paths (Prov. 3:6, 7).

God's people are not to fear tomorrow, what it might bring, knowledge that nothing will ever come to him without passing through the permissive or directive will of God-nothing but that which in the overall picture of life will work for his good and God's glory (Rom. 8:28), and along with whatever comes, God promises sufficient grace to bear up under it all (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9). We are not to fear poverty, disease, sickness or death. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's and Christ is God's (I Cor. 3:21-23).

In the second place, we are commanded to forget not. We are exhorted to "Bless the Lord, . . . and forget not all his benefits" (Ps. 103:2). In this Psalm, we are reminded that it is God who forgiveth all thine iniquities; healeth all thy diseases; redeemeth thy life from destruction; crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; satisfieth thy mouth with good things so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. Beside this, He executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

We are admonished to remember the Lord. We are to remember Him because He is great and terrible (Neh. 4:14; Ps. 48:1). He is great in His creative power and wisdom (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 51:10), He is great in His redemptive power and purposes (Eph. 1:19; Col. 2:14-16). He is great in His love and forgiveness (read the book of Hosea). He is great in His faithfulness (read the book of Habakkuk).

We are to remember the Lord because He is terrible! He is terrible in His holiness. The great High Priest dare not approach this holy God unprepared. No sin or uncleanness can stand in the presence of a holy God (Read Isa. 33:14-16). God is terrible in His judgment. Read Romans chapter two. God will judge every man according to truth, his deeds, with no respect of persons, according to conscience and according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are to remember the Lord

by giving Him first place (Matt. 6:33) in all things (Col. 1:18); by worshipping Him (John 4:23, 24).

In the third place, we are admonished to fight. We are in a battle and we must not underestimate the enemy. He means to destroy us. We must continue "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). We must, as Jude exhorts us, "earnestly contend for the faith," i.e., the entire body of revealed truth. May God keep us in balance here lest we be led away to our own destruction. How the devil would like to destroy us by false brethren who "creep in unawares" (Jude 4; Acts 20:28-31).

We must fight for our sons, our daughters, our wives and houses. How are we to fight for these? We are to fight by setting a proper example (Phil. 4:9); by prayer (Col. 1:9); through self-discipline (1 Cor. 9:27); through keeping up the lines of communication both with them and God.

The devil means to destroy us by any means possible. Through discouragement. Satan will bring discouragement upon us through vain regrets of the past (1 Cor. 15:8-10). Paul won the victory here by "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," and by doing this one thing, pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Through encouragement. Satan will encourage a person in a wrong thing or a compromise way if he possibly can. Through diverted attention. Whatever gets a person's attention will finally get him, and Satan has a thousand ways to divert attention if we allow him. The secret is looking constantly unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Through deceit. We need to beware lest we be deceived by Satan, by others or by our own self. The great danger of the unsanctified is his own heart that is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9, 10).

How are we to fight in this battle? We are to fight with obedience (Rom. 6:16), an obedience that is instantaneous. We are to fight with victory; with the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11-18); we are to fight aggressively. Faith must first be sure of God and then must act with God and for God in strenuous endeavor. "The man who is evangelical believes that men are lost, and lost irrevocably unless saved through the Cross. If we believe these things, we must put blood and sweat into the business of saving men. Faith is first sure of God. It then acts with God and for God. It declines all compromise with foes outside or inside. Faith trusts God as Nehemiah did, does its own day's work and leaves the future to Him" -- Morgan.

We are to fight victoriously and whole-heartedly, not like the laborers in the vineyard who bargained for wages. May God help us to enter into these truths that make for success in our day!

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March 1984 Editorial
ALAS!

There are sixteen places in the Bible where the word "alas" appears. Seven of these carry the thought of complaint; six of them carry the thought of grief; three of them carry the thought of woe. We note here an "alas" of complaint.

"And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell.

"And he answered, Go ye. And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and Said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim." 2 Kings 6:1-7

In this passage of Scripture a number of things stand out. We see spiritual confinement -- the sons of the prophets were too confined. They needed an enlargement. In spiritual matters it is either grow or die. We also see here cooperation, a togetherness in the work. How desperately we need unity among ourselves if we are to enlarge our boundaries. "Holiness" people are gifted in the "art" of criticizing when they should be praying one for another. Calamity stands out in this passage. We see also an honest confession and a glorious conclusion. Let's look a little further into the "alas" of this passage.

We see here an "alas" of complaint. It is the alas of departed power. In this account the young prophet was using a borrowed axe in a very commendable effort. His living had become too confined. His life had become too narrow. He possessed a spirit of noble discontent and was determined, along with others, to do something about it. In the process, however, he suffered the loss of the axe head. The keen cutting edge that made possible his work was gone. It had fallen into the water. His usefulness came to an end. How many start out all right but become gripped with an "alas" of departed power. There are those who have lost their effectiveness in the swift current of rebellion, some have lost it in the muddy waters of worldliness, while others have lost it in the stream of talkativeness. How many have seen better days spiritually, but have been stripped of their effectiveness for God by the cares of this life or have allowed themselves to become stupefied with sensual gratification -- their usefulness in God's Kingdom had come to an end. We need to take a serious look at ourselves. Has the catastrophe of "confinement" hit us, or is it the catastrophe of "contentment," until we are satisfied with our narrow borders and do not possess that holy restlessness to push out and beyond?

The young prophet had recourse to a number of different things he could have done. He could have just gone on swinging with his axe handle pretending he was really doing something. He could have run out and forsaken it all. He could have sat down and lamented with bitter tears his loss and grown morbid and bitter in heart. This young prophet, however, did the right thing. He acknowledged his loss and went to the right source for help. He showed the man of God the exact place where he lost the axe head and was able to recover it.

The world is fast plunging to eternal doom. Multitudes are being swept along in the broad way that leadeth to destruction. Few are finding that narrow way that leadeth unto life. Christians

of this day -- yea, of the Bible Missionary Churches -- are comfortably seated on church pews, content in paying their tithes and giving offerings while the world passes by their doors untouched. God forbid that we should ever be satisfied in "narrow" boundaries. God give us a cutting instrument these days that will cut through the opposition of the enemy and build the kingdom of God. If the cutting edge is lost, may we not complain over departed power, but take the right steps to recover it!

God keep a world-wide vision before us! The extent of our outreach in foreign fields reflects the vision and effort we are putting forth to enlarge our home base. May God help us serve our present age.

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April 1984 Editorial
"THOSE THINGS... THAT REMAIN"
Heb. 12:27

This present age is in deep trouble. Foundations upon which society can exist have been shaken and are crumbling to dust. There has been a wholesale forsaking of that ONE -- that Eternal One -- by which all things consist. God's Word is plain: "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.., whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." Heb. 12:25-27 It is only those things eternal that will not pass away.

We need to be aware of two things in these days of crumbling foundations lest our faith be shaken and upset and we find ourselves wanting in the awful hour that is now upon us. (Read the Did You Know column in this issue.)

Things that are made. Man's works come to naught. God's Kingdom is indestructible. Great political empires, seemingly indestructible, have risen, only to crumble and finally disappear -- ancient history tells of the great empires of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome. Within this century Adolph Hitler came on the scene and announced that he was founding an empire, The Third Reich, that would last a thousand years. It lasted twelve years. The mighty British Empire, that commonwealth upon which the sun never set -- where is it now? It was not unshakable.

There has been the kingdom of "reason" -- great systems of philosophy. This appeared to be the answer to man's quest. It ended in irrationalism. Reason was exchanged for sensationalism and now its day is fast running out -- the day that brought on the curse of situation ethics, drug abuse, abortion, unisex and all else that has to do with sensationalism void of reason.

There has been the kingdom of science-Newton's laws, Einstein's theory of relativity. Because of this sprouting kingdom of science the twentieth century was ushered in with great anticipation of the dawning of a new and abiding way of life, only to be shattered with two world wars and now a third one looming on the horizon that threatens to destroy man from off the earth. The great industrial age came with its promise of Utopia.

What do we have facing us now? We have witnessed a total break down of morality, a setting aside of the Bible principles of holiness of heart and life by a humanistic philosophy that has destroyed the family, the home and the sacredness of life, landing man in the lap of depression, despair and suicide!

Why all this? All of these are being destroyed -- all are man made. All are under the judgment of God! The wrath of God is on this age. It is God's answer to this age. God has abandoned man to his own devices. He cries out, "You say you can get along without Me -- go ahead!" God abandons them to reap of their own folly and defiance of Him, the Eternal one. He has abandoned them to a perverse will, vile affections and a reprobate mind -- "the shaking of things that are made." No wonder our day is caving in on mankind! The expediencies of time. These, too, can and will be shaken and removed. The Psalmist asks the question, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Ps. 11:3 This is a good question and it is not without an answer. There is a kingdom that cannot be shaken -- the Kingdom of God, of righteousness, of true holiness. It is a kingdom that comes down to us from God -- a kingdom that we must receive. It is a kingdom that consists of a holy God, holy angels, and men whose hearts are made holy by the blood of the Lamb and the power of God. We need to be aware these days of intrinsic values lest we get submerged in mere expediencies. An unshakable kingdom is not established on church buildings, large congregations, attractive programs, financial solvency, denominational loyalty. These are expediencies of time and earth. They exist to promote the one essential thing -- the kingdom of God within the hearts of men that cannot be moved -- holiness of heart and life.

Our church buildings may be taken away from us -- this has happened. Our church programs as we now enjoy them may be rendered impossible -- this, too, has happened. Denominational programs to spread scriptural holiness around the world may not be possible. Ability to finance united efforts may be disrupted. Right now our own government, corrupt with a humanistic philosophy, is determined to wrest these things from us. What then? Does this end God's purposes? Never! These are all expediencies of time -- things that can be shaken and pass away. But God's kingdom marches on! We are headed for an eternity that is unshakable and has no end.

"We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God."

While time and opportunity permit, let's be up and at it. Let's cry out against the sins and evils of this day. Let's press men into an experience of heart holiness. Let's go out on a one-to-one basis to win men to this unshakable kingdom. Whatever it takes -- fasting, unctonized praying, persecution, sacrifice of time and means. Let's keep the vision clear. Let's keep our eyes on the unshakable kingdom and by the grace of God "occupy" till He comes!

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May 1984 Editorial
SUFFERING AFFLICTIONS

History is replete with examples of movements that have started out with a clear vision, a holy zeal, and a fixed determination to keep God's anointing upon them at any cost, but have lost that original glory and fervor. Oh yes! they have continued to grow numerically and influentially and have maintained a form of godliness, but Holy Ghost life has gone from their midst. Forsaken of God, they are useless to Him and His purposes.

What? When? Where? How? does this take place. How does a church lose the Supernatural from their midst? The Holy Spirit is the great conservator of holiness; He works through individuals and when individuals lose the life of God from their heart it is gone from the church.

What takes place when an individual is gloriously regenerated and then entirely sanctified? At that point the individual becomes potentially a disciple of Christ. By grace he is brought into a relationship that should issue in discipleship, but discipleship must be developed. Discipleship means total obedience to Christ as Lord and Master. This takes discipline. Discipline is the process of making the potential actual. The discipline of a sanctified heart in this world involves effort and it brings on tensions, pressure and suffering. Are we getting our people past the altar into a life of genuine discipleship? What did Paul mean when he wrote, "I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my suffering for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church?" What does it mean, "filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ?" Is this not saying that there is suffering involved in discipleship? Does this not mean that when we give that Christ life within us the pre-eminence we cut right across the currents of life in this world? Yes, it does, and it is human to draw back from tension, pressure and suffering inescapably brought on.

Take all-out war for an example. Where is the real pressure in war? It is out on the front lines where life is at stake. War is a lark for the multitudes. They get rich and live it up.. They are involved in war indirectly. They help make the bullets and the machinery of war. They are well behind the fighting lines. No risk of life here. No pressure here. Take the pressure off from an "all-out-war" to win and you have a "no-win" war.

Apply this truth to the church and it is easy to see what Paul meant by "filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ." When Jesus gave "us" the great commission and then the command to "tarry... until ye be endued with power from on high," he meant no more nor less than that we would be thus equipped to enter the great conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness, of holiness against wickedness. It meant that as individuals life would be reduced to ONE thing -- the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Life in this world with Christ as Lord and Master would mean conflict, fasting, praying, soul agonizing, witnessing, suffering. Discipline? Yes! It would mean that we would be fighting out on the front lines of battle for God and souls. It is costly to live a holy life in any age!

But I can hear someone ask, do we have to live under pressure? NO! We are people of free choice. If we choose to avoid it we can. YES! if we want to fulfill God's purpose for us. Some try to relieve the pressure and still retain the vision -- impossible. It would mean compromise to do it-giving in to pressure at the pressure points. When you do, you forfeit discipline -- and discipleship. If pressure is relaxed, discipline is gone and with it the loss of Divine life.

It brings on pressure to stay in the battle -- "filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ." Hear what Paul has to say: "in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in lastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

It is human to draw back from suffering, tension, pressure, ridicule, but take heed -- herein lies the danger. Weariness in the battle brings on a dullness of spirit (read Isaiah 40:28-31). It is human to let up on a disciplined-sanctified life, relieve the pressure, pull back from suffering, begin to pamper the body, fail to keep it under. There is danger here. Paul said, "I keep under my body lest I become a castaway." We cannot escape "the cares of this life" that tend to choke out our life with God. It takes sanctified determination to wait on God for that strength to keep out on the front line of battle and not faint.

Jesus taught us that "if any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." To cut across peer pressure, to put loved ones in a secondary place and Christ first takes discipline, and discipline brings on tension, pressure, misunderstandings and suffering.

If we fail to get our people beyond the altar and into a life of discipleship with our Master -- if we fail to develop a disciplined, sanctified life; if we pull back from the sufferings of a life with God, then what?

There are those who draw back from a disciplined life because they have never known discipline -- good people who attend our churches, faithful to support God's work with their means, but who do nothing in a spiritual way to bring about the kingdom of God.

Then there are those whose experience has never gotten past their head. It is this crowd that have pushed for a social program, compromised the way of holiness and taken the church on its downward course. If revival fires are not kept burning in our churches these two groups will sap out the spiritual life until God will be gone. Mere social life, recreational programs, church kitchens will soon follow. Whoever it might be that would raise their voice against this compromise way-shoot them down, push them aside. Take away these "afflictions, don't bring me under discipline. Don't require me to fight up on the front line of battle. I'll attend church, pay my tithes, make pledges, but don't require me to fast and pray and go out after souls. How many are by their lives saying this?

But, praise God, God has always had a remnant that have stayed out on the front line trenches of spiritual warfare. I believe there are others in our churches that would enter this warfare if they were led and instructed properly. This is no day to relax and give up the fight. Let

us take new courage and determine to keep in this conflict and fill up that which is behind in the afflictions of Christ. Let us not miss the mark! Let us keep the Spirit of God alive in our midst!

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June 1984 Editorial
A TIMELY SUMMONS

In this issue of *The Missionary Revivalist* and throughout our Church an appeal is going forth to summon our people to the ministry of prayer and fasting and giving to missions.

Through prayer and fasting needs are met. We quote here from the book *The Secret Place of Prayer*, by J. W. Goodwin, pp. 112, 113. "It has been a serious problem in the minds of many what part fasting could have in the ministry of prayer. We should remember the experience of our Lord and the disciples in sad defeat in their effort to cast out evil spirits from a child, as recorded by Matthew. At the word of Christ the evil spirit was conquered at once and the child delivered, After this experience His disciples asked Him why they could not cast him out. His simple reply was, 'This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.' We cannot thus avoid the conclusion, that fasting has a real place in the ministry of prayer. We shall not dwell on the physical blessings which often accrue from fasting, but no one need to fear any serious physical difficulties or harmful results from reasonable fasting. Without doubt there is greater danger in overeating, but we more especially emphasize the spiritual blessings that may follow fasting and prayer. Fasting most assuredly is a demonstration of our sincerity. Insincerity never goes to the limit of physical inconvenience. Fasting will greatly assist in strengthening our purpose and help us in the concentration of our desire. It will also give time for more complete confession of our helplessness and dependence upon God. Fasting often awakens a clearer vision of God and increases faith in his veracity. Fasting has a strong tendency to strengthen our will to continue to the very end. It will also assist in stirring all our inward forces to succeed. Fasting should not be made a means of paying penance, a way of torturing ourselves to obtain divine favor. This vision in fasting will fail. But when fasting works in our nature a deeper sense of our dependence upon God, our utter helplessness without Him, we shall find fasting a gracious means of faith, and helpful in the ministry of prayer."

Significant victories are gained through the ministry of fasting and prayer, and revivals are brought to pass. Daniel fasted and prayed twenty-one days. Satan did his best to hinder, but Daniel gained the victory. The Christian Church fasted and prayed and then Paul and Barnabas were sent forth as mighty missionaries. Nehemiah cried out to God with much prayer and self-denial and as a result the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. The way to victory and revival in our churches, if we really mean business with God, is through fasting and prayer. Can we have revivals in our churches today? Yes, if we are willing to pay the price with prayer and fasting, yielding to God, and confessing our condition before him. Revival must begin in the heart of individuals -- my heart and your heart -- as we individually meet His conditions. Fasting is an aid to sincere praying. A. Sims in his book, *Prayer Warfare*, p. 20, states, "prayer must be considered as a warfare. Real prayer is opposing a great spiritual force to the onslaught of evil, and asking God to put into operation the work done by His Son on the Cross, which was not only the redemption of man, but the defeat of the prince of this world. The message of the Cross arouses the resistance of the 'flesh,'

because the Cross deals with the flesh (Gal. 5:24). But the message about the victory over Satan arouses the antagonism of the devil. The 'Cross' touches the man himself; victory over Satan touches the devil himself. It, then, seems true that the enemy seems to spring into life before you, as you press on. But in the teeth of an opened hell it can be victory every step of the way, as the believer, in the power of the Holy Ghost, trusts in the risen Lord and the power of His blood, and gives the 'word of His testimony.'

"When we get an intelligent conception of prayer as really being seated with Christ in the heavenly places, with a vision like that of Moses, with the fighting going on with the multitudes below him -- for Moses was undoubtedly the predominating factor in that fight -- then you will see something of what prayer means Could God have done without Moses? There he was, the man with uplifted arms; and the enemies won when he failed to pray. Knowing, as we do, the relationship between God and Moses, we cannot imagine for a moment that he was a 'passive' factor. Moses was the active intelligence that solved the whole fight." And so it will be in this day where God can find those who will pay the price in this kind of praying and fasting.

Through prayer, fasting and giving not only spiritual needs are met but financial necessities are provided for. In yesteryears the appeal was to fast at least one meal a week and put the price of that meal into the work of foreign missions. Elsewhere in this issue an appeal is made for all who will to fast at least one meal per week and put at least one dollar in the offering for foreign missionary work. A thousand enrolled in this effort would mean a thousand extra dollars a week which would add up to fifty-two thousand dollars annually. My, what a boost this would be to our foreign missionary program, adding on to what we are already doing.

Let us, as many as are of a willing heart, arise to this challenge!

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July 1984 Editorial
FOUNDATIONS

The home is the foundation stone of society. "God setteth the solitary in families." Psalm 68:6 "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3 With.... out a proper foundation there can be no significant or lasting superstructure. As the home decays the church decays and as the church decays, society decays. The Satanic termites of social pressure to "do as you please," selfish pride, sexual promiscuousness and an inherited carnally diseased heart have destroyed the foundation on which church and society exist and are sweeping this generation into perdition. What can the righteous do? As difficult as the task may be in this vile, immoral and demon dominated day, God's people not only can, but must pay attention to building solid foundations -- Godly, Christian homes. This will involve at least seven things.

1. Dedication. Parents need to dedicate their children to Jesus Christ from birth and themselves to the task of raising them to love and serve Him. Far too many parents selfishly try to succeed through their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord," and should be trained to live and glorify God. Timothy is an example of right training. "And from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ

Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15. Parents need to seriously set about the definite task of raising their children for God and heaven and not the devil and hell. George Stuart one time made a statement all parents should stop and seriously ponder: "If God has not fixed it so we can carry our children with us to heaven, He has placed us in a sad condition. If He has fixed it so we can carry them with us, and we do not, then we place ourselves in a sad condition."

2. Supplication. Parents need to pray for and with their children. Children are safe only as parents live in the will of God and this can only be done when parents who are sanctified wholly live and pray together in harmony and love. Children need to be taught to pray both by example and practice. God's Word is instructive and plain here, "husbands, dwell with them (speaking of the wife) according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." I Peter 3:7.

3. Education. In Proverbs 22:6 we read, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is not referring primarily to school education. Parents train by example and discipline. Basic training takes place in the areas of responsibility, honesty and modesty. We are living in an irresponsible, dishonest and immodest age. This has come from the lack of responsible parental training. As embarrassing as it is, children reflect what their parents are. Children do not do what their parents say -- they do what their parents do!.

4. Limitation. Children need to learn to live within certain bounds. The ten commandments furnish a "ten barbed wire" moral enclosure. They serve a double purpose. They are meant to keep mankind within proper moral bounds and also to keep out enemies to moral and ethical living. Parents need to keep their children within these bounds. They need to know how to say NO and when to say it. The simple but profound little chorus we teach our children to sing illustrates this:

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see;
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.
There's a Father up above looking down in tender love;
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

The chorus includes ears -- what they hear, hands -- what they do, feet -- where they go, etc. Oh, parents, what a responsibility to protect those little eyes, ears, hands, feet.

5. Imitation. The Apostle Paul said, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Phil. 4:9 Parents, in which direction do your footsteps lead? That is the direction your children will go. In church attendance, in conversation, in business, in clean wholesome habits, in dress, in attitudes, in manners, in all the Christian graces we are to so live that we can say as the Apostle Paul said, "those things which ye have learned and received and heard and seen in me do: and the God of peace shall be with you. Children are great imitators. Such will not save them, but it will put them on the way to being saved by the blood of Jesus.

6. Correction. Proverbs 22:15 tells us that "foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." this is not child abuse, it is discipline. There can be no training without correction and discipline. Again we read in Proverbs 23:13, "Withhold not

correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." Correction must never be done in anger if it is done properly. Love must accompany discipline and correction or it will produce rejection and rebellion in the child. God chastens us because He loves us. So likewise it must be with us and our children.

7. Communication. Humanity is so constituted that it craves affection, and proper affection can only be revealed through proper communication. Parents, you must not only love your children but you must find a way to show that love. This will take time but it will be time well spent.

May God help us all these days to pay attention to foundation building. Pastors, you have a great task in this a real Parents, God has outlined your task for you. May God help you not to fail! It is a task impossible apart from the help of the Lord but His promise is that as our days so shall our strength be.

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August 1984 Editorial PRIORITIES FOR HIGHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The paramount objective of Christian education beyond the high school level is the training of young people for the purpose of spreading me gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Purpose and objectives will certainly determine priorities and priorities heeded will spell the difference between success or failure. Following are major priorities that should be the guiding principles of all Bible Colleges.

1. The recognition of the preeminence of Christ. This should be the "overtone" of Christian Institutions of Higher Education. The key word in Colossians is "all" and the key sentence, "that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Paul stated in I Cor. 2:2, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Again in Philippians 1:21, "For me to five is Christ, and to die is gain." It is Jesus Christ that the world needs -- Christ as Saviour, Christ as Sanctifier, Christ as standard bearer, Christ as the satisfier and nourisher of the heart. Surely Christ should be central in Bible College programs.

2. The provision for proper training. Bible colleges must have at the heart of their curriculum the Bible as the chief text book. We recognize the King James Version as the proper Bible text to be used. There must be clear doctrinal teaching. Conservative holiness groups of this day have been raised up to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the world. We must make certain our young people are clear in this central Bible doctrine, both as a Bible truth and as a personal experience of their own. We cannot impart to a hungry world what we do not ourselves possess.

3. The promotion of Holy Ghost revivals. Bible colleges must maintain an academic program in balance with deep spirituality -- mind and heart must be kept in their proper relationship. Bible College training is twofold -- to see that both the heart and mind are qualified to fulfill the purposes and objectives that have been set forth. Too often emphasis on academics gains ascendancy over the spiritual. Young people need to be trained in a spiritual atmosphere where their own heart needs may be met. They will not come upon this accidentally. It is the

responsibility of a Bible college to produce an atmosphere whereby its youth can not only be trained intellectually, but prepared spiritually.

4. The securing of spiritually and academically qualified faculty. An academically degreed faculty alone, as necessary as this is, cannot instill in students a deep hunger to be spiritual. It will take a dedicated, entirely sanctified faculty that is burdened to see students filled with the Holy Ghost to accomplish this goal.

5. The insistence upon anointed classroom instruction. Whatever the subject taught, the peculiar presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit on that class must be desired and sought by each instructor. Learning best takes place where He, the unseen One, is there to illuminate minds and provide an atmosphere in which to learn.

6. The understanding of the value of personality and individuality. Personality is the one thing of intrinsic value -- a being created in the image of God, created to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. What a responsibility lies in the hands of the leaders of a Bible College -- the handling, molding and training of a personality so created! Every person is unique and in that uniqueness can glorify God in a way no other can. A school must build into each student those qualities and that knowledge that will equip him to fulfill his calling, but not train out of him his own individuality.

7. The cultivating of those things that make for success. Bible Colleges must stamp upon their youth the essential qualifications for making a success. We read in I Peter 2:21, "Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps." Christ exemplified in His life a holy deadness. D. L. Moody said, "The beginning of greatness is to be little, the increase of greatness is to be less, the perfection of greatness is to be nothing." Christ also exemplified a holy daring. He dared to carry out the Father's will. He also exemplified a holy drudgery. He kept at His Father's will whatever the cost, whatever the loss, whatever the cross.

10. The expediting of a personal evangelistic program -- the winning of souls. One of the greatest, if not the greatest responsibility of a Bible School is to enlist every student in a program of soul winning. This can best be done by entering into the curriculum, as a requirement for graduation, a program that will engage every student in a weekly effort on a one to one basis of soul winning.

11. The sustaining of a united front: There must be a unity of purpose and objectives if we are to win the battle for righteousness in this day. To strive for uniformity in all aspects of life would be futile and divisive, but unity of heart and life is essential. Paul wrapped this up in one sentence when he wrote, "Ephraim my brother and fellow-worker and fellow-soldier." The two were brothers in Christ. They were fellow-workers -- Without workers the cause of Christ would drag to a full stop. They were fellow-soldiers -- men in fellowship with each other, willing to hazard their own lives for the common cause. How important that we be not divided by petty issues but remain united in the essentials.

12. The instilling of a well rounded gospel. To emphasize one truth over another until the balance of truth is destroyed is to run into heresy. Jude put it this way, "it was needful for me to

write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." By "the faith" he had reference to the entire body of God's revealed truth. Paul testified at the end of his life, "I have kept the faith." Again there is a reference to the whole body of truth, every part of God's revealed truth all bound together and made effective by the holy love of God.

Such is the task of a Christian School of higher learning!

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September 1984 Editorial
THE CORNERSTONE OF LIVING

It may seem trite to say it, but it is true that as the family goes the church goes, and as the church goes the nation goes. The family belongs to God. He appointed for it its purpose and goal. The Christian family is formed to be the very image of the future kingdom of God and in a certain sense it is the anticipated kingdom of God itself (Eph. 5:31-32). God has ordained three great institutions in which to train, discipline, evangelize our own in order to live as we should in this world and prepare for eternity with a holy God in a holy Heaven -- the home, the church, the school. It is no wonder that the enemy of God and humanity would do his utmost to corrupt and destroy these three great institutions.

The fall months are usually filled with efforts, and rightly so, to reach out and evangelize the lost around us. While we are evangelizing the "outsiders" we should not neglect to evangelize our own children right within our own ranks. For this purpose God has ordained the family, the church, the school. The basic unit of society is the family. We need to concentrate our efforts on the building of strong families. The old saying "families that pray together, stay together" is still true. Family worship -- the family altar--should be the center, the heart of every family, the cornerstone on which human society is laid.

This is a revelation that comes to us from the Word of God. Noah preached one hundred and twenty years and had no converts except at me, but he did save his own family. His religion was real at home. Lot's was not. We read in Genesis 19:14, "And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law." Noah must surely have had a regular family worship time by which he was able to save his own. The first thing after the flood he set up an altar unto the Lord.

Jacob set up an altar for his whole household at the command of God (Gen. 35:1-5). Joshua spoke those unforgettable words, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Paul set up a family altar in the jailer's house the night they were converted (Acts 16:33-34). What better Scripture is there to uphold family worship than claiming the promise at family worship time found in Matthew 18:19-21, "Again I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they

shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Spurgeon once said, "Family prayer is an instrument of family piety, and woe to those who allow it to cease." We find detailed instructions in how to conduct a family worship time in Deuteronomy 6:2-9.

Family worship should be conducted in a right way. In the first place, the husband and father of the family is responsible to see this is carried out. Too often it is the wife and mother who takes the lead here, but this ought not to be. The Scripture is clear here, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (I Cor. 11:3). "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church ... as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing" (Eph. 5:22-24). God has ordered the family according to the principle of headship. Each member of the family lives under the order of and principle of "headship." Christ the Head of the husband, Lord of the family; husband, the head of the wife, chief authority of the children; wife, the helpmeet to the husband (Gen. 2:18) secondary authority over the children; children, obedient to the parents. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right... And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:1-4).

In far too many homes wives get out of their rightful, God-ordained position because husbands will not or do not assume their rightful role and responsibility as "priest" of their own home. In the passage found in Eph. 5:25, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands," Adam Clarke gives the following:

"Ill thrives the hapless family that shows
A Cock that's silent, and a Hen that crows:
I know not which live most unnatural lives,
Obeying husbands or Commanding wives."

There is a reason why far too many families lose their children, and chief among them is the failure to follow God's order of submission. But the question arises, how about a home where the husband and father is unsaved? Family worship and a family altar must proceed regardless. It just could be, however, that if the wife and mother would humbly keep her God-ordained place in the home and exalt her husband in his place of headship, even in this role, her husband might be encouraged to take his place.

A well conducted family worship is rewarding in its outcome. It is number one as a means of enriching the home by just the fact that it is being conducted. But also by bringing to each member a greater knowledge of the Bible; developing a greater prayer life; keeping the doors of communication open between family members; affording a time for spiritual training of children. The home is the greatest school in all the world for teaching honesty, integrity, modesty, right attitudes, values, discipleship, responsibility, kindness, consideration. Such are best taught by example in the home through greater family unity. It still remains a fact that children become exactly what we raise them to be and are a result of our raising and training or lack of training. The

most ideal place to start all this training is around a family altar where proper time is taken to read the Word of God, communicate with one another and with God.

One main problem in family worship is to select a proper and regular time. More important than when you have a family altar is that you do have it regularly. Satan will win the day if we let him, with obstacles piled on obstacles. A family altar should be conducted when all the members can be present. Obstacles must be overcome -- overcoming the when to have it; the obstacle of getting it started; the obstacle of knowing what to do; the obstacle of uninterested members of the family; the obstacle of an unsaved mate; obstacles of falling into a rut; obstacles of small children; obstacles of seemingly uninteresting portions of God's Word.

Family worship time should be conducted in a reasonable fashion. Every member of the family should be included and make a contribution, for it is a known axiom that people are most interested in that which they have a part. Small children can get a Bible off the table and take it to their daddy. Choruses suitable to the age of the children can be used. God's Word should be focused on -- read, discussed and questions asked and answered. Many Scripture passages can be repeated from memory, especially the Psalms, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, etc. Besides choruses, gospel songs can be sung. It is good on occasions to take out time for personal testimonies and confessions.

The results of a well planned, well executed, Holy Spirit anointed and consistent day by day family worship time will have its immediate effect as well as a long range effect on every member of the household. May God help us to build for eternity. He has given us the plan in His Word. We are responsible for carrying it out!

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October 1984 Editorial
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

I have been wondering lately if we have forgotten just how important Sunday school is. Do we really realize what all is involved in having a five Sunday school program going on -- what all it can mean to a church, its members, the lost around us? Much could be written on this subject. The fall months provide a good time to take inventory on just what kind of a Sunday school your church has. History has proved that it is one of the most vital, effective parts of kingdom work. If this is so, then may God help us to put all we have into this phase of our church life.

To start with, ask yourself these questions: How important is the Sunday school? What kind of a Sunday school is your church running? Why have a Sunday school? Are there real advantages in having a wide-awake, alive, growing Sunday school? If so, what are these? If your church has a Sunday school how would you describe it -- alive, growing, interesting, or, nominal, dead, uninteresting, formal and of not much real value to you, the church or the world? Do you look forward to Sunday school? If not, what needs to be done to make it what it ought to be? Are you willing to do your part in this phase of Kingdom work?

Let's look at the advantages of having a Sunday school:

It has always been considered and still can be the "long arm" that reaches out into the community to contact new people and draw them into the church. A church misses one of the greatest means of growing when it does not have a Sunday school geared for this purpose.

An active Sunday school lends itself to an "all church" means of activity that helps to unite its membership in a common cause as well as a means of keeping the membership alive spiritually.

The Sunday school is the buffer between the world and the church. Everyone, saved or unsaved, can be a member of the Sunday school where this would not be possible as far as membership in the church is concerned. There is a distinct advantage here in that all who attend Sunday school can be made to feel a part of it.

If properly handled the Sunday school can be one of the chiefest means of evangelizing the unsaved. More about this -- read on!

An active, well organized Sunday school is the number one instrument for church growth. Take a look at your church. What is the difference in it now from what it was ten years ago? Let's face up. Outside of some older ones dying and some babies born to families in the church, there is not much to show across the years. Thanks to the few exceptions to this!

Let's take a quick look at the main purposes of having a Sunday school

One main purpose is the enriching of our lives through a united study of God's Word. The key to this is teachers that are well prepared, spiritually and through adequate study, to lead a class in the study of God's Word.

Another main purpose is that of evangelizing the lost. There is nothing that will help a church more than to hear the sound of "newborn" souls. History has proved that the Sunday school has been the number one instrument that has lent itself to reaching out for souls, bringing them into the church and eventually seeing them born into the kingdom of God.

Another main purpose of the Sunday school is to minister to all ages from the cradle to the elderly and to the shut-ins.

Let's take a look at how a lifeless, unproductive Sunday school can be brought to life!

The first thing is to be willing to face up to facts. The pastor is the key man in the program of the church. The growth or lack of growth, the spirituality or lack of spirituality must be laid at the feet of our pastors. Like it or not, this has always been so.

Enthusiasm is one of the greatest means of bringing a Sunday school to life and keeping it alive. Again, the key people here are the pastor, the Sunday school Superintendent and the teachers. Starting on time, starting with enthusiasm, Songs and choruses like, "Everybody ought to go to Sunday school," "Bring them in" are effective in lining things up. Pre-prayer services prior to the Sunday school hour where people come early enough and pray God down on the scene until

there is a bubbling over of spirit even in the "start" of the Sunday services. Enthusiasm is a human trait that all can have and when, added to this, is the manifest blessing of God, things come alive. Enthusiasm and variety plus the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit can keep the Sunday school out of the "rut." There is a behind the scene price to be paid in prayer and soul burden.

Organization is another means of keeping things alive and moving. Some seem to fear organization as that which brings with it formality. The Sunday school should be a well planned and well organized part of our church life. A well organized program can be the means of bringing the blessing of God down upon a church and it need not hinder the freedom of the Spirit.

Departmentalization is a wonderful means of growth and evangelization. Every church, eventually at least, should have an active cradle roll. An active cradle roll superintendent and his or her helpers can watch the listing of new births in the daily paper and follow this up. Every church should plan to have a beginners class, primary class, junior class, intermediate class, senior class, young married people's class, a young adult class for the young unmarried ones, an older adult class, etc. Some churches have been very successful in organizing women's classes, men's classes. There can be classes geared especially for newly saved people.

Not only the pastor, but the pastor along with the Sunday school Superintendent and teachers who are alive with enthusiasm and filled with the Spirit of God should be constantly urging their class members to go out "into the highways and hedges" and "compel" the lost to come to Sunday school and to the Lord.

The last thing we will mention (we have only scratched the surface of what could be said), but by no means the least, in this business of bringing a church to life concerning the value of a well organized Sunday school, is the pulpit preaching by the pastor. A church should be motivated toward soul-winning. Through anointed preaching of the Word the saints of God can be kept aware of the value of a soul -- seeing souls as God sees them, not just as sin has made them, but what God can make of them through His grace; the price that Christ has paid; the fact that we are ambassadors for Christ; knowing that we must give an account of our stewardship; seeing the now reward of our labors.

An appendage needs to be added to what has already been written. It will take careful planning and administration to make effective a program of soul-winning through the Sunday school. We can get enthused and we can get blessed and inspired and sense the moving of God's Spirit in our midst, but unless we get out and get at it enthusiasm will wane, blessings will subside and we will sink back into the "rut" we have been in.

Jesus' own words should stir us, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4

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November 1984 Editorial
A CASTAWAY!

In the tenth chapter of I Corinthians, verse twelve, we read, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." We have here a warning against apostasy, or, as Paul put it in chapter nine, verse twenty-seven, becoming "a castaway." The Bible is full of warnings against apostasy. An apostate is one who has deserted his faith, his religion and the principles he once held. There are many examples given in Scripture of those who started out to go God's way but abandoned it, turned aside and became a castaway. We have an example of such in this Corinthian passage. God is well able not only to save from sin and sanctify wholly, but He has grace to see one through to a final and victorious end. Man's part is to persevere, to "keep (himself) in the love of God." by "building (himself) up in (his) most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." Salvation comes to one in a moment of time by the merits of blood and by faith, but unless followed by a life of personal application through discipline and devotion it will be lost. Many who started out withered under the scorching heat of application. Just because a person is genuinely converted does not guarantee him a home in heaven "but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Neither does a genuine experience of entire sanctification guarantee an individual final victory, but we read in Revelation 2:10, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Holiness of heart brings with it that enabling grace to endure, but there must be that continual yielding of one's will to the will of God. We are exhorted in Romans 6:19, "as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

All through Scripture God has been faithful to sound out warnings. We must not be presumptuous to think we can just coast into heaven. In the twelfth division of the Psalms we have sounded out several warnings. We will note four of them that are extremely applicable to our day. There has always been a tendency in holiness ranks down through the ages to brand one a "calamity howler," or a "trouble maker" who cries out against the dangers and trends that are prevalent. However, we must be realistic and face things as they are if we ourselves intend to make it and not be a castaway in the end.

The first warning is against backsliding. "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth;" (Ps. 12:1a). It should be a deep concern to all God's people when there is a dearth in genuine conversions and when there are so few taking the way of death to self, issuing in a genuine experience of heart holiness. But here the inspired writer is warning against the backslidings of the "godly." The great problem we face today across conservative holiness movements is to keep the Christians alive and moving with God. How extremely important it is, not only to obtain a genuine experience of holiness of heart but to retain the blessing and power of God in one's life. How few are striving these days with all there is in them to make the journey through to the end victorious! People are dying spiritually these days by just sitting around and doing nothing for their own soul or for others in spiritual matters. It is a known fact that when individuals are not striving with all that is in them to keep spiritual, other interests begin subtly and almost imperceptibly to creep in. Interest begins to lag in attendance to the means of grace -- mid-week prayer service, family altar, Bible reading and prayer. At first, excuses for this neglect seem so legitimate and excusable when the real reason is that the holy fire of God is beginning to wane and backsliding has set in. All this should be enough to cause a person to gasp for breath and tremble at the warnings against apostasy throughout the Bible.

Judgment begins at the house of God.

The second warning the Psalmist gives that is so applicable to our day is against unfaithfulness. "Help, Lord, for the faithful fail." (Ps. 12:1b). Again the Spirit of inspiration in this Scripture is not bemoaning the awfulness of sin or groaning over the wickedness of the wicked (as tragic as that is). He is wrought up over the unfaithfulness and unsteadiness among the saints. Intentional or unintentional, many good people in our holiness churches are failing God today. The pressures of life, grappling with the material concerns, under tension from the spirit of this age, all these and others, people have allowed to cause them to fail their responsibilities to the church; to fail to bring in a full measure of devotion to God in prayer, meditation and Bible study; failure to confess Christ before men Where can we find "faithfulness" today? One thing God does require and that is faithfulness. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (I Cor. 4:2)

The third warning is against talkativeness. "Our lips are our own: who is lord over us?" The tongue is at once capable of both blessing and cursing. Talk, talk, talk -- we are all good at that and God alone knows the consequences of too much talk. Holiness people of this day are quick to detect faults, failures, trends, weaknesses in leadership, lack of deep spirituality and to talk, find fault, criticize, but where are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." A fearful warning is sounded out against those who have not the mark of a true intercessor on them. Talkativeness is one of the great curses that is upon the holiness people of this day and threatens one with becoming a castaway.

The fourth warning that is pointed out is against willfulness and the hardening of the heart. The Psalmist asks the question, "Who is lord over us?" (v. 4c) Again, this warning is not, a warning for the wicked but is addressed to the godly. Pressure is on these days and we are human. It is possible in the sanctified life to get busy and grow lean and little by little depart from a full measure of devotion (not willfully) until the individual gets into a danger zone spiritually. In that condition it is possible to grieve the blessed Holy Spirit. How faithful the Spirit is to check and warn a person at that point, but if that check is not heeded and the condition corrected, willfulness enters the picture. It may issue in taking something off the altar, or a wrong spirit may be allowed to enter the heart, or some conscious and known duty may be neglected. Willfulness has taken over and Christ is no longer Lord and Master. The Scriptures warn against this. It is a warning against drifting into a condition of indifference and then slothfulness. Outward profession is maintained, tithes are paid, church attendance for the most part is kept up, but the individual himself is no longer under or controlled by the will of God alone. He has become willful in regard to the way he lives and acts. It is a compromise way of living, but spiritually that person becomes a castaway from the way of holy and godly living.

Going back now to the Corinthian passage, we read in I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Again we read in Hebrews 10:23-25, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

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December 1984 Editorial
A GIFT YOU CAN AFFORD

"Edith Stern, in Pageant, tells of an interesting incident. 'And what do you want Santa Claus to bring you? I asked the little girl with the long, dark ringlets. I was being shown through one of America's thousand-odd children's homes, and since it was shortly before Christmas, my question was certainly a routine one. Not her answer, though! Soberly and solemnly she lifted her head and looked me squarely in the eye. "I think, more than anything else,' she said simply, 'I'd like someone to hug and kiss me.' " It was not a material gift this little girl longed for most.

Is not this an insight into the fact that Christmas for a Christian should involve the intangibles as well as the material? We, even as Christians, have so commercialized this great event of Christ's birth that what we think of most is the giving of material gifts to one another. We do not wish to minimize the significance of this part of our Christmas celebration, but we do wish to call our attention to a higher level of gift giving. Are you aware, friend, that the world is dying for a little bit of love? The Christmas story is a love story. "For God so loved . . . that he gave." There is positively no gift so precious as the gift of His only Son. This love gift is one of the intangibles that we must be involved in if we be worthy of the name Christian.

But can you, friend, really afford to give this kind of intangible gift? The hunger and cry for this kind of gift is all around us. L. A. Reed (in an editorial in the November-December issue of the Preacher's Magazine, 1952) gives the following account, "I was preaching one Christmas Eve in the Bowery Mission in New York City. A very well dressed man came to the altar, of whom most of those sitting near him seemed to be afraid. He was New York's worst gambler and had such a trigger temper that he had been known to kill men at the least provocation. Money was no object to him. He won so much of it, fairly or otherwise, that he was always among the best dressed and most attractive of men. He was weeping and sobbing and finally upon my speaking to him about his soul, he asked, 'Is it true, Sir, that this Jesus of whom you have been speaking and whose birthday we celebrate tomorrow really loves me?' The pathos in his voice proved to me that he really and sincerely meant what he asked. His tears showed that evidently he was in earnest. He further said, 'I have never been loved, and when you said that Christ loves me, I could not believe it, as no one has ever loved me.' "

Are not there people all around us who, down in their innermost being, are heavy with a hunger that is reaching out -- people who hunger but are in despair that their deep heart hunger will ever be met!

Do we not have a mandate from a Sovereign God to disperse heaven's love to the masses of humanity? Can we afford to disperse these intangible gifts? Better the question, are we in a position and condition to do so? It does not take a great personality as viewed by men. It is not within one's strength and human efforts. It takes an open channel through which the person of the Holy Spirit can flow to reveal the matchless, all-sufficient, altogether satisfying love of God revealed in and through Jesus Christ.

Electricity is powerful, but when it passes through ordinary fence wire it loses eighty percent of its efficiency. Hardly enough power gets through to be of any effect. When electricity passes through galvanized wire it loses sixty percent of its efficiency. When it passes along copper wire -- the kind ordinarily used -- it still loses thirty percent of its power. When silver wire is used only twenty percent is lost. If gold wire is used, however, it is able to conduct the full load of power. Silver wire and gold wire are not used simply because the cost is too great. However, there are places where only gold wire is used to conduct the current. High flying reconnaissance lanes transmit messages on high frequency. The higher the frequency the less room for error. To assure absolute accuracy they use gold wire within the transmitter. Low frequencies are absorbed by earth, but high frequencies break through. The gold wire guarantees that the message will be clear and not garbled. Yes, it costs, but when the lives of a whole army are at stake cost is not considered.

God is interested in getting a clear, ungarbled message of His supreme, divine, sovereign love through to men lost in sin. He must have a clear channel unobstructed by carnal reasonings or selfish living. To convey the love of God to lost souls clearly and in its convincing reality is one of the greatest needs of this hour. Is it costly? Yes, not in dollars and cents, but in the process of cleansing out the channel of the heart and a full consecration to the cause of transmitting God's message and gift of love to the lost.

You may not be able to afford expensive material gifts to loved ones and friends this Christmas season but there is one gift you CAN give. It is the gift of yourself without reservation to God, that His love may flow through you to that hungry soul that is a stranger to God and salvation. It is a gift you cannot afford not to give if you would know His love yourself.

It was said to D. L. Moody one day, "It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly to Him," and Moody's reply was, "I will be that man."

May God help us all to be able to give to the Master an open, unobstructed channel through which He may pour His love on a lost world!

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