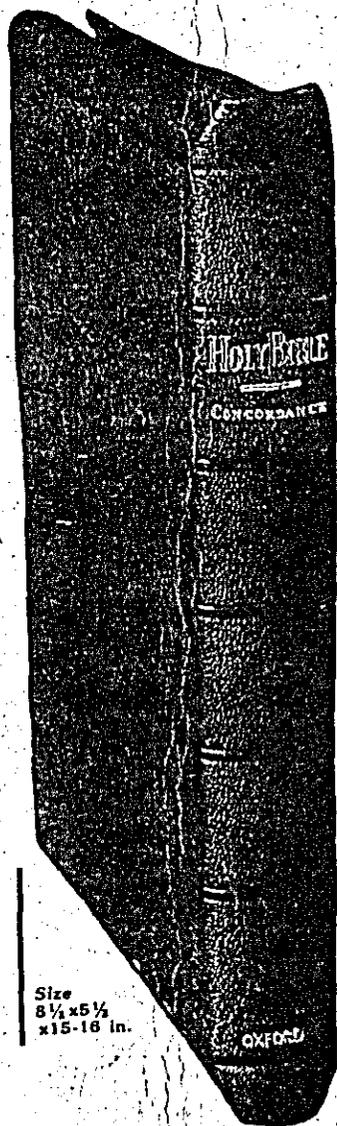


OXFORD CONCORDANCE BIBLE

Printed on the Famous Oxford India Paper



Size
8 1/4 x 5 1/2
x 15-16 in.

Here is the ideal Bible for those who wish to "search the Scriptures." It has, in addition to the complete text of the Authorized Version, a Concordance so that you can find a Scripture verse at once if only a single important word in it is recalled. It also has a Subject Index as well as an alphabetical list of all the names used in the Bible, giving their meaning and where they are used. Contains also centre column references and 12 beautifully colored maps.

FOR PREACHER, TEACHER OR STUDENT

THE TYPE is large and clear so as to be comfortably read by anyone. Ample space between lines makes easy reading. It is self-pronouncing; all proper names and difficult words are divided into syllables and accented. The self-pronouncing feature in Oxford Bibles is more extensively applied throughout the text than is customary in other self-pronouncing editions.

THE BINDING is Pin Seal Grained Lambskin, a leather which is as pleasant to the touch as it is to the sight. The grained calf lining also adds to the beauty, flexibility and durability of this Bible. An additional feature is the silk sewing. Pure gold has been used on the edges and the lettering.

No. 03671x. Price \$9.75

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

The Preacher's Magazine

VOL. I NO. 11

NOVEMBER, 1926

WHOLE NO. 11

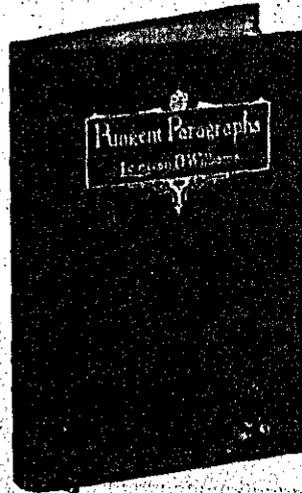


REV. C. J. FOWLER, D. D.

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS

By Leewin B. Williams



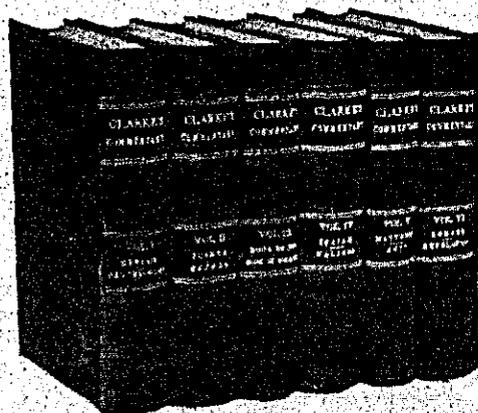
A Handbook of Humorous Illustrations, Wit and Wisdom for Ministers, Lecturers, Debaters, After-Dinner Speakers, and for General Reading.

The Bible Champion Magazine says of this book "This is an unusual book of illustrative matter. It is not a joke book, far from it. The stories are nearly all laughable, but are such that a wise speaker can use with telling effect in driving home important truths."

At the top of each page there is a short quotation that is a real "burr that will stick in one's wool."

An important feature of the book is the index; titles in CAPS, subjects in Roman. Underneath the paragraphs throughout the book is a cross-index, making it easy to find an abundance of material on short notice, there being 800 to draw from.

Beautifully bound in cloth. Price \$2.00. 320 pages.
Get the book and you will be pleased



CLARKE'S COMMENTARY

Copies of the original notes, without revision or abridgment. The set consists of six large volumes approximating 950 pages each. Binding is of cloth, neat and durable. The full text of the Bible is given with the footnotes. Printing is in clear, readable type on fine finished paper. This set of Commentaries will prove of inestimable value to every earnest teacher, desirous of doing the best work possible.

Price, \$15.00 (transportation extra)

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, 2923 TROOST AVE.,
KANSAS CITY, MO.

The Preacher's Magazine

A monthly journal devoted to the interests of those who preach the full gospel

J. B. Chapman, Editor

Published monthly by the Nazarene Publishing House, 2923 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo., maintained by and in the interest of the Church of the Nazarene. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized December 30, 1925.

VOLUME I

NOVEMBER, 1926

NUMBER 11

HOW TO USE THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE

ONE preacher felt a little discouraged because he "found a sermon outline in *THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE* which he could not use." Our idea is that if he found one that he could use, he was fortunate. Even if he found only one, say in each issue, that gave him "a start" in the preparing of one sermon, we are proud of the efficient service that our magazine has rendered to him.

One preacher said, "These outlines are fine, but why do you give so many? Why, a preacher cannot find opportunity to use them all." Our answer is that the same outline that helps one preacher may have little or no value to another, so we give a number in the hope that every preacher will find at least one that will be serviceable to him. Even when one does not find an outline that gives him a "lead," he may get some little help in the working out of some text or theme that he had in his own mind, and that is a great service.

One preacher acknowledges that he is "too poor to buy all the books recommended in 'Here and There Among Books.'" Our idea is that by giving this review service we may be able to help preachers find the books that will best serve their purpose. Every preacher does not need every book, and if he can get an idea of what a book is like he may be able to tell whether he needs it or not. And suppose that our book review should keep a preacher from buying some book that he had intended to buy, well there is the price of his magazine for the whole year saved in one lump. But if it helps him find the book he needs, then there is a fortune which we cannot estimate in money.

One preacher wishes we had more illustrations on holiness. This is the most difficult sort of material to find, but we are on the hunt and in the market and are laboring to pass on all such that we can get.

To summarize for all features and departments: our idea is not so much to furnish "ready made" service to the preachers, as to offer suggestions and furnish "leads." Perhaps our efforts are more or less affected by our own sense of need. Personally, it is not the grind of direct preparation which gives us the greatest concern. Our greatest need is something to give us a start. Sometimes a line has served us a better purpose than a library, for it "set us going," and after that all was fairly easy.

One preacher suggested that the use of *THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE* would tend to make our younger preachers dependent. He said he had no such helps when he was beginning and that he had to "dig every thing out for himself." To this preacher we suggest that we hope our young preachers will be able to begin about where he and I left off, and there is probably just as rich mines for "digging" ahead of him and me as there are behind us, you know.

Our own advice is for every preacher to use *THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE* all he can and in every way he can, and to use every other "preaching source" he can find. There are always a few people who seem to be afraid that a preacher, especially a young preacher, is going to preach too well. But the facts are that at our best and with all the helps we can get, we are still poor preachers of a great Gospel. If the Gospel were not so great our poor preaching of it would make it ineffective. And every preacher, young and old, is excusable for being so poor a preacher as he is only when he has used every available means to be as good as possible.

We have not only been disappointed in ourselves as a preacher, but frankly, we have been disappointed in about every other preacher we have ever heard. For when we have heard a

truly great preacher, we have said to ourselves, "With so great a Gospel, looks like so great a man really ought to be a better preacher." And we are using our words carefully here. We do not speak of the preacher simply as a teacher, as a poet or as an orator; we speak of him as including all the qualities and factors which go into the making of the best preacher that it is possible for a mortal man to be.

OUR FRONT PAGE PICTURES

The plan of presenting the picture of some noted preacher or missionary on the front cover of THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE each month was Mr. P. H. Lunn's own idea, and it has proved to be a very interesting and profitable feature. Some preachers say that this has been quite as interesting as any other one thing which the magazine has brought to them.

Last month we presented the picture of Dr. E. F. Walker, once a well known Presbyterian preacher, who was early connected with the holiness movement, and was considered one of its very clearest and most forceful preachers. Dr. Bresee once said that Dr. Walker was in the front row of holiness preachers and that that row was a very short one. Some even estimated Dr. Walker as the greatest expository preacher of his day. He was elected as a General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene in 1911 and from then until his death served in an ever widening field of evangelism and administration.

As a preacher, he was logical, spiritual, forceful and unusually refreshing at all times. We heard his famous sermon on sanctification at Nashville, Tenn., in 1911, and still think of it as perhaps the greatest sermon we ever heard from the lips of man.

This month we have the picture of Dr. C. J. Fowler who was for many years the president and most active promoter of The National Association for the Promotion of Holiness. His home was at Boston, Mass., but he preached in practically every section of the country and was considered one of the ablest logicians that ever lifted his voice for the defence of holiness as a second work of grace, and thousands revere his memory until this day.

WHICH WAY ARE YOU GOING? WHAT RUNG ARE YOU ON?

THE question of whether a preacher is gaining or failing is really much more important than the one which would describe his position on the ladder. One has said, "It is better to be on the tenth rung going up than to be on the third rung coming down."

If a preacher is gaining and growing, even though he may still need many things that he does not possess, there is hope for him and people who trust him are not likely to be disappointed. But even though a preacher may be classed as "a big gun," if he is past his zenith, if he has lost or is losing his grip, if he shows signs of being on the drift, if his influence is waning, he is a poor buy at any price.

If we take it too literally when they say that the preacher was "at his best," we may doubt whether the words are complimentary. For if he was at his best then, or if he is at his best now, tomorrow he will be on the toboggan slide. A preacher has not reached his best until he ceases to grow. If he is growing he will be bigger and better tomorrow.

This is too delicate a subject to permit of examples, but we have all seen preachers who were on the third rung and coming down, and we have all seen some who were no higher than the tenth rung from the top, but they were going up. And we have all seen a few who never did reach the top at all, for they were still going up when they had to stop for good. And applying the subject to ourselves, it should not be difficult for us to decide which direction we are traveling and which we shall continue to travel, although it is not within every man's power, as men count, to really reach the top. But any way, the direction the preacher is traveling is more important both to himself and to others than the mere matter of how high he happens to be just now. Give me the preacher who is "climbing" every time. If he isn't very high yet, no matter, he is going in the right direction.

DEVOTIONAL

LETTERS TO PREACHERS

By A. M. HILLS

X. *The Different Kinds of Sermons.*

First—The Topical Sermon.

The text, if wisely used, develops into the sermon. It suggests the theme or subject which the preacher wishes to consider. The way the text is treated determines the kind of sermon that will be produced.

Speaking in a general way there are three classes of sermons.

1. *The topical sermon*, in which the theme is chiefly prominent.

2. *The textual sermon*, in which the very words and phrases of the text are carefully and critically considered.

3. *The expository sermon*, in which several verses, perhaps an entire paragraph, or a unified section of a chapter, is considered verse by verse in their scriptural order.

Which method a preacher adopts is often decided by the constitution of his own mind. It often, also, is decided by the sermons of the preachers, whom he most admires, and would be pleased to be like.

The wording of the text of a particular discourse may decide its nature in that one instance. The occasion also which calls for the pulpit address may determine its nature.

Some texts are so exalted in theme and so sublime in language that they can only be treated topically. Such an utterance is the sublime exclamation of Moses, "Who is like unto thee, O Jehovah, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Ex. 15:11, R. V.). It would be a daring, presumptuous preacher who would choose such a text. He would need the mind and heart of Moses to treat it.

Or that song of Moses and the Lamb, sung by the redeemed in heaven: "Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are thy ways, thou King of the nations" (R. V. Note, Old V, "Saints"). (Rev. 15: 3). Such a text scarcely admits of

any other than a topical treatment, and few minds should even attempt that.

Such sublime language and exalted themes require, like "Paradise Lost," the exalted imagination and sublime genius of a John Milton to treat them appropriately, and the Christian ages have not abounded in John Miltons. The most of us humble preachers would better wait till we join the heavenly throng before attempting such efforts.

We have said the occasion demands the Topical sermon. When Henry Ward Beecher was called upon to preach the funeral sermon of Abraham Lincoln what other kind of a discourse could have been expected? Or when Massillon preached at the funeral of Louis XIV, or when President Eliphalet Nott preached at the funeral of our great early statesman, Alexander Hamilton, or many other similar occasions, the topical sermon was the one that was natural and appropriate.

Also, on special occasions, as the opening address of a conference or assembly, or of a missionary convention, or a union Thanksgiving Day service, or a Fourth of July address, or an ordination sermon, or a Baccalaureate sermon of a college commencement, the sermon may properly be of this order. Dr. R. W. Dale of Birmingham, England, has given us a volume of "Sermons on Special Occasions," in which the topical method prevails.

We have noticed that men who have an abundant vocabulary and very ready utterance and are exceedingly gifted in imagination, and perhaps are deficient in the logical faculty, ordinarily adopted the topical form of discourse as their model. In such a mind the orator and not the reasoner is predominant. They revel in brilliant periods; abound in striking and impressive utterances and apothegms. They coruscate and sparkle. They mount and soar, it matters not where, if only they are attracting and dazzling their audience and holding their hearers spell-bound.

We have such an orator in mind, a veritable

golden-mouthed Chrysostom. After one of his brilliant sermons a scholarly preacher said to me: "He doesn't stick to his text, but he sticks mighty close to his audience!" It was an exceedingly just observation. In a spurt of eloquence he would mount over the moon and halt and return to earth. In another paragraph he would take a vaulting somersault over the starry belt of Orion, and then check himself, as if saying, "How did I get here?" and reluctantly return to earth. A few minutes later, in another oratorical flight, he would be wandering about in the Milky Way. His open-mouthed excited audience, lost to sublunary things, would follow him, panting with the efforts and filled with amazement at the orator's matchless power. When the wonderful address was ended they would take a long breath and exclaim, "What an orator!" And in half an hour they would wonder what it was all about!

We could describe others of this class. We have watched the effects of their "great discourses" upon college audiences for more than a quarter of a century, and have measured the results of such preaching, and have watched the abiding effects of such pastorates.

In the light of facts and history let us critically consider the topical sermon, its nature, advantages and disadvantages.

I. A topical sermon is one that is built up on a theme or a topic rather than on the words or utterances of God. It may have been at an early age of the Christian Church, a kind of protest against the prevalent fashion of Allegorizing, or of verbal quibbling which was wholly unworthy of pulpit address.

But it easily degenerated into a discussion of the theories and speculations of men rather than a proclamation of the express commands and teachings of God. It starts, like a textual sermon, with some truth of Scripture; but the topical sermon develops it in the thoughts and conceptions of men and human opinions, while the textual preacher builds solely on the inspired and express words of the living God.

II. Advantages of the topical sermon.

1. It furnishes an untrammelled opportunity for oratory. If the preacher wishes to build his sermon on the model of an oration, and make it a finished work of art he will instinctively adopt the topical method. Pattison remarks: "In the history of preaching the enthusiasm of the rhet-

orician has often conquered the conscience of the messenger, and what are called 'great sermons' are the fruit of that perilous victory. South and Bourdaloue, Robert Hall and Thomas Chalmers preached topically, because they were men in whose nature the orator was predominant."

We put beside this the pointed remark of the prince of soul-winners, C. G. Finney. He said: "A great sermon fixes the attention of the audience upon the preacher, but a good sermon fixes their attention upon Christ."

2. It gives the preacher an opportunity for an exhaustive treatment of a subject. There are no metes or bounds, no restraints, or limitations, to the extent of investigation or discussion. The mind can roam at will over the whole plain of kindred thought. No regard for the text holds the preacher from any flight of fancy or ramble of imagination. He is intellectually free to write what he pleases or say what he will.

3. Topical preaching would tend to a wide outlook of truth and a breadth of view which is wholesome to the soul. Preachers are often very narrow in their mental conceptions of truth and views of life. But they need not be. There is a cure for it in the amplitude of the inspired Word, and in a large way of proclaiming it to the world. There are great conceptions of salvation, and the purposes of God, and His plans for the redemption of our race that should broaden the horizon of any man who is divinely called to preach, till he can see with far off vision, and say with Wesley: "The world is my parish."

III. There are still very serious objections to this kind of a sermon. "Of all methods," says Dr. Pattison, "it seems open to the gravest objections."

1. The topical method of preaching leads directly to an unpardonable neglect of the Word of God. Out of respect to custom a text is taken, which perhaps was not chosen at all till the sermon was finished. At any rate the preacher and his text part company at once, as the "disciples forsook Jesus and fled." The Scripture is forgotten and only the preacher looms before the minds of the audience. The people are listening to his voice instead of the voice of God, and the pews imitate the pulpit. They too speedily learn to neglect the Bible.

2. Topical preaching has not been highly successful in soul-winning. It does not start or promote revivals or make revival preachers. It de-

velops a false conception of the purpose of the sermon, which is to win men from the service of Satan to the service of Christ. The topical sermon diverts the attention of the hearers from God's message to His messenger and thus grieves the Spirit of God.

Many of the great masters of topical preaching have confessed that their preaching was not fruitful in conversions. Revs. Bascom and Munsey were famous transfer preachers, moved from one Southern Conference to another, to fill the leading city pulpits of the South. Their sermons are remarkable specimens of pulpit oratory. Yet one of them when dying mourned that his ministry was characterized by a dearth of souls. Both might have done so.

Dr. John Barrows was for years the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. He was transcendently eloquent and was in constant demand to go up and down the land to preach at the great national assemblies and Y. P. S. C. E. conventions and college commencements and dedications of great buildings. Yet he wrote to his aged mother and she confided it to me that "he envied her pastor, his skill and success in winning souls."

Whoever would be a successful fisher of men must shape his sermons to that end. He must descend from the brilliant generalizations of truth which everybody can assent to with delight and come down to particulars, and make the text a "thus saith the Lord" to the individual conscience and heart of every hearer. It must be as pungent and direct and personal as Nathan's was to David, when he looked his royal auditor in the face and said, "Thou art the man;" or as Paul preached to Felix and Drusilla till they trembled at the awful touch of convicting truth. No distracting "bewitchment of oratory" and no dissipating play of humor must be indulged in that will lessen the grip of God upon the guilty soul.

A few examples of topical outlines may be in place.

I. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH. (Rom. V:1).

1. Its Nature.
2. Its Grounds.
3. Its Results.

II. GOD IS INFINITELY AND GLORIOUSLY PERFECT. (Deut. 4:35)

Consider:

1. God's Eternity.
2. His Omnipresence.

3. His Imnipotence.
4. His Wisdom.

III. Subject: "CHRIST'S BLOOD IS PRECIOUS." Text, 1 Pet. 1: 19.

1. Comparatively.
2. Intrinsically.
3. Superlatively.

IV. Subject: "THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD'S WORD." Text, John 17:17.

Illustrated from:

1. Human history.
 2. All established science.
 3. Its descriptions of character.
 4. Its adaptations to the wants of man.
- V. Subject: "AMBITION." Text, Luke 14:7.
1. Ambition is blind in its aims.
 2. It is presumptuous in its disposition.
 3. It is odious in its results.

These examples are taken from Kidders Homiletics. Take any of these or similar themes and soar as high as you like.

PREACHERS, CONSIDER THESE THINGS

By A. W. ORWIG

Preaching Jesus

WHAT a multitude of other themes are heard in some pulpits! Almost anything but Jesus! Or, if he is dwelt upon, it is largely from a historical or merely ethical standpoint. He may be eloquently presented in numerous ways, and yet not really as the Word of God reveals Him. One reason doubtless is because Jesus is not experimentally known by most of such men. They have never felt the pangs of the new birth nor the deep joys of a soul having truly passed from death unto life. They may know a great deal about Jesus, but not vitally know him. The Rev. George Whitefield said he was "persuaded that the generality of preachers talk of an unknown and un-felt Christ."

How greatly some preachers, and among the number the so-called "big" preachers, need to follow the example of the apostles by "preaching the Lord Jesus." It is declared that "they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." And note these other divine statements: "He preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection;" "The Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us;" "And preached unto him Jesus." Would to God every preacher could truthfully say,

"Jesus only is our message,
Jesus all our theme shall be;
We will lift up Jesus ever,
Jesus only will we see."

Very many souls are perishing everywhere because Jesus is not the real "message" of so great a number of preachers. He is not truly "lifted up" as the One willing and "mighty to save." A man said to a certain preacher that for years he had desired to become a Christian, but that none of the preachers ever told him how really to find the Lord. He added: "They preach philosophy, science, current events, and the like, but don't tell a sinner how to be saved, and I have tried alone but always failed. If you will truly tell me how to become a Christian I will become one here and now." And together they knelt in earnest, believing prayer, the man soon finding Jesus precious to his soul.

And many Christians are starving spiritually because Jesus, in all his preciousness and power, is not preached to them. Often the pulpit deals out "a stone" instead of "bread," and people are compelled to say, "They have taken away my Lord." And, alas, sometimes "a serpent" or "a scorpion" is offered in the form of harsh, excited rebuke, or, it may be, in unscriptural and pernicious teaching, calculated to undermine the faith of some and of robbing others of their joy.

A preacher had been discussing, through a long series of sermons, "the relation of religion and science." One Sunday morning he found on the pulpit Bible a card with the following Scripture verse on it, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Feeling the rebuke somewhat keenly, he began to present Jesus to the hungry people, and soon afterward found another card on which was written, "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord."

Most certainly it is the chief business of the professed Gospel minister to seek the salvation of sinners and build up God's children in holiness and divine truth generally. Sad departures from this duty, however, are not infrequent. A bright young preacher one Sunday asked a veteran in the Gospel ministry how he liked his sermon. "I cannot say that I enjoyed it," was the frank reply. "Why? Did it lack logic, elocution or rhetoric?" "No, but it had no Christ in it! What an unscriptural and low conception the young man had of the real elements of a truly Gospel sermon! But there are others like him,

and they cannot really say, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus, the Lord."

The great Daniel Webster, while spending a little while in a rural district one summer, was asked why he went to a certain little church where he heard only very ordinary preaching. He replied, "In Washington they preach to Daniel Webster, the statesman, but this man has been telling Daniel Webster, the sinner, of Jesus of Nazareth."

Men sometimes say they cannot always be preaching Jesus. That depends on how vitally they are related to him, and how studiously and prayerfully they study him. He can be presented in a multitude of ways, as the Holy Spirit continually reveals his charms and as the One who is the inexhaustible Source of every need of the entire man. There is an old saying that every road in England leads to London, and in Italy to Rome; and just so all preaching should lead to Jesus or be centered in him. Charles H. Spurgeon, in referring to his many years as pastor of one church, said, substantially, that if he had preached anything but Christ and related truths, he would have scattered his congregation to the winds of heaven.

A somewhat eminent preacher, while tarrying for a few days in the city in which I live, said to a large company of ministers something like the following on preaching Jesus: "Oh my brethren, permit me to say I am persuaded that, if I had one thousand lives offered me this day by my Master, and told that I might do as I pleased with them, I should not hesitate to answer that every one of them would be spent in preaching Jesus Christ to a lost world." That is indeed the sentiment of every divinely called Spirit-filled preacher of the glorious Gospel of the Son of God. Such a man knows no greater honor or higher joy. Everlastingly and fully preach Jesus.

Fed on Straw

ONCE heard of a man whose horse broke down from sheer weakness, and could proceed no farther. Some one coming up to the man, asked him the cause of the misfortune. The answer was, "My horse was fed only on straw this morning, and now I cannot finish my journey."

The incident aptly illustrates the reason why some people often falter by the way in the

Christian life, and why they are unable to do any really valuable work for God. They do not take proper spiritual nourishment, or at least so very little, as to leave them the veriest spiritual weaklings. Many, instead of feeding on the blessed Word of God, and on other wholesome religious literature, often read so much that is mere straw and stubble, as to be in a continual state of spiritual starvation. Just as those, who do not have sufficient nourishing food for the body, cannot do good and continuous physical or mental labor, so the soul not nourished by the Bible cannot possess true spiritual ruggedness or be efficient in Christian work.

A pastor asked one of the members of his church how she was getting along in the Christian life. Her honest reply was, "Very poorly, and I don't understand why it is so." He then asked her, "Do you study your Bible every day?" To this she replied, "Oh no, but I study it occasionally, when I have time."

Possibly, however, that lady had time, or at least took time, to read other literature which was not food for her soul. And thus do many other Christians. Some read for mere pleasure or pastime, instead of for real mental profit and for spiritual growth. They are like the poor horse who got only straw for his morning meal. And if some awakened sinner should come to them for instruction and to be led to Jesus, how little they could bring the blessed Bible to bear upon the case! And, knowing so little about the Book, how can they appropriate it to their own daily spiritual necessities?

The Bible is the great store-house from which every Christian must constantly draw if he would grow in grace and in spiritual knowledge and strength. We are thus taught in the Bible itself. We are exhorted to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. The Apostle John said to some, "Ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." He gives us to understand that by having the Word abiding in us we are made strong, and have a good weapon by which to put Satan to flight. That great and good man, the Rev. George Mueller, says that "the Word of God is the food for the inner man." Referring to the fact of his neglect of the Bible in his early ministerial life, he says: "I was a babe in knowledge and grace; I made no progress. I neglected God's own appointed means for nourishing the divine life." The same is true of

some others, preachers and lay-members. The preaching of some men gives evidence that they feed more on something else than they do on God's Word. Some, it is to be feared, sometimes feed even on straw. And so they often dispense straw instead of bread.

"I Cannot Go With These"

DEFEAT, more or less disastrous, usually results from inadequate preparation or wrong equipment in the various vocations of life. The youthful, gallant David realized this when contemplating meeting the giant Goliath in mortal combat. And therefore he wisely rejected the untried and cumbersome armor or equipment offered by king Saul. Concerning the "helmet of brass," "a coat of mail" and a huge "sword" the courageous hero declared, "I cannot go with these." And then, selecting the equipment he had "proved," he fearlessly goes forth to meet the boastful blasphemous monster, and is gloriously victorious.

But let us not fail to notice another most important part of David's equipment. Indeed it was the chief one. It was faith in God. To the defiant, merely humanly-armed Philistine he said, "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts." And he also declared, "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand." And still again he says, "For the battle is the Lord's." And all of us know how quickly and ignominiously the huge idol of the Philistines went down in death.

Should not we, who profess to be engaged in the Lord's battles, or in his holy service, deeply lay to heart whence comes our true help? Of course we have read and heard about it time and again, and realized it when failure has overtaken us. It seems, however, that some persons will not permanently profit by humiliating defeat. They still measurably trust in their own armor. They rely upon their natural talents, their learning, or something merely human. Oh that that they might heartily and in faith declare, "I cannot go with these." That is, not depending upon them apart from God. Of course human qualifications are not to be despised. If truly consecrated to the Lord, they will be all the more effectual. David's sling and the small stones seemed quite insignificant, but they proved to be just the equipment for him, and looking to God for success he got it. Whatever our own

abilities, be they great or meager, let us be sure to depend upon God for victory.

The Scriptures abound in statements as to our utter helplessness in God's work when our own efforts are not accompanied by his blessing. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." The Psalmist declared, "Through God we shall do valiantly." And we have this significant passage, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Verily "our sufficiency is of God." But we are sometimes apt to overlook the fact. Even the sinless and mighty Jesus declared that "the Spirit of the Lord" was "upon" Him as a preacher. And we also read that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power." His humanity needed this, notwithstanding he was divine. The same anointing is for all who would be successful in God's vineyard, whether preachers or others.

Some, having a college and theological seminary equipment, are too prone to conclude, "I can go with these," feeling assured of success. But that armor alone is inadequate. They need "the whole armor of God." Nothing whatever can be substituted for a pure heart and the baptism with the Holy Ghost. Secure the highest order of human equipment possible, but see that it be supplemented, or even preceded, with "power from on high."

WHY SOME PREACHERS FAIL

By E. E. WORDSWORTH

ANY man divinely called to the sacred office of the ministry is assured success. "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" we believe is applicable to any of God's ambassadors as truly as it was to Joshua. Nevertheless there are many positive failures in the work of the ministry. Perhaps the examination of a few reasons why, will help someone.

1. *Never Divinely-called.* The old Methodist discipline mentions three qualifications for the ministry, namely, "grace, gifts and usefulness." A man may have grace without gifts. He may have both grace and gifts and still lack usefulness. Wesley thought and taught that a man could have gifts of a superb order that would qualify him for high positions in many of the walks of life, and yet wholly lack the ministerial qualifications. We believe Wesley was right in the matter.

When an individual is not wanted by any church for the pastorate, and no calls come in for the evangelistic field, and his services are not desired from any quarter, it might be advisable to ask why. The divine urge, the "woe is me if I preach not the gospel," should burden the preacher's soul. But to be without the gift of preaching while making bold claim to be God's ambassador seems incongruous and inconsistent, and it would seem to reflect on an intelligent God.

2. *Misfits.* It would seem that there are several orders in the ministry. The hortatory gift is not to be despised. In the early Church it was an exalted and dignified gift, and any man so endowed with the gift of exhortation, and using it for God's glory was honored of the Lord. Stephen, the protomartyr, had this gift, and his life and ministry are well known. We have men among us who are called as local preachers, and as such are very useful in their capacity. We could not dispense with them. May their tribe increase! But to put some of these men into the regular ministry to fill a pastorate, or to usher them into the evangelistic field, may be questionable as to its wisdom. We once heard a General Superintendent say, "As long as Tom Brown is a local preacher he has an effective ministry, and is much beloved, but when you make Tom Brown an ordained elder in the Church you destroy his effectiveness and his influence as a minister. Be content to let him serve in his capacity." Right here may be the explanation why some men are carrying credentials from the assemblies, and yet who do not succeed in the ministry are placed in a very embarrassing position when they pose as ministers.

3. *Prayerlessness and Lack of Unction.* A brother minister said to us recently, "That man is a splendid preacher; he is a bright fellow, and a good sermonizer and has a fine delivery but there seems to be no power in his message; what he says is all right, but it has no teeth in it; his trouble is that he is not a praying man." The words of the seraphic Fletcher are worthy of frequent repetition. He said, "It is the unction that makes the preacher." A preacher may be orthodox, but to be without the anointing of the Lord in public ministrations is a very serious lack. The preacher that prays much in private will have the unction when before the audience. Many good men are ineffective because of this great lack.

4. *Inactivity.* Some men can preach real well and acceptably, but as soon as this ministry is ended their effectiveness ceases. A pastor in particular must of necessity be a man of many parts if he would succeed. Pastoral calling is absolutely indispensable to success. The mornings should, as a rule, be given to thorough and assiduous study, and the afternoons to pastoral visitation among his people. Perhaps a good plan is to give fifty per cent of his time in the afternoons among his own church members, and the other fifty per cent of his time to new people. He should visit every member of his congregation, if at all possible, and thus acquaint himself with strangers. A note book will serve him well as he goes around. But for a pastor to sit around, and do nothing, and never really bestir himself when souls are going to hell is inexcusable, and it seems to us that God will hold such a pastor to account at the reckoning day.

5. *Lack of Faith and Vision.* The obstacles

that confront the pastor are tremendous. The difficulties cannot be ignored. It will test the real mettle in any man if he would accomplish something worth while for God and holiness. The world, the flesh and the Devil are dead set against us. But we must rise above them and faith must utilize the seemingly insurmountable difficulties as a challenge. Bud Robinson says, "God cannot do anything with a discouraged man." If this is true of people generally, it is doubly true of the minister. To be discouraged is to be defeated. To believe God, and to be envisioned by Deity is to have victory. "Where is no vision, the people perish." A discouraged man will generate discouragement among his flock; but the man of mighty conquering faith will stimulate faith in others. Better look at your own back door if you are a failure. Be hard on yourself. Then trust God as though it all depended on Him, and then work as though it all depended on you. MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

DOCTRINAL

SPIRITUALIZING AND LITERALIZING PROPHECY

By F. M. MESSENGER

SOME writers spiritualize the prophecies until they leave us little that is tangible or real; we speak with special reference to the prophecies concerning the second appearing of our Lord and of His millennial reign. Isn't it also equally true that some over literalize these prophecies to the extent that they open the door to error, and in some instances, the door has been entered?

We desire first to point out what we deem the error of over spiritualizing these prophecies. We all accept, without question, the literal fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies which relate to the first appearing of our Lord. We all believe that Isaiah's prophecy, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son," was literally fulfilled, although it required a miraculous intervention of God to fulfill it literally. We believe that the promise to Mary, "Behold, thou shalt conceive . . . and bring forth a son, . . . He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest,"

was literally fulfilled; but some of our brethren will go no farther with us, but spiritualize, while we literalize the balance of the verse, "And the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David." We might continue to show in what minute details the prophecies concerning the Lord's first coming were literally fulfilled, even to the seamless coat and the gamblers parting His garments among them; but we must forbear for want of space.

God created man a threefold being,—body, soul, and spirit; in his fall man was ruined, body, soul, and spirit. If God made man a material as well as a spiritual being, how will the work ever be completed until man's material, as well as his spiritual being has been restored. If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches the restoration of all things, both man himself and the world that he lives in, and this writer as fully expects a completely restored and perfected material body, as he expects a perfected spirit.

We are between two errors: that of gross materialism on the one hand, and that of ultra-spiritualizing on the other. Gross materialism

has hatched out such heresies as soul sleeping, annihilation, carrying a brood of other errors and heresies in their train. Ultra-spiritualism beclouds the second coming of our Lord; it destroys the very pith and heart of the blessed hope held out to us by the Scriptures, and holds out a false hope—unscriptural in the extreme—that this wicked age is growing better, it runs all the way to the extremes of Christian Science, and that awful heresy Occult Science or modern Spiritualism, which is nothing but communication with familiar spirits—demons—so strongly condemned in the Bible. The child of God is walking the tight rope between these errors, and as he leans either way he is in great danger. Hence, we conclude, that it bespeaks danger when we lean too far, either in literalizing or in spiritualizing the prophecies concerning the second appearing of our Lord.

While some can see nothing in the Scriptures concerning the reign of a thousand years succeeding the coming of our Lord, we believe that others emphasize so strongly what the Word says about Israel, Jacob, and the Jews that they see nothing but Jews passing over into the GREAT tribulation under the Antichrist. These are not necessarily Jews; Jews there will be among them; but these are God's Israel, which includes all who have real faith (whether that faith was obtained before the rapture, imbibed at the rapture, or begotten in the tribulation and suffering during the Antichrist's reign); they are God's Israel; they have faith in Jesus Christ, but they are unsanctified and will be without oil in their vessels when the midnight cry is sounded. Whether Jews or Gentiles, whether Catholics or Protestants, they are Israel. Having no oil in their vessels, the door is shut on them, and they have to pass over into the GREAT tribulation, in which some will be martyred and join in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4) while the others will flee to the wilderness (Rev. 12:6) where they endure such privation and suffering (of which the faith characters in Hebrews 11 are a type) as has never been known.

Among the errors that we have noticed which grow out of this ultra-rigid literalism, this Jew-Gentile teaching, is the doctrine of separating or dividing the spiritual principles of God's plan of salvation, parceling out a different plan to various classes, involving different principles; one for the Jew, another for the Gentile, and another for the Samaritans or the mongrel tribes

of Israel which we designate as the lost tribes of Israel. This idea, as taught by some of the leading exponents of premillennialism, is a most pernicious error. These teachers are already departing so far from God's Word as to say that sinners do not need to repent,—only to believe,—and unless these doctrinaires cease their opposition to the fundamental principles of God's plan of salvation and return to the plain "thus saith the Lord" which inculcates repentance as a basis for regeneration, regeneration as a basis for the necessary experience of entire sanctification, and sanctification as a preparation for glorification, we prophesy that they will soon land in errors and heresies as bad, or worse than that evil doctrine of annihilation.

Two parts of our being are spiritual, one part material. When poor human nature gets its eyes on either the spiritual or the material, it seems as though it could see but one thing at a time, and its tendency is to run headlong on one line until it leaves the track of truth and runs on to the track of error. Reader, Jesus' design is to fashion your vile body after His own glorious (glorified) body. This is the "blessed hope;" but if you must be delinquent at any point, do not neglect your spiritual being; see to it that you know that you have repented, that you have been born again, and that since that crisis in your life, you have definitely sought, and obtained, a clean heart, and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you now. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal body by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

With this as your sheet anchor,—a divinely attested knowledge of Christ and His full salvation, you may then enter, with out fear of sidetracking, into that glorious hope of a perfect body, and of seeing the Lord when He comes.

PERILS IN THE WAY OF THE YOUTH OF TODAY

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: Psa. 119:9.

1. Parental indifference.
2. Questionable associates.
3. Impure literature.
4. The unquenchable desire for amusement.
5. Lack of spirituality—compromising.
6. Christ and the Church.
7. Strength of moral character.

HINTS TO FISHERMEN

By C. E. CORNELL

A BAIT TO CATCH PREACHERS: BEWARE!

Rev. G. W. Ridout tells of receiving the following letter:

Dear Sir:

"Mr. D. W. Griffith has directed me to extend to you a most cordial invitation to witness his latest motion picture production, 'Dream Street,' now being shown at the Chestnut Street Opera House.

"It gives me great pleasure therefore, to extend this invitation for the Thursday and Friday afternoon or evening performance of this week. If you will kindly present this letter at the box office the treasurer will provide you with complimentary tickets for two seats.

"I hope that you will be able to accept the invitation and that you will enjoy the performance.

Yours respectfully,

J. M. ASHCRAFT,

Special Representative, D. W. Griffith."

Dr. Ridout's reply is well to the point. Note it carefully.

Dear Sir:

1. I am a Methodist preacher.
2. When I became converted I quit worldly diversions.
3. The theater and movies I regard as a menace to godly living.
4. I would not like to be found in a theater if the Son of man should come.
5. If I should be found in a theater dead I think my friends would all regard it that I had backslidden, and played the hypocrite, and therefore forfeited my title and fitness for heaven and I would go to a backslider's hell.
6. To attend your movies would compromise my conscience and I could not condemn the wickedness of the thing with the openness that I do now.
7. It would be a bad example for me, a Methodist preacher holding the doctrines of John Wesley and preaching them, to be seen going to or coming from the movies.
8. The movies are playing havoc with the morals of America.

9. Methodists who frequent the movies are not much use at prayer meetings or in revivals.

10. Methodist preachers who go to the movies patronize a thing which Methodism in doctrine and spirit condemns.

What applies to Methodist preachers, pertinently applies to preachers of every denomination. Don't be caught by the Devil's bait.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SERMON

- "Life in a Dead Man's Bones." 2 Kings 13:21.
1. Acquaint yourself with the story, it is of thrilling interest.
 2. The marvelous characters of Elijah and Elisha.
 3. The influence and power of godly men.
 4. Salvation, its effect upon those who find it.
 5. Holiness—"Partakers of the divine nature."
 6. When Christ shall come, how those in the grave will respond.
 7. They will be "caught up" as by a magnet.

EVERYTHING BUT GOD AND THE BIBLE

Acts 4:12

The topics studied in the different classes of one Sunday school are given thus in the church bulletin:

The Mothers' Club Class talked about the social and religious conditions in the lumber camps of the northwest as shown in a recent report of an investigator.

A class of young men discussed, "How far can a man get in the business world and be a Christian?"

A newspaper gives a few sermon subjects which some ministers advertise as their Sunday themes:

"Slip, Slips and Slippers," "Wobbling," "Swat the Fly!" "The Honeymoon," "My Mother-in-law," "The Ass Tied at the Door Without," "Lopsided Folks," "The Sentimental Journey," "Three White Mice," "Pulling Out a Plum," "A Big Hug," "Psychometric Readings," "Street Car Ventilation," "A Joke On the Conductor," "Hallowe'en Tricks and Pranks," "The Doll-makers of Nuremberg." A minister in Columbus announced "A Man With His Nose Out of Joint." Another minister in Dayton perpetrated "The Devil-Man's Life, Death and Funeral in Five

Acts." A minister in California announced "Two Looks At Another Man's Wife."

Topics purely absurd and highly sensational. What miserable substitutes for the preaching of "Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

THE KIND OF REVIVAL NEEDED

The impression is prevalent throughout Christendom that the pressing need of the Church is a downright, old-fashioned, Holy Ghost revival. The characteristics of such a revival are:

1. A revival that begins personally in the hearts of pastors and members of the church.
2. A revival of thoughtful, honest, prayerful reading of the Bible.
3. A revival that will rebuild the broken-down family altars and keep burning thereon the fire of daily, devout worship.
4. A revival that will make all members of the church profoundly solicitous for the salvation of their neighbors.
5. A revival that will cause all members of the church to labor personally with their neighbors to bring them to Christ.
6. A revival that will enable every church member to say from the heart, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go up to the house of the Lord."
7. A revival that will make it a pleasure to the members to live right up to the spirit of the vows they took upon themselves when they joined the church.

A revival that will meet these conditions will not fall far short of being a genuine, old-fashioned, Holy Ghost revival. God is ready. Are we?

TRUTH, BLOOD AND TESTIMONY

There are three outstanding elements of the gospel of Christ as predicated by the prophetic vision in Isa. 41:13-16.

(1) Truth; revealed truth—divine truth; (2) The blood of the Lamb; (3) The power of testimony. Here is a sublime utterance of Dr. Bresee on the blood:

"Another element is blood; the blood of the Lamb. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. I do not know how to measure the power of the blood of Jesus. We measure electricity, steam, and even the power of gravitation. But how shall I undertake to measure the power of the blood of Jesus? The power that stays the hand of eternal justice, that stretches out its wing of mercy over the universe, that can lift a soul over the measureless chasm which is as far as the east is

from the west, from guilt to justification, from darkest midnight to brightest morning, from the mouth of hell to the gates of heaven."

VAIN REGRET

A man died some time since who was employed as a sheep-station hand. All along he had shown a disinclination for the company of his fellows, and would get away by himself. Often he would be heard saying earnestly, "I wish I had entered." The manager at last won from him his story.

As a lad he had been brought up in a Christian home in England, but became the companion of vicious youths who led him astray. One evening when they had planned a robbery he slipped away from them to the door of his home, not liking the enterprise. He was about to enter its security, but when he observed his father about to begin family worship he decided to avoid joining in that exercise and remained waiting outside till it was over.

Meanwhile, some of his companions came up and beckoned him away. He went with them. The robbery was committed; he was arrested and transported to Australia.

As time went on, he became gloomy under the strain of shame and regret, and often he would exclaim, as the memory revived of that fatal waiting outside his father's door, when he would sorrowfully exclaim, "O, I wish I had entered."

And will it not be the regret of many a soul in the darkness of eternity, as memory recalls times when the foot was on the threshold of the kingdom of salvation, "I wish I had entered!"

THE WATER OF LIFE

Mr. C. J. Blanchard, of the Government Reclamation Service, talks inspiringly of the reclamation of the deserts by means of irrigation, of which the Government is doing so much in these days. He shows with the stereopticon pictures of land before and after reclamation; verily the desert blossoms as the rose. In many places this land produces fruit—apples especially—to the value of \$1,800 per acre. This work is of immense value to our countrymen.

Jesus once spoke to the woman at the well of Samaria of the Water of Life. The reclamation of the desert is but a faint illustration of a better reclamation. Jesus' Water of Life, brought into the life of any man not only gives him new life, but inspires to holy living. No one can es-

timate the possibilities of such a life. They are as wide and deep as God.

SIX MARKS OF A GOOD PASTOR

St. John 10.

1. He is divinely called to the ministry.
2. His labor is crowned with success. The Holy Spirit opens the way into the hearts of his hearers.
3. (V. 3) The sheep hear his voice. He speaks so as to instruct the people.
4. (V. 3) He calleth his own sheep by name. He is well acquainted with his flock.
5. (V. 3) He leadeth them out—Does not lord it over them.
6. (V. 4) He goeth before them—He gives them a good example, etc.,

I am the door, etc., (V. 9).

He shall be saved and he shall be safe.

SUGGESTIVE SERMON OUTLINE

"The Main Road."

Text: John 21:22.

- Peter and his relation to Jesus.
Men refuse to follow Jesus because:
1. They stumble over imaginary difficulties that do not exist.
 2. There are so many different opinions.
 3. They are not willing to conform to righteous living.
 4. They fear backsliding.
 5. They disregard the value of their souls.
 6. They tried it once and failed.
- They hope somehow to be finally saved.

GOD'S BOOKKEEPING

Three precious B's in God's Word.

God has a bottle for our tears. Psa. 56:8.

A book for our thoughts. Mal. 3:16.

A bag for our transgressions. Job. 14:17.

1. His Memory Book. Mal. 3:16.

Memory signifies intimate relations—pleasant ones.

Detail, Psa. 139:16.

Our unfolding life. Jer. 1:5.

Our tears. Psa. 56:3.

2. His Book of Life. Phil. 4:3.

1. Alive.

2. Worthy.

3. The Book of Judgment.

Memory.

Unconscious records.

Judgments.

A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

Miss Julia Richman of the New York Public Schools gives expression to the following valuable statement that is worthy of sincerest thought:

"My experience has shown me that boys and girls are frequently led astray from ignorance of those things which they ought to learn from their parents. Since it is one of the first duties of the school to make up in other ways for inefficient parenthood, it seems but logical that the school should equip boys and girls before they are sent out into life with a knowledge of the more important mysteries of life. In no other way can they have the precautions for their guidance which are necessary to save them from the pitfalls of a large and crowded city like New York. We teach our school children to avoid tuberculosis, we teach them the necessity of cleanliness and godliness, yet we do not safeguard them with the knowledge they need more than anything else. That is the omission we hope to correct. I sincerely hope we will be successful."

Rev. B. W. Miller has recently written for the young people in the *Herald of Holiness* an inspiring article on "Actualizing the Impossible." It reminds me of Robert E. Speer writing in the *Sunday School Times* the song of the Panama Canal Builders:

"Got any rivers they say are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?
We speculate in the wholly impossible
Doing the thing that no one can do."

WARNING

Whedon says: "So severe the persecution, so terrible the trial, so powerful the influence of apostasy, and so weak his own nature, that the Christian will with difficulty endure to the end and be **SAVED** in heaven; but if he hold to his faith in Christ, his salvation is absolutely certain."

THAT KING'S PENKNIFE

Jehoiakim is the King of Judah and Jeremiah is the prophet:

The moral decay of the people is shown by the sins reproved by Jeremiah.

Avarice, moral corruption, shedding innocent blood, falsehood and hypocrisy, bigotry and obstinacy, infidelity and perjury, re-establishing slavery, slander and deceit.

There was no regard for the warnings, but king Jehoiakim took his penknife and cut Jeremiah's roll and burned it in his parlor fire.

HOMILETICAL

Jesus' Intercessory Prayer

By A. M. HILLS

TEXT: I pray for them (John 17:9)

This is one sentence of the greatest prayer that ever went from this wicked world to heaven. It was the intercessory prayer of Jesus for His infant Church, offered just a few hours before He died on the cross. Who are the fortunate ones for whom He prayed?

I. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THEM PLAINLY.

1. Jesus had called them and they had forsaken all to follow Him;
2. They had preached and cast out demons.
3. They kept God's Word (v.8).
4. They believed in Jesus (v.8).
5. They were given to Jesus by the Father who owned them (v.9).
6. Jesus was glorified in them (v.10).
7. The world hated them, because they were not of the world (v.14).
8. And all others who should believe through their word (v.20). Glorious company! Do these words describe us?

II. NOTICE THE PRECIOUS THINGS FOR WHICH JESUS PRAYED.

1. I prayed that Thou shouldst keep them from the Evil One. So many who seemed to start well lose out. They fall by the wayside. They lose love, hope, joy, devotion, loyalty, fidelity, "Continuance in well-doing." O, how we need divine keeping!

2. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them." They were already Christians and preachers and miracle workers, as we have seen; but they needed more, even the cleansing of sanctifying grace which only God could give. The verb "sanctify" is in the aorist tense, which means immediate action, not by a slow growth of development but instantaneously. The Century Dictionary defines: "Sanctify" thus: "The act of God's grace whereby we are cleansed from sin." One of God's acts requires no more time than a flash of lightning. One Greek grammarian calls the "aorist" "the lightning tense." Crosby's Greek Grammar: "The action is represented by the Aorist as momentary, as a single act." This rules out all thought of "growing into the experience of sanctification."

3. He prayed for Christian unity (v.21).

This is much-talked about but little experienced because so few are sanctified. "United" not so much in church organization as in *faith, fellowship and co-operation.*

4. "That the world may believe" (v. 21). Divisions and dissensions are a stumbling block to the onlooking world of sinners, especially on the mission fields. *The heathens do not understand why all Christians are not united in one body of believers.*

5. "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which Thou hast given me."

By and by temptations will be past, the last enemy overcome. The sorrows and trials will be like a forgotten dream. We shall be gathered home. We shall see the King in His glory, and be forever like Him.

Dear Christian: what will you take for your interest in this prayer? Has the experience of *sanctification for which your Savior prayed* been wrought in you? If not, let it be done by the Holy Spirit *in you now!*

Expositional Sermon

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: 2 Peter 1:1-11.

I. INTRODUCTION.

The service of Christ a love service. Not mere duty.

Christianity not based upon good works.

II. STRIKING AND IMPORTANT TRUTHS OF THE TEXT

1. "All things that pertain to life and godliness." Including all that pertains to raising us up from sin, its wreck and ruin, to the fulness of God, glory and heaven. How far did man fall?
2. "Be partakers of the divine nature." The child like its parent. Has a resemblance, trait of character, nature. God's children having escaped the corruption that is in the world are God-like. Lust—irregular, unreasonable, inordinate and impure desires.
3. The eight graces. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity (love). Wesley says: "Each preceding grace leads

to the one following, each following tempers and perfects the preceding. They are set down in the order of nature, rather than the order of time. For though every grace bears a relation to every other, yet here they are so nicely ranged that those which have the closest dependence on each other are placed together."

4. "Ye shall never fall"

Our business to remain steadfast.

5. "An abundant entrance."

The climax of faithfulness.

The guarantee of holiness.

A Bible Reading on Satan

By J. E. REDMON

1. Luke 10:18.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. He was once the bright and morning star of the celestial city, but he fell, landing in this earth a Devil.

2. Matt. 13:4.

And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.

He is here represented as devouring the good and leaving the bad.

3. Ps. 91:3.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler. Satan sets traps, catches, cages, trains and teaches his prey.

4. Matt. 13:25.

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. Here he scatters among the children of God what he has captured and trained. Jude says they crept in "unawares, these are spots in your feasts of charity, these are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts, these be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit."

5. Peter 5:8.

Your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion. He here frightens and destroys those who are not well established.

How many thousands he has scared from the battle field, they dodge the issue and hide away, fearful of bringing his roar their way.

6. Rev. 12:9.

That old serpent.

How many thousand ways he charms today. Whole towns and cities are captivated by him. He holds them as a snake holds a fluttering bird. It is necessary to break the Devil's charm to release the folks.

An old-fashioned revival is the best known remedy.

7. Rev 16:13.

The Dragon.

A fabulous animal, represented as a winged

serpent, can both fly and crawl, has power on earth and in elements. At this stage he has people so completely under his control that they do his bidding. Read the awful crimes in the daily papers, how can humanity commit such crimes? He has become their powerful ruler.

8. Rev. 20:10.

The Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire. This is his final wind-up, and all that he has to offer his followers, realizing that his time is short, he is surely working hard in these last days.

Searching for the Old Paths

Jer. 6:16.

By ROY S. NICHOLSON

I. THE NEED FOR OLD PATHS:

1. We seek another city.
2. We are Pilgrims here.
3. The New Ways are insecure.
 - a. Modern Theology.
 - b. New Thought.
 - c. Theosophy.
4. New paths are man-made substitutes.

II. THE NATURE OF THE OLD PATH:

1. It is God's will revealed to man.
2. It is found through reading the Word.
3. It is same as used by saints.
 - a. Moses traversed it.
 - b. Daniel proved it.
 - c. Jesus trod it.
4. It is sprinkled with Blood.
5. New paths are paved with man's faulty reasonings.

III. SOME OF THE OLD PATHS:

1. Way of Holiness.
2. Way of Faith.
3. Way of Obedience.
4. Way of Prayer.
5. Way of Peace.
6. Way of Power.

IV. REASONS FOR TRAVELING THEM:

1. That we may win Christ.
2. That we may influence others.
3. That we shall not miss Goal.

EAST RADFORD, VA.

The New Testament Minister

By I. E. MILLER

1 Pet. 5.

I. In Ministry.

- Shepherd—feeder. (v.2).
 Superintendent—leader. (v.2).
 Sample—copy. (v.3).
 Final reward—"Crown of Glory." (v.4).

II. IN SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCE.

- Clothed with humility. (v.6).
 Care free. (v.7).
 Conquest faith. (v.8).

III. IN PRESENT PROFIT.

- Gracefulness in service. (v.5).
Exaltation in reproach. (v.6).
Provision, daily and detailed. (v.7).

IV. IN WARFARE.

- Poise—"Sober." (v.8).
Prudence—"Watchful." (v.8).
Pugnacity and triumph, "Resist." (v.9).

V. FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND MATURITY.

- All ministers themselves in school.
"The course"—"Perfection" (v.10) through "Suffering."
From the "Captain" down. (Heb. 2:10) and 5:8).
"Stablish" in faith. (v.10).
"Strengthen"—in fibre. (v.10).
"Settle" in faithfulness. (v.10).
Shout! (v.11).

God's Call to His Children

By D. SHIELBY CORLETT.

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:14-15.

I. GOD'S CALL TO HOLINESS IS TO OBEDIENT CHILDREN.

1. They had been brought into the relationship of "children" by being "begotten again" as shown by vs. 3.
2. This call to holiness is to "obedient" children. Not those who are backslidden, cold or indifferent.

II. AS "OBEDIENT CHILDREN" GOD DEMANDS A SEPARATION.

"Not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance."

1. The pattern of this separation is shown in 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
2. Strongly implies if they do not heed the call "to be holy," they will go back to former desires.

III. TO WHAT DOES GOD CALL HIS OBEDIENT CHILDREN?

"To be holy, for I am holy."

1. This call to be holy based upon His own character.

"I am holy."

God is holy in his essential character, and desires that His children conform to His character.

"He is holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners" (Heb. 7:26).

2. This call is "to be holy."
Not to set it up as a goal to work toward; something to aim at; but a principle of the heart; an inward experience of the life by which the character is made holy.

3. As such an experience, it is worked out in our lives.

"So be ye holy in all manner of living" (R.V.). It is not something hidden in

the heart alone; but an experience that permeates the whole character until it works out "in all manner of living."

The Church Asleep

By D. SHIELBY CORLETT.

TEXT: "Awake, awake, put on thy strength O Zion" (Isa. 52:1).

I. ZION, OR THE CHURCH IS REPRESENTED AS BEING ASLEEP.

Note some conditions of those asleep.

1. A self-satisfied spirit. (Laodiceans).
"I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17).
2. An indifferent attitude toward the advancement of God's kingdom and the salvation of men.
A sleeping person puts forth no effort.
3. Is unconscious of his own danger and that of those around him.
"Knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17).
4. Power lies dormant when asleep.
Heartless prayers; intellectual service rather than spiritual service rendered from the heart; inner spiritual consciousness deadened; all are indicative of a sleeping church.

II. SOME CAUSES FOR THIS CONDITION.

1. A wrong interpretation of prophetic statements may cause it. Such as: "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold."
"When the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?"
"In the last days perilous times shall come."
These statements are given us as warnings and not to be magnified as conditions to dampen our ardor, or cool our zeal.
2. The present spirit of the age.
This acts as a deadly opiate upon the Church. We must shun it, and keep up the fight against it in order to keep spiritual.
3. The cares of life pressing God's people. Even legitimate things such as our work, our family duties, our intellectual advancement, etc., may require so much of our time and attention that they will unconsciously keep us from being spiritually awake.

III. NOTE GOD'S CALL—"AWAKE, AWAKE; PUT ON THY STRENGTH."

1. Awake to the possibilities of the church. They are limitless. Baptized with the Holy Spirit the Church is a mighty

power. Should be the greatest power in the nation.

2. Awake to our opportunities. They are boundless.
3. Awake to our responsibilities. Each opportunity brings added responsibilities.

The Glorious Gospel

By D. SHIELBY CORLETT.

TEXT: Matt. 11:28-29

I. THE GRACIOUS GOSPEL INVITATION—"COME."

This is the great word of the Gospel, it is used over 1950 times in the Bible.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come" (Rev. 22:17).

II. THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL

—"UNTO ME."

Come to Christ, there is none other to save.

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

"Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

"There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

III. THE INCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL. "ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN."

"Whosoever believeth in him should not perish" (John 3:16).

"Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

IV. THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE GOSPEL. "I WILL GIVE YOU."

"Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1).

"The GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

V. THE ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL. "REST."

"The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt" (Isa. 57:20).

God assures the laboring, the heavy laden one, the one tired of sin and its bondage—"rest" from this sinful condition; this condition of unrest.

VI. THE COMPLETENESS OF THE GOSPEL. "AND YE SHALL FIND REST TO YOUR SOULS."

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9).

This is a "second rest" given to those who have come; have found rest from the sinful condition of unrest; have taken Christ's yoke upon them; have learned of Him.

Must We Sin?

1 John 3:8

By E. E. HALE

Introduction—Is the text contradicting? What is sin? How may a professor of religion sin? Answer—word, thought and deed. Only way men or devils sin.

I. WHERE DID SINNING RELIGION ORIGINATE?

1. Theologies of certain early organizers.
2. Professors of religion trying to justify sin in themselves.
3. Satan's greatest attempt to disturb the work of Christ.

II. MUST WE SIN? LET US CONSIDER:

1. Character of God—Holiness.
2. Power of God—Creation, then why not full salvation.
3. The mission of Christ into the world—"Came to destroy works of the Devil."
4. The Bible's testimony.
5. The verbal testimony of saints.
6. Lives that we knew that have changed.

III. MUST WE SIN? IS IT NECESSARY?

1. Not if God commands that we live holy. Two duties never conflict.
2. Not if full provision has been made through the atonement. (Heb. 13:12).
3. Not if others are enjoying the blessing of holiness.
4. Not if the Holy Spirit now convicts of inbred sin and woos us unto holiness.

The Angel Hastened Lot

Gen. 19:15.

By E. E. HALE

Introduction—1. Who Lot was. 2. How Raised. 3. How he obtained his start. 4. Why did he choose the well watered plains?

I. LOT'S FIRST YEAR IN SODOM.

1. No doubt was pious. 2. His piety probably negative. 3. To fail to give testimony means to lose the experience. 4. Mr. and Mrs. Lot induced into Sodom's society, clubs, orders, etc.

II. YOUNG LADIES MARRIED SODOMITES.

1. The curse of evil association.
- III. LOT PROBABLY WARNED PREVIOUS TO ANGEL'S VISIT, PROBABLY BY ABRAHAM.
1. But he and wife were now in society.
2. They now had grand children, no doubt.
3. Single girls had friends and beaux.
4. Lot probably had large business interest.
5. Political prestige in his way too.

IV. NOTICE CONDITION OF LOT'S LIFE.

1. Sons-in-law had no faith in him.

2. Deliverance had to be in answer to prayers of someone else.
3. Deliverance had to be supernatural.
4. Angels used persuasion and at last force.
- V. LOT'S WIFE CONVINCED BUT NOT CONVERTED.
- VI. SECRET OF TRUE RELIGIOUS CHARACTER INCLUDES RELIGIOUS SURROUNDINGS.
- Consider—Lot's Warnings and our Warnings.
1. Explicit—City sure to be destroyed—hell is sure.
 2. Merciful—Plans made for each to escape.
 3. Timely—A time when mercy's doors will close.
 4. Lot's wife nearly saved, but lost.

Complete Consecration

Rom. 12:1.

By E. E. HALE

INTRODUCTION—INBRED SIN A REALITY.

1. As indicated by testimony.
 2. By doctrine of Christendom.
 3. By the Scriptures.
- I. WORDS OF TEXT ADDRESSED TO CHRISTIANS. HENCE, A SECOND WORK.
1. "Brethren."
 2. A "Living sacrifice"—Living in Christ.

II. WHAT CONSECRATION IS NOT.

1. Not merely a mental assent to holiness.
2. Not merely setting one's self apart for Christian service.
3. Not a determination to perform some laborious task against one's will.
4. Not straining of the nervous system until a certain plane of emotion is reached, or certain signs are obtained.
5. Not laborious pleading with God when the seeker is unwilling to pay the whole price.
6. Not a straining to exercise faith before the price is paid.

III. WHAT CONSECRATION IS.

1. Consecration holds the same place in obtaining holiness that repentance holds in obtaining pardon.
2. The dedication of every future moment of the life to God.
3. Yielding the body with all its members.
4. Yielding the mind with all the sensibilities.
5. Putting all on the altar and taking our hands off.

IV. THE RESULTS OF CONSECRATION.

- Primarily the Pentecostal experience termed:
1. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost. Sanctification.
 2. Experience of perfect love or heart purity.
 3. The blessing of holiness, etc., all of which are synonymous and the experience gives freedom in the spirit, power in service, and additional joy and peace.

V. WHY MORE PEOPLE ARE NOT SANCTIFIED.

1. Lack of preaching holiness, even in holiness churches.
2. Lack of definite testimony by those who possess it.
3. It is sometimes preached in terms too general.
4. In many cases different from previous theological concepts.
5. Some demand that they understand all about it.
6. Some shrink from the reproach.
7. Last but not greatest, is the unwillingness to yield to God.

Storehouse Tithing

Why Practice It?

By C. A. RENEY

1. Because God commands it.
2. Because every interest of the Church is involved.
3. Because it would supply meat for God's House.
4. Because of the benefit that would come to the ministry.
5. Because of the benefit that would come to the Church.
6. Because of added strength it would bring to the officary of the Church.
7. Because of the effect it would have upon the world.
8. Because of the increased stimulus it would give the missionary work.
9. Because it would hasten the return of our Lord.
10. Because God will exact it.
11. Because it will save the Church from the curse that rested on the Jews.
12. Because it is the only plan that fully recognizes man's stewardship and God's ownership.

Gift and Gifts of the Spirit

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: 1 Cor. 12:7 and 31.

OUTLINE THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.

1. Their relation to the Old Testament—characters, such as Bezaleel, Samson, Balaam, and King Saul.
 2. Healing has come down to us, and closely related is the gift of faith.
 3. Differentiate between the gift of faith and grace of faith.
- Illustrate: St. Paul could and could not heal (Acts 28:8; 2 Tim. 4:20).

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH ENJOYED THE "GIFTS" OF THE SPIRIT TO A LARGE DEGREE.

1. The Corinthian church weak.
2. The Corinthian church carnal.

3. The Corinthian church troublesome.
- Illustrate: Dr. J. P. Thompson says: "Indeed I should loathe to minister to such a sorry set of Christians as were the Corinthians with all their miracles and tongues. Wrangling about Paul, Apollos and Cephas, running after false teachers, full of envying, strife and division, harboring an incestuous person without discipline, degrading the Lord's supper into a feast of appetite, giving to Paul constant sorrow and anxiety, the Corinthians needed miracles to give them a respectable title to a Christian name; and they so abused miraculous gifts by jealousy and contention that they turned their Sabbath assemblies into cabals of men and women, shouting, singing, praying, prophesying, pell-mell, without decency and order."
- THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY—LOVE.
1. The "gift" of the Holy Spirit—abiding.
 2. He renovates the heart, and makes the subsoil of the heart Love.
 3. Love is the Christ character; we are imitators.
- The Gift to be Desired Above the Gifts; Because He is A Personal, Abiding Helper Throughout Life.

The Eradication of the Carnal Mind

A sermon suggestion.

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: Romans 6:6

There is an old Homeric Legend concerning Penelope, said to be the most lovely woman in all the world's history. Her husband Ulysses went away to war, and was ten years at the siege of Troy, and then after that he wandered ten years. By and by it was said that Ulysses was dead and then the lovely Penelope had many suitors. The royalty sought her hand. But to all she said, "no."

After awhile she became weary and said, "Gentlemen, when I have finished weaving the cloth now in my loom I will give you an answer." She would weave all day and unravel at night. After twenty years Ulysses came and Penelope fell into his arms and cried, "I have been true to you all these years and have never given my love to another."

And so if one longs for the Lord Jesus to come and eradicate the carnal mind he will have many suitors.

1. The world will press its claims, "no."
2. The flesh will press its claims, "no."
3. The Devil will press his claims, "no."
4. To every earthly suitor say, "no."

Then Jesus will come the "fairest among ten thousand" etc., Him you desire above all others,

the "old man" will go out and the "new man" come in, to abide with you forever.

Patience (What most folk are short of)

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: James 1:4.

I. THE INSTRUCTION OF THE APOSTLE.

1. Note the preceding verse.

2. All are exhorted.

II. WHAT IS PATIENCE?

1. "A gracious temper wrought in the heart of a believer by the power of the Holy Spirit."
2. To suffer whatever pleases God.

III. THE WORK OF PATIENCE.

1. Full fruitage or effect.
2. Peace a result of patience.
3. Joy a result of patience.
4. Love a result of patience.
5. Tranquility of mind a result of patience.

IV. BEING BORN OF GOD.

Patience—begins.

The victory of the regenerated life.

The shortage of the regenerated life.

Illustrate: Read Wesley page 222.

V. THE "PERFECT WORK" OF PATIENCE.

Evidently the perfect love of God.

When does this occur? Subsequent to conversion.

An instantaneous work.

Read Wesley page 223.

Ten Evidences of the New Birth

By MARY LEE CAGLE.

TEXT: "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

- (1) Witness of the Spirit. (1 John 5:10; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6).
- (2) Led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14).
- (3) Peace with God (Rom. 5:1).
- (4) New creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- (5) Love the brethren. (1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:10; 1 John 4:7).
- (6) Separate from the world (1 John 2:15, 16; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; John 15:19).
- (7) Keep God's commandments (John 14:15; John 14:21; 1 John 2:3, 4).
- (8) Do not commit sin (1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:18).
- (9) Love our enemies (Matt. 44:45).
- (10) Desire holiness (1 John 3:1-3).

Neglect of Means of Grace

By JAS. H. JONES.

TEXT: John 20:24.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The incomplete meeting—Thomas not there.
2. A meeting blessed with Christ's presence.

I. WHY NOT THERE:

1. Indifference.
2. Distaste.
3. Laziness.
4. Pleasure.
5. Business.
6. Selfishness.
7. Pure Spite.
8. Shifting Responsibility.
9. Morbus Sabaticus or Sunday Sickness.

II. RESULT:

1. Lose more than we gain.
2. What do we gain?
3. What do we lose?
 - (a) Meeting Christ.
 - (b) Faith—then unbelief sets in.
 - (c) Confidence—will not believe.
 - (d) Unless recovered—heaven at last.

III. MEANS TO BRING US BACK:

1. The Word of God.
2. The Holy Spirit.
3. Preaching of the Word.
4. Providences of God.
5. Humble Repentance.

"Take Heed"

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

I. TAKE HEED OF GOD.

1. To the Lord (Hos. 4:10).
2. For the Lord hath chosen thee (1 Chr. 28:10).

II. TAKE HEED WHAT YOU DO.

1. What ye do (2 Chr. 19:6).
2. And be quiet (Isa. 7:4).
3. That you do not alms before men (Matt. 6:1).

III. TAKE HEED WHAT YOU HEAR.

1. What you hear (Mk. 4:24).
2. Therefore how ye hear (Lu. 8:18).

IV. TAKE HEED HOW YOU TREAT THE OTHER MAN.

1. Everyone his neighbor (Lu. 9:4).
2. That ye despise not one of these (Matt. 18:10).
3. Ye be not consumed one of another (Gal. 5:15).

"The Double Cure"

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

"Cleanse your hands ye sinners
Purify your hearts ye double-minded"

—James.

- I. Sinners—Dirty hands and unclean hearts.
- II. Formalists—Full hands and an empty heart.
- III. Justified—Clean hands and an impure heart.
- IV. Sanctified—Clean hands and a pure heart.
- V. Sanctification in Action—Full hands and a full heart.

CONCLUSION.

1. Use our will—lead ourselves back.
2. In this age of carelessness and indifference—*God forbid that we lose an interest in this means of grace.*

The Three Men of Romans

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

I. "NATURAL MAN"

1. Has sins unforgiven.
2. Has moral cowardice.
3. Has fear of hell.
4. Has no rest.
5. Has no experience.

II. "CARNAL MAN"

1. Has justification.
2. Has moral shrinkage.
3. Has unholy fears and anxiety.
4. Has rest.
5. Has a mixture of joy and carnal sorrow.

III. "SPIRITUAL MAN"

1. Has the Comforter.
2. Has moral fixedness.
3. Has perfect love.
4. Has holy rest.
5. Has the joy of gladness.

ILLUSTRATIONS**OBEEDIENCE**

Years ago when still a lad in a Military School in England, I had a desire to live a martial life, and so strong was that desire that at an early age I joined a well known regiment of Highlanders.

On the second morning after arrival at the Barracks at Edinburgh, I, in company with a number of other recruits, was ordered to parade at a certain place that we might receive instructions.

We were lined up, a sorry looking lot compared with the smart trained soldiers around us, and the Sergeant-Major, having first taught us how to stand correctly, said, "Now, fellows, I am going to teach you the first duty of a soldier. The first duty of a soldier is OBEEDIENCE."

That seemed a very easy lesson to learn, at all events it was easy to remember, and before dismissing us for the day the officer told us to parade again at the same place the following morning when we would be taught the second duty of a soldier.

We paraded the second morning and after asking us what was the first duty of a soldier the officer said, "Now, I will tell you what the second duty of a soldier is." Imagine our surprise

when he said, "The second duty of a soldier is OBEEDIENCE."

We were then told to parade on the following day when we would be instructed as to the third duty of a soldier, and lo and behold at the appointed time we were told that the third duty of a soldier was OBEEDIENCE. In other words we were taught that a soldier has nothing else to do but to OBEY.

In after years I have gone into the Barrack rooms at night and have heard young soldiers say in their sleep, "The first duty of a soldier is obedience." So thoroughly was it impressed upon their minds.

It has often been helpful to me in my life as a Christian, to remember that THE FIRST DUTY OF A CHRISTIAN IS OBEEDIENCE.

How much easier it would be for us all as Christians if we would remember that to obey is better than sacrifice.—E. T. ROWE.

HEART PURITY
(Acts 15:8-9).

Wesley tells of a lady by the name of Elizabeth Mann who was ill-tempered, peevish, irritable, and fretful by nature. One day the Holy Spirit laid the axe to the root of the tree and ever after, Wesley said, he knew her as a sweet, devout loving, tender, kind, peaceful woman. She had heart purity; a perfect cleansing.—E. E. WORDSWORTH.

CARNAL DEATH
(Rom. 6:6-8).

A man got the idea into his head that he was physically dead, and so the boys thought the advisable thing to do was to give him a decent burial. A rough box was secured, and the man placed within, and the funeral procession started for the burying ground. A passerby, knowing the men who were taking the man to the burying ground, asked them what they were doing, and they replied that the man within the improvised coffin claimed to be dead physically and they believed that the advisable thing to do was to give him a place somewhere under the sod, and they were now taking him for burial. Said the passerby, "Well, I am mighty glad to see you take him away, for he is a public nuisance anyhow." It is said that the man arose in his coffin and said in reply, "If I wasn't dead I'd lick you to a frazzle." Evidently he was not quite dead yet. Some people claim to be dead carnally, but the movements of the old man in his casket indicate the contrary.

Dr. Bresee was so dead to fame, money, self and sin that he constantly prayed, "Lord, keep Bresee out of sight."

The Roman Church tried to bribe Luther with gold, position, power, and offered him the cardinal's hat, but he was dead to it all.

A tract peddler was so well converted and sanctified that when grossly insulted with the full expectation that he would retort and show anger of spirit, he calmly said, "Friend, the man you have been talking to has been dead for twenty years."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24).—E. E. WORDSWORTH.

SERMON SEED

By T. M. ANDERSON

FOREWORD: In this department we shall labor for the benefit of those who preach the Gospel of a Full Salvation. We shall follow the expository style of sermonizing which will hold us to the immediate context in most cases. Because of limited space we can only hope to be suggestive in thought. Every man must clothe these outlines in his own words and use them as best suits his taste and style of delivery. All are free to make any changes desired. Let all my readers accept these as their own.

OUR MOTTO: Study to shew thyself approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15).

TEXT: "Because he hath set his love upon Me" (Psa. 91:14).

INTRODUCTION. This text shows the reward of affection when seen in the light of its context which is verses 14-16. Within scope of these verses is the seven-fold phase of the will of God. It is God's will expressed in seven promises. Those who would benefit by these promises must set their love upon Him. Let us consider then:

I. WHAT IT MEANS TO SET ONE'S LOVE UPON HIM.

1. "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge.
2. He is my fortress.
3. He is my God; in Him will I trust" (v. 2).

II. NOTE THE PROMISES WHICH HE HATH MADE.

1. I will deliver him. From all sin. All temptations. All trials.
2. I will set him on high. Honor, exaltation. Sin debases; but grace uplifts. Made kings and priests unto him.

3. I will answer him when he shall call. Thus we see the open door through answered prayer. God to answer every call.
4. I will be with him in trouble. Assurance of the divine presence in every trouble of body, mind or heart.
5. I will deliver him and honor him. Deliverance with honor means God will vindicate the saints before their enemies. It means they shall be resurrected in honor, a deliverance from death.
6. With long life will I satisfy him. This is eternal life, which is only long enough to satisfy a soul redeemed. It can be applied to this life in the body also.
7. I will shew him my salvation. This means eternal salvation.

TEXT: "If a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal. 4:7).

Introduction: Everything depends upon one's relation to God. His creatures may benefit because He has made them for His pleasure; but none are heirs except they be sons. "If a son, then an heir of God."

I. WE WILL ESTABLISH THE PROOF OF SONSHIP.

1. If a son it is because God sent His son to die for us. We are sons only by His merit and shed blood (Verses 4, 5).
2. If a son it is because something has been done in us. "God sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts crying, Abba, Father." (Verse 6).
3. If a son then it is because we are no more servants to sin and Satan. (Verses 7, 8).
4. If a son then we have the fruit of the Spirit. (5:22,23).
5. If a son then we have the help of the Spirit against the carnal mind. Such walk in the Spirit and have victory over the flesh. (5:16, 17). Every regenerated person has dominion over the carnal mind, but not deliverance from it.
6. If a son then we will expect to be made holy through the Spirit, and not by works, or our will, or growth. (5:5).

II. SUCH ARE HEIRS OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST.

1. God Himself shall be their inheritance. All He is in person and possessions, is theirs.

2. They are to have an inheritance among the sanctified. The experience of sanctification is an inheritance. In it is the will of God. What spiritual riches God has willed is in the experience.
3. They have an inheritance with the saints in light. (Col. 1:12). Eternal life is their inheritance.

TEXT: "That ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will" (Col. 1:9).

I. THIS FILLING IS SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR REGENERATION. PROOF:

1. They had faith in Jesus. (Verse 4).
2. They had love for all the saints; and love in the Spirit. (Verses 4,8).
3. They had a hope laid up in heaven. (Verse 5).
4. They had the fruits of the gospel in themselves. (Verse 6).

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL.

1. It is to have wisdom and spiritual understanding in what God's will is in the riches of His grace. Too many are living below their privileges. God wills a gracious fulness of soul.
2. It means a full knowledge of His will for our life's work and calling. One should be assured that he is in His will in all things, and in all places, and at all times.
3. It is in order that one may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. That is, to live so as to be a pleasure to God. To so live one must know His will fully. (Verse 10).
4. It is in order to be fruitful in every good work. Fruitbearing glorifies God. To be fruitful in all lines of life one must have the fulness of His will done in him. (Verse 10).
5. It is in order to an almighty strength. (Verse 11). Such can only be victorious always. They have all longsuffering and patience with joyfulness. They are full of joy in all times because they have strength to bear all trials and temptations.
6. It is in order that one may give thanks in all things. Be ever filled with praise and thanksgivings. (Verse 12).

PRACTICAL

THE MINISTER AND BIBLE STUDY

By BASIL W. MILLER

Bible Study for Teaching

FUNDAMENTAL to Christian activity is a knowledge of the Bible. As ministers our sermons must be rock-ribbed with its truths. Our messages must resound with the authority of inspiration. Our conversation must be made sacred with the injunctions and commandments of Scripture. But after we have preached from the pulpit, and in clarion tones declared the judgments of God, Sunday after Sunday, there remains another phase of ministerial labor—the teaching process. Our sermons are pedagogical as well as inspirational—they must inform as well as inspire. Too often we emphasize the inspirational to the detriment of the informational. But in that institution for teaching the Bible—the Sunday school—the minister must play a leading role. Herein his talents shine. At present our greatest pastors are also teaching in the Bible school. Some preachers are more at home with an adult class, while others find their place in the young people's classes, or with the children.

The training of the young is paramount to successful Christian work. The youth of today becomes the leader of tomorrow. The Church school of the present is the Church of the future. If we hope to build well, the firm foundation in the Sunday school must be well laid—the children trained in Christian beliefs, taught the truths of the Word of God, grounded in the fundamental verities of God's Oracles. In this the minister fills a useful part. But to do so, he should be trained, well informed concerning the Bible, accurate in his knowledge of its contents, its structure and its history. This phase is too many times considered unimportant and for it the pastor takes but little pains in preparation. He would not think of preaching with as little study as he does for teaching in the School. And as a result the children are being lost to the Church, lost to Christ, and lost to a vision of world evangelism.

For successful teaching the minister should

be acquainted first with the doctrines of the Bible, its history, its geography, its great characters. He should be informed as to the gist of the different books, their particular messages, and an analysis of their contents. Too often the message of the separate lesson is lost because the teacher knows only the truths of that lesson, and is unable to illuminate it with other passages, and to develop similar truths from other personages of the Word. Moreover he should know how to make the application of the lesson to individual needs, and to different classes. The child ten years old needs a different form of biblical instruction from the older man or woman, and the teacher must be able to interpret each message in terms of the life, the interests and the development of the pupil. But to do so the Bible must be known thoroughly. How often a little lack of geographical facts hampers the lesson's application; or a lack of a knowledge of historical passages or the structure of the tabernacle or temple destroys the teacher's power to interest and attract the learner. To teach well, know the Bible. To interest the class, be filled with unusual facts concerning the Book and customs of Bible times and lands. The difference between mediocrity and success is due to the difference in such knowledge.

General material. There are numerous text books designed specifically for Sunday school teachers dealing with a general knowledge of the Bible deemed necessary for successful Sunday school work. In the various Teachers Training Courses books dealing with an analysis of the Old Testament, its books, and history, and the New Testament, its doctrines, the life and teachings of Jesus and Paul are included. Suffice it to say that every minister should be familiar with the general contents of these books, prepared by leading Sunday school workers with the explicit aim of furnishing materials needed to interest pupils. All denominations have such courses and hence the books along this line are too numerous to mention. No minister should feel equipped for work in the Bible school unless he is acquainted with this information.

Specific material. Along with this general knowledge of the Bible many Bible Teacher's Magazines are printed. Through the past few decades *Peloubet's Commentary for Sunday School Teachers* has been a classic. With this is *Turbell's*. Dr. Torrey of the Bible Institute has prepared for several years what he terms "The Gist of the Lesson." *Arnold's Sunday school lesson helps* are also published yearly covering the several lessons in a practical manner. Then the material in our own *Bible School Teacher's Journal* is without equal from the standpoint of developing the spiritual messages from the various lessons during the year. Dr. Snowden, of the United Presbyterian Church, true to the fundamentals, also prepares a *Sunday School Teacher's Journal or book of lesson helps*. In all these brief comments on the text of the lesson are found; then practical lessons, the gist of the lesson, the lesson outlined, light from Oriental lands on the lessons, the historical background, connecting links between the several lessons, and similar material follows. With the aid of such helps for teaching the minister, as well as the lay teachers, is fairly well equipped for the training of our youths in the things of Christianity.

We are taking the training of the child in religion entirely too lightly. No teacher in the public school with such a small amount of training in general education, and specifically in those subjects to be taught would be tolerated. We demand of our teachers who are to train the mind the best mental equipment possible, but those who are to train the soul, furnish the heart, are allowed to teach with little or no specific knowledge or general training. There is small wonder that over twenty-seven million youths of the land are now without any form of religious instruction—the Church has failed to take seriously this matter of teacher training and preparation. As a result those who start in the Sunday school drop out by the thousands by the time they are from twelve to fifteen years of age.

The problem of how to hold pupils in the Bible school will be largely solved when we train our teachers efficiently. Discipline likewise becomes an easy matter when the teacher knows the art of teaching, making interesting the lesson. To captivate the attention of the class it is necessary first to know the lesson and by thus knowing and rightly applying the lesson

there will be no trouble in discipline, attention, or scholars being absent.

To teach well, know the lesson; understand the Word of God; be grounded in its truths; point out its glories. The greatest lessons in righteousness are thus imbedded in the child's heart.

A NEGLECTED FIELD

By, D. SHELBY CORLETT

WE have a host of young people in our churches of the early teen age who are to a great extent being neglected. Generally speaking there is very little of the regular services of the church that will appeal to them, or that many of them will understand. The time of the average pastor is mostly given to the adult, but the youth of his congregation is largely neglected. He puts in his time preparing sermons for the adult mind; his preaching services, twice each Sabbath, are for the adult; the prayermeetings are for the adult; the children attend, many times because their parents compel them to do so, still there is little in any of these services that appeals to them.

A pastor who had just within the past few months taken a certain charge was telling me of the condition of his young people. He said it was very hard to get them to stay for the church services, and they seldom attended prayer-meeting, excepting those who were spiritual and more mature. Upon investigation he said he found that a former pastor, though a splendid man and a good preacher, had felt called to preach such "deep" sermons that he entirely overshot the young people and children until they had lost interest in the church service. There may be occasions when such "deep" preaching is best, but when it is the custom to have sermons so deep that the young people and children do not understand them, we may well suppose that a great number of the older people have missed also. This condition was contrasted in a conversation with another pastor. He is probably one of the most successful soul winners of our church, and a pastor most successful with young people and children. In speaking of his new pastorate and speaking kindly of his predecessor he said: "I am here to preach the gospel in the simplest manner I know." One pastor's ambition was to be a "deep" preacher; and he failed with his youth; the other's ambition was

to preach the gospel in the simplest way he could, and he was successful. I have heard a number of the great preachers of our day, and most of their greatness has been marked by their simplicity.

But a little comparison of the time used for the adult and the children may be helpful in this discussion. The pastor usually prepares two sermons each Sunday with the adult saint, or the hardened adult sinner in mind. He prepares his prayermeeting message for this group also. And gives the obligation of helping the children and youth to the Sunday school officers, the N. Y. P. S. leaders, with a possible Rally Day, or Children's Day sermon, or an occasional "five-minute" sermon to the children, sandwiched in the service somewhere. We can safely say that one hundred and fifty sermons and addresses are prepared each year by our pastors, mostly with the needs of the adults of his congregation in view; while scarcely one tenth of this time has been given to the preparation of those sermons and addresses which will be helpful to the youth of his congregation.

Our revival meetings are usually conducted along the same lines, mostly for the adult, with one or more children's services sandwiched in between the Sunday school hour and the morning preaching service. The evangelist proudly reports his meetings by saying, we took so many into the church, "most of them heads of families." But he would be somewhat chagrined to report, there were twenty children converted or sanctified in the meeting. If he reports at all, his report would run something like this: "This meeting did not come up to our expectations, the results were not what we desired, only about twenty children were converted or sanctified." Or we have frequently read a report like this: "There were so many at the altar, including children." "Only" so many children, "including" children. But who are these children? They are to be our heads of families, they have, in the beginning of their lives, given the freshness and vigor of their lives to God; they have not spent their youthful days in sin and now come giving what is left of their lives to God. Their "souls" are not only saved, but their lives are saved for the service of God. God help us to have the proper conception of these youth and place a proper estimate upon their value to the church.

Where is there a more fertile field for the planting of the "word" by the "sower," the

gospel preacher, than in the minds of the youth of his congregation? I think we can safely say that from one third to one half of our congregations are made up of young people under twenty-five years of age, so why should not these younger people receive at least a proportionate amount of the pastor's time, that the older people receive. Here are the plastic minds of the youth, ready to receive the gospel message and more ready to respond to its appeal than the older one, so why should they be neglected? There is no more fertile field in the work of the pastor than in the youth of his church; and sorry to say, there is scarcely a field so neglected.

It has been estimated by those who have made a careful study of the situation that most people who are converted, are saved before they are twenty-one years of age, and as the ages increase the percentage of those who are converted decreases. So this being the case, the youth of our church is the most fruitful field for the pastor's ministry. Life insurance agencies tell us that the average boy of fifteen may be expected to live forty-five years, and the man at fifty may expect to live less than twenty years. Suppose a wide awake pastor succeeds in getting twenty of his boys and girls converted and sanctified; what has he done? The aggregate of these lives is nine hundred years; which means that he has brought nine hundred years of service to Christ; nine hundred years of good influence to the community; nine hundred years of pure living and noble effort; nine hundred years of prayer and praise;—nine hundred years is almost equal to the life time of Methuselah. He has saved twenty boys and girls, twenty men and women, twenty old men and women—twenty lives for Christ. Compare the fruitfulness of the lives of this twenty with twenty that may be saved at fifty, with less than twenty years each to live. Less than four hundred years of lives, mostly of men and women whose bodies have been wrecked because of the service of sin; men and women the useful part of whose lives have been spent in the service of sin. We are glad to see them saved, they should be saved; but we need not neglect our youth.

It has been estimated in recent years that the church is losing seventy-five per cent of her youth between the ages of twelve and eighteen, that out of every four children in the church and Sunday school at the age of twelve only one remains at the age of eighteen. Losing seventy-

five per cent of those who have an average of forty-five years each to live. These lives we are losing may be saved, at least a large percentage of them, if we would only take a more genuine and loving interest in them. Why will we permit our youth to slip through our fingers practically unnoticed, and then expect to bring them back through revival effort as mature men and women? It is not being done. We must do something to save our youth.

History abounds in the examples of the lives of men who have been saved in their youth.

Polycarp, we are told, was converted at the age of nine; Matthew Henry at eleven; Dr. Isaac Watts at nine; Bishop Hall at eleven; Robert Hall at twelve; Alfred Cookman at ten; Francis Asbury at fourteen; Bishop McCabe at eight; John Inskip at sixteen; Adam Clarke at seventeen; Dr. P. F. Bresee at eighteen; and many others who have been outstanding in leadership of the Christian Church have been converted in their youth.

It is indeed a fruitful field. Shall we neglect this very fruitful field? We must not. Let us become more seriously concerned for this neglected field—our youth.

THREE DANGERS

By A. E. SANNER

I WISH to name to you what I feel are three serious dangers confronting the Nazarene preacher. You will note that I do not mention fanaticism among these. Fanaticism is a danger, but I believe formalism is a more serious danger. Every life will have its own moral weakness and against these each soul must guard and watch for itself. It will be plainly obvious that no set rule of "three dangers" for all lives may be given. I only give it as an observation that these three dangers have been the instrumental cause of multitudes of wrecks, both of preachers and laymen. Every soul is wise to know its own moral weakness, and fortify that point by the grace of God, until no attack of Satan can beat it from the sure ground of safety. But here are three serious dangers:

(1) Compromise,

(2) Professionalism,

(3) Wrong attitude toward the opposite sex.

Compromise! What subtle poison and death thou hast borne! "Shall we do evil that good may come? God forbid." Judas was not the

last man who sold his Lord for money. For worldly gain, prestige, fame, place, hundreds of preachers have sold out—sold a good conscience, compromised principles, compromised convictions. When a man goes down morally, he usually goes out. But when a man compromises he usually goes on preaching, spreading the poison of death, blighting the lives of thousands and heaping upon his own head the greater damnation.

A noted pastor in the West, a pastor of a large influential church in an influential city, recently visited and talked with one of our promising young pastors, taking charge of the new Church of the Nazarene, organized in that city. He talked something as follows: "I have been observing your people in various places. You have some splendid pious people. And you boys are zealous in a commendable way. But you will learn as you grow older in years and experience that you cannot keep it up. In a few more years your church will be just like ours. I used to preach holiness myself, preached it for many years, but I found it didn't succeed. And you will find you will be able to do more good in the world when you quit placing the emphasis as you do now." This writer has done most of his work of twenty years in the West. And I can truthfully say the western woods are full of preachers in the various churches who once preached holiness. But now they mention it no more. In most instances the compromise has been (as they said) for bread and butter.

Another sad fact I know: I have had years of acquaintance with various holiness schools, both Nazarene and interdenominational, and it is a sad fact that a number who have gone through the holy fires of these institutions, have later out on the fields, turned aside from the rugged way for the shekels. The holiness way cannot be popularized, and the EASIEST way is to die to this old world, and once for all take the safe way of being true to the CALL and VISION given by the Lord.

Professionalism is perhaps the most subtle danger of all. One may not compromise doctrine nor lower the moral standard of his life, yet become a professional. This may not be an imminent danger for the young fellow, but I'm told it is an insidious foe to the preacher who is reaching middle age or older, and has added years of experience and acquaintance. There is after all a program followed, a sameness of form and ceremony. So the holiness preacher, espe-

cially pastor, will have to make up his mind to fight formalism and professionalism. Determine to stay out of ruts. Always be on the lookout for new texts, new messages, new thoughts, new illustrations. Keep ever determined to have fervency and unction in your own life and ministry and the goal always in view "to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Our third division is a delicate subject to discuss, but in mentioning dangers, this one must be SPOKEN OUT LOUD. A number of men, preachers of national reputation in the holiness movement, and scores of lesser lights have gone down because of questionable attitudes or relations with the opposite sex. On the other hand, many women called of God to some place in His work, have ruined their lives by giving them to ungodly men. I want to say a thing hard, so I'll put it down in the next paragraph alone.

A preacher of either sex, who will permit or indulge any questionable acts with the other sex, IS A FOOL.

The young pastor will do well to have a care in the other home, at the altar, giving advice in the domestic troubles of others, etc. It is believed that the confessional box ruined the morals of the priesthood of the Catholic church. Well, if you are a well-beloved and respected pastor, there are many who will make your ear another confessional box. You must be well-beloved, and you must sympathize with the needs of your people, and listen too, but not without care and proper reservation. Build a good strong fence beyond which you will not go. Let that fence be the line of propriety and safety. The married pastor is the safest and most useful, and has the advantages on his side. "It is not good for a man (and a pastor is a man) to live alone."

THE PASTOR'S SUPER SIX

By N. B. HERRELL

(In our first article we introduced the pastor's super six, in the second we dealt with the starter, in this article we will consider the spark plugs.)

THE spark plug in the pastor's super six is faith. Just as the spark plugs in an automobile connect the electricity and gasoline in proper relations to give the greatest possible power for driving force—just so, faith connects the pentecostal fire and human devotion in such a manner as to give the super six church the necessary power for service.

Not long since we were driving across country in a first class auto and all at once she began to miss and splutter and fail in driving force. We examined the spark plugs and bought one new connecting wire that runs from the timer to the spark plug, but to no avail, she continued to miss and splutter. We were trying to fix it ourselves. After all our pretensions we had to confess that we did not know where the trouble was and called a mechanic. He came out in a hurry, listened a minute, tried out the spark plugs, and began to examine the timer box while we tried to tell him that the trouble was with the spark plugs. However, he went right on into the timer and began to tear it apart. We felt that he did not know his business but having exhausted our ability we tried to keep still inasmuch as we had called him to fix it. Finally, after he had the timer off and all apart he said "This little piece is broken and we will have to replace it with a new one." We felt foolish and no doubt lost our wise look and said "Y-e-s." He got the small piece and put it in, replaced the timer and said, "Start her." We did, she went and he said, "One dollar, please." We paid gladly and went on our way with power for service. While the cause was in the timer the effect showed up in the spark plugs.

Pastors of Super six churches will find similar trouble at times but the proper kind of a mechanic (evangelist or District Superintendent) will soon locate the trouble and repair it though it takes some new parts.

Dirty spark plugs will cause a loss of power but this can soon be overcome by removing them and scraping off all the carbon. However, the church will have to stop while this is being done. When the carbon of false doctrine, indifference, etc., gets on the spark plugs (faith) it requires a bone scraping revival to remove it. The process seems cruel but the effects are pleasing.

Again, when a spark plug breaks there is no cure aside from a new one. Trying to mend broken spark plugs is as trying as it is hopeless. We have watched some pastors tinker with old burned out spark plugs only to become discouraged and disgusted and quit the ministry. When spark plugs go bad throw them away and get new ones. Patching up old broken down church members is poor business. Either run them into a revival for a complete overhauling

and reconditioning or junk them if they are beyond hope.

The revival is the best of all methods to clean spark plugs. However, if only one is missing personal work will many times repair it and save so much expense and effort.

Perhaps it would be well to call attention to the fact that spark plugs work best when they are hot. They are made for the fire and operate best when all ablaze, especially that part that is down in the heart of the engine. Hot hearts, cool heads, and plenty of power is a fine thing for pastors who drive super six churches.

*If your super six, my brother
Would stem the tide of stormy weather;
Keep your spark plugs always clean,
Have plenty of juice and gasoline.*

HERE AND THERE AMONG BOOKS

By P. H. LUNN

IN the Foreword of her new book "Spiritual Adventuring" (Cokesbury, \$1.00) the author Bertha Conde, gives a hint concerning the predominating motif of the chapters that follow. She says, "The time has come to face the challenging teachings of the living Christ. Every capacity of spirit, mind and body is needed to make vivid to the world the triumphant personality of the Christ who freed men from sin by his death, and opened untold possibilities for spiritual adventure by his resurrection."

That's rather a bold interpretation of the quest of spiritual things—adventuring. It suggests romance—and by the way, didn't someone write a book entitled "The Romance of Right Living?" Adventuring requires the pioneer spirit, hardihood, courage; and now that we stop to consider a bit, the Apostle Paul did lead an adventurous life.

But rather strange it is—this book isn't a dynamic piece of writing—nothing martial or heroic in its atmosphere. It is deeply devotional and has a gentle, wooing note throughout. It gets hold of you though; with a quiet impulsion that leads to new resolves and higher ideals.

Chapter VIII is fraught with rich thoughts. The subject is *Spiritual Alchemy* and the theme is transformation. Early in the chapter we read this arresting statement: "Spiritual power is judged not by what people claim, but by what they use in transforming daily experience into spiritual values. A little farther on we find:

"This is such an unstable world that we are not sure of anything unless it is transmuted into spiritual treasure."

In another chapter speaking of "The Uniqueness of Jesus' Way" we read: "It is not surprising that some people are afraid to commit themselves utterly to Jesus' way of life. They fear it would involve them in a complete revolution." This writer surely has a real insight into spiritual values. Her book is like a cool spring beside the traveler's dusty way.

To say that a certain book represents a real contribution to the literature on any subject at all, is, in this day, saying a great deal. But we have before us Catherine Booth-Cliborn's recent book "Love and Courtship" (Doran, \$1.00). The author is the eldest daughter of the late General William Booth and a sister of General Bramwell Booth of the Salvation Army. One of her reasons for writing the book is found in the Introduction: "On no subject, perhaps, have we gone so far astray as on the subject of love—love which results in marriage, home and children. The home is the most valuable asset of a nation and forms the true foundation of an empire."

The book is written both from the social and the religious point of view. Her chapter headings are worthy of enumeration: Divine and Human Love; Parents and Relatives; Flirting; Conditions for Engagements; Engagements; Broken Engagements—Legitimate and Illegitimate Reasons; To the Disappointed and Brave.

Most young people are sadly without ideals and a true estimate of values in this matter. This book will at least start them thinking. Here is a trenchant paragraph: "The highest factor in love and courtship is the spiritual; for marriage is more than a physical bond, deeper than an outward agreement. It involves spirit and soul, not body alone; nor is it spirit and soul without the body. It is the perfect mingling of the hopes, sentiments, and ideals of two beings. In this light all substitutes for marriage, however gilded, are prostitution. True marriage is in one world, all the rest in another; they differ as light from darkness."

"Church Administration" (Doran, \$2.00) is credited to Rev. Wm. H. Leach, a Presbyterian minister who for some years has given particular attention to this subject. He founded and edits *Church Management*, the ministers' trade journal. The book is a survey of modern executive methods in church work. Whether it's

a healthy indication or not is a much mooted question, but we must admit that a minister these days, in order to "put it over" must be an executive of no mean sort.

The book is divided into five parts with each part thoroughly covered: (I) The Minister as a Leader. (II) The Services of the Church. (III) Special Programs. (IV) Publicity. (V) Administrative Detail.

It is this reviewer's humble judgment that while the finest administrative machinery and the highest type of executive leadership will never produce a church "terrible as an army with banners" in the conflict with the powers of darkness, yet it is possible that a Spirit-baptized ministry and a zealous people will fail to produce the highest possible results on account of hit-or-miss planning and faulty administration in other respects.

Your reviewer goes a step farther and makes bold to say that if he were a pastor, this book would find a place in his working library. It is suggestive and filled with ideas and in this highly competitive age one must have ideas, original or borrowed, for without ideas, the mind is a bleak, barren field.

We thought it had all been said but now comes Frank E. Allen with another study of Evolution, "written to instruct, encourage and strengthen the faith of those who are troubled by intellectual doubts growing out of today's discussion." The book, "Evolution in the Balances" certainly has a decidedly practical turn. Its efforts to refute the evolution theory is based on a discussion of such subjects as: Are There New Species? Embryology; Comparative Anatomy; Human Fossils, etc.; Testimony of the Mammoths, etc.

We feel satisfied in our minds that a minister should decide either to let Evolution entirely alone and stick to the positive preaching of the gospel or he should make a thorough and intelligent study of both material and Theistic evolution. Nothing puts a minister in a more pitiful position or so much subjects him to the scorn of intelligent listeners as for him to launch a tirade against the evolutionists and their claims ending up with saying, "But we know better; we believe the Bible." Again permit me to say, "If I were a pastor," if so, I would want to be able to discuss intelligently the teachings of evolution and to refute it with Scripture, science

and reason. The book we are discussing would furnish a good foundation for such an intelligent discussion.

The Free Methodist Publishing House has made a valuable contribution to missionary literature by bringing out "Life in Mozambique and South Africa," by Rev. J. W. Haley (\$1.25). The book gives an intimate account of a missionary's life and experiments in the Dark Continent. We noted the absence of tiresome and easily forgotten statistics, and a special emphasis upon little every-day incidents that make the book so very readable and at the same time give the reader a "first hand" word picture of actual life on the mission field. The book is well and generously illustrated.

CHURCH PUBLICITY

By M. LUNN

In searching the Scriptures we find that Christ was a keen observer of the customs and activities of others than His own followers. "For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." We are advised to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Has the Church shown wisdom in not using every possible avenue to appeal to men and women in order to win them for God and the Church? Evidently the Church of Jesus Christ is awakened to the possibility of printers' ink as evidenced by the report which, on account of the splendid suggestions, we publish.

Church Publicity Conference of the Chicago Church Federation.

By LAURENCE H. HOWE

In the meeting of the Chicago Church Federation, held October 25, an address was given by Mr. Charles Stelzle, chairman of the Church Advertising Department of the International Advertising Association, on how to advertise the Church.

Among other things he said:

1. Assume that the public knows nothing about the Church. Take nothing for granted but begin at the very bottom in your advertising campaign.

2. Assume that the Church does not know its community. This will necessitate a survey to ascertain the status of the field occupied by any particular church, and this will of itself determine the nature of the advertising best adapted to that field.

3. The Church must create an atmosphere

favorable to itself before effective advertising can be done.

4. The Church must believe in its work and be able to present it convincingly.

5. Advertise with sincerity and with positiveness. (Do not knock the other fellow in your ads).

Speaking of what the Church should advertise, Mr. Stelzle said that the Church should advertise the one thing it holds a monopoly on, viz., The Cure for Sin. That is what a business house would do, tell about the thing it has that no one else can offer. He further suggested that the Church make known through its advertising:

1. The terms of admission—who is eligible to membership, etc. People fear membership committees and should be able to learn the qualifications of members without appearing before a committee.

2. The type of people belonging to a certain church make it known that you have ten cap-penters, fourteen clerks, five stenographers, nine farmers, four store-keepers and the common people will say, "That is my crowd."

3. The financial consideration. Some may hesitate because they cannot contribute much. Let it be known how the church is supported and how much is contributed each week by various classes. Strangers will then not be embarrassed for they will be able to compare their giving with others.

4. The doctrines of the Church—what the Church believes and stands for.

Mr. Stelzle advocated the selling of the advertising idea to the local church and the church board to such an extent that they will provide for all advertising expenses in the church budget rather than going out and trying to sell it to the business men of the community as is the case where business houses are solicited to sponsor advertising for the church or to buy space in hymn books, calendars, etc., in order that the Church may get its publicity "free." Unless the Church is sold to its own advertising program and willing to back it up, not much good will come from it.

The Chicago Church Federation is now assembling what is to be the largest display of church advertising in the world. The display will have headquarters in Chicago but will be made up of the most successful and carefully prepared advertising material from all parts of

the United States. The display will be exhibited in various parts of the country.

HARVEY, ILL.

FACTS AND FIGURES

By E. J. FLEMING

According to statistics furnished by an exchange, the Republic of Brazil, South America, in 1872 showed that in its vast population over 84 per cent could neither read nor write. In 1920 the census gave a population of 30,635,605, and of that number over fourteen years of age, only 75 per cent were illiterate. While the decrease in illiteracy is not much, it presents an encouraging outlook, and speaks well for Protestant missions.

The *Presbyterian* of September 2, gives the following statistics as the record for the past year of the Presbyterian Church:

Total communicant membership ..	1,909,111
Added on examination	110,715
Added by letter	71,959
Restored to roll	12,055
Loss by death	26,370
(From sleeping sickness at Elat, Africa, 5,000)	
Other losses	126,461
Net increase in membership	35,252
Total contributions	\$61,186,722
Congregational \$44,731,062	
Benevolence 16,063,742	
Per capita gifts	\$32.57

The report of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church shows the following figures at the end of the fiscal year, August 1926:

Total Receipts (Exclusive of Women's Boards)	\$1,246,619.35
Disbursements	1,246,125.93

The receipts show a loss of \$5,627.37 in gifts from individual friends over the preceding year. Sunday school and young people's societies fell off \$2,538.51. The total debt of the Board is \$213,242.14.

The following figures are gleaned from the tri-annual report of the United Presbyterian Church concerning its work in Egypt:

There are 106 churches besides 231 additional preaching places, and 45 congregations that are self-supporting. They report 17,320 members who contribute \$109,039.00, equivalent to about \$6.50 per member. These contributions paid over 90 per cent of the expenditures of the Church.

The United Presbyterian missionaries first visited Abyssinia in 1919 and in 1922 it was recognized by the Church as a chief mission field. Three cities are now occupied as stations. There are three hospitals and eight schools with over 200 pupils. Abyssinia has an estimated population of 10,000,000, one-half of whom belong to the Abyssinian Church.

In 1925 snakes caused the death of 19,308 persons in British India. The annual loss for many years has been approximated at 20,000. Wild animals destroy 2,500 more. In the twelve months of 1925, there were reported killed 31,000 snakes and more than one-half that number of wild animals, including 4,660 leopards and 1,600 tigers.

The population of India is estimated at 318,942,480. In the average 1,000 of population, there are 386 Hindus, 217 Mohammedans, 37 Buddhists, 15 Christians, and 31 of different tribal religions.

Poland has a Jewish population of 4,000,000; Russia, 3,600,000, while the United States has a larger Jewish population than any other country in the world as reported by an authority on Jewish statistics.

We gleaned from a recent exchange the following paragraph:

"Rev. A. A. Walsh, the wayside evangelist, baptized in the international waters of St. John's River, 100 persons in one hour on September 5. According to this, the 12 disciples could baptize 1,200 in one hour or 3,000 in less than three hours.

The following is taken from the *Free Methodist*:

"A liquor subsidized press is constantly harping upon the demoralization of the students and youth of America through drink. The matter is stressed in order to create sentiment against the Eighteenth Amendment on the assumption that liquor drinking and lawlessness are worse under the Amendment than they were under the license system. As usual, the facts give the lie to the statement. At a recent hearing on prohibition before the Senate committee, Mr. R. H. Rolofson, executive secretary of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, submitted evidence proving the following facts:

1. That there is less drinking among college students today than there was prior to the coming of the Eighteenth Amendment.

2. That the spirit of adventure, for the most

part, prompts such of the drinking as remains.

3. That conditions surrounding students in college communities today are more conducive to sobriety than they were previous to prohibition.

4. That an overwhelming majority of college presidents, professors and students feel that prohibition has justified itself.

Under the last point the following surprising statistics were given. They are so significant that they deserve the widest publicity.

1. *Should the Eighteenth Amendment be rigidly enforced?*

Mt. Holyoke College group	97% YES
Stanford University group	94% YES
University of Minnesota group	88% YES
Connecticut College group	87% YES
University of Michigan group	84% YES
Washington Square, N. Y. U. group	80% YES
Smith College group	70% YES
Education, N. Y. U. group	68% YES
Amherst College group	64% YES
University of Texas group	64% YES
University of North Carolina	72% YES
Commerce N. Y. U. group	55% YES
Average of all college groups surveyed	77% YES

2. *Should the Eighteenth Amendment be abolished?*

University of Minnesota group	90% NO
Mt. Holyoke group	83% NO
University of Michigan group	82% NO
University of N. C. group	81% NO
Connecticut College group	70% NO
Smith College group	70% NO
Stanford University group	69% NO
Education, N. Y. U. group	68% NO
University of Texas group	68% NO
Commerce, N. Y. U. group	56% NO
Amherst College group	50% NO
Washington Square, N. Y. U. group	57% NO
Average of all college groups surveyed	69% NO

"In all the expressions of opinion by student bodies in the past two years only four colleges, so far as is known, have voted for a return of beer and wine, and none for stronger drinks. These four are all east of the Hudson river. One university daily this year, and a few others previously, have taken a similar position; these, too are in the East. But the overwhelming opinion of the American students so far as editorial comment, straw votes, resolutions and other public expressions go, is in favor of retaining and observing the present prohibition law."

A PREACHER'S Working Library

A preacher will to a certain extent follow his own tastes and inclinations in selecting books to use as source material for sermons but there are some books that every preacher should have at his elbow to use constantly as a Reference or Working Library. A list of such books is given here.

Clarke's Commentaries (6 vol.)	\$15.00
Matthew Henry's Commentaries (6 vol.)	17.50
Bible Commentary (1 vol.) by J. F. & B.	3.50
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance	7.50
Cruden's Concordance	2.25
Treasury of Scripture Knowledge	3.00
Palouhet's Bible Dictionary	2.50
Nave's Topical Bible	7.50
One Thousand Evangelistic Illustrations	1.50
Funeral Sermons and Outlines	1.50
Pastor's Funeral Manual	1.75
Advertising the Church	1.25
Historical Geography of Holy Land	2.00
Moffatt's New Test. (Parallel Edition)	2.50

Preacher's Requisites

We list here some of the items in which preachers may be interested either for personal or church use. If you do not find in this list the particular article you have in mind, please drop us a line about it. We can furnish anything on the market at manufacturer's or publisher's prices.

COMMUNION SERVICES

Pastor's Individual Communion Outfit. Contains tray of six glasses, flask and bread plate; all in handy Morocco leather case, size 6½x2½x3½ in. Price \$8.25. For prices and description of regular individual Communion material send for special circular and price list.

COLLECTION PLATES

We have a substantial wicker collection basket in two sizes: No. 1, 10 inches in diameter; 3 in. deep, \$1.25. No. 3, 7 in. in diameter; 2 in. deep, \$.75.

Aluminum Collection Plate. 10 in. in diameter, finished in imitation walnut, baked enamel. A substantial, economical plate with walnut appearance; push bottom. Price \$3.60.

MISCELLANEOUS

Book Rack. For Bibles and hymn books. Made of plain oak with dark, golden oak finish. Size 24 in. long. Price each \$1.00. Challenge Dictionary Holder. For large dictionary or for large Strong's or Young's Concordance. Complete description furnished on request. Price \$8.50 plus transportation.

Envelope Holder. To be attached to backs of pews or chairs. No. 18. Oxidized Copper finish. Inside dimensions, 2½ in. wide by 2¼ in. deep. Per 100, \$12.00.

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, 2923 TROOST AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MO.

Pastor's Funeral Outfit. Consists of Manual and four small hymn books all in neat cloth case with clasp and handle. If complete manual is not desired the Manual and song books may be had separately. Complete Outfit, \$2.90.

Funeral Manual. Contains 260 pages with Scripture selections, poetical quotations, sermon outlines, committal services also 78 pages of appropriate hymns. Bound in flexible morocco leather. \$1.75.

Hymns of Hope. These little hymn books contain the same hymns found in the Funeral Manual. Bound in limp cloth. Each .25.

Pastor's Pocket Record. Used by pastors of all denominations. Has space for recording following items: 63 church officers; 714 members; 6426 pastoral calls; 42 communion services; 126 baptisms; 84 marriages; 105 funerals; 273 sermons; 63 addresses; 168 new members; texts suggested; themes for consideration; new books; engagements; money received and how disbursed, etc. .75.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

Suitable for framing; all printed in attractive colors.	
No. 81. 12x15 in.	\$.25
No. 82. 14x17 in.	.35
No. 84. 15x20 in.	.40
No. 88. 11x14 in.	.20
No. 87. 11x14 in.	.20
No. 88. Folder style. 6¼x10. With envelope	.25
No. 80. Folder style. 6¼x10. With envelope	.25
No. 167. 12x16 in.	.15

WEDDING BOOKLETS

A Token of Our Wedding. Size 3x7 in. Twelve pages with colored decorations; appropriate Scripture quotations. Each in envelope. .25.

Our Wedding Day. Size 5¼x7¼ in. A beautiful 12 page booklet printed in harmonious colors. Each in envelope. .40.

Bridal Bells. Size 5¼x7¼ in. A dainty book with choice designs; artistic coloring and best quality paper; 16 pages with board binding. Each in box .75.

Our Wedding Book No. 2. Size 8¼x10¼ in. Rare designs with coloring in water color effect. Covers of fine vellum stock. A decidedly distinctive book of 24 pages. Each in box \$2.50.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

No. 1A. For Adults, 13x15½ in.	\$.25
No. 1C. For Children, 13x15½ in.	.25
No. 171. For Children, 12x16 in.	.25
No. 177. For Children, 12x16 in.	.15
No. 178. For Children, 9¼x12¼.	.15
Each .071 per doz.	.75

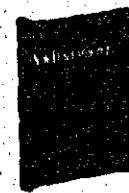
BAPTISMAL BOOKLET

No. 5B. Very pretty and convenient. Eight pages and covers; Beautiful color work. For children only. Each .25; per doz. \$2.75.

LOOSE-LEAF BINDERS

We can furnish all styles and sizes of loose leaf binders suitable for pocket note books, sermon notes, solo books, etc., etc. Write for prices.

Oxford Testament and Psalms



Here is good news for every one who would like to obtain a specially high-grade Oxford New Testament and Psalms at a remarkably low price. Through a special arrangement with the Oxford University Press, publishers of the famous Oxford Bibles, we have secured a limited supply of these beautifully-bound Oxford India paper New Testaments and Psalms (King James Authorized Version). The instant we saw a copy we knew we would quickly dispose of all we could secure. In every regard they are the last word in bookmaking, and best of all, they cost no more than the ordinary kind because of the special arrangement we have been able to make.

SPECIMEN OF TYPE

Follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men.
30 And they straightway left
their nets, and followed him.
31 And going on from thence,
he saw other two brethren,
James the son of Zebedee, and

spirit: for theirs is the king-
dom of heaven.
4 Blessed are they that
mourn: for they shall be com-
forted.
5 Blessed are the meek: for
they shall inherit the earth.

SPECIAL FEATURES

THE BINDING—The soft, antique-grained French Morocco leather cover is as pleasant to the touch as it is to the sight. The fine-grained leather lining of the cover adds to the flexibility of the binding. It is sewed with silk, and pure gold has been used on the edges. The headbands and bookmark are of silk.

THE TYPE—No effort to read this wonderfully clear, black-faced type. No broken letters or worn type, proper spacing between type lines and careful printing, are the reasons why this Oxford Testament, in addition to the heavy face of the type, is so easy to read.

THE PAPER—The famous Oxford India paper, conceded by all to be the thinnest and most opaque paper used in Bible making, has been used. In these Oxford Testaments the print does not show through and the pages can be turned easily.

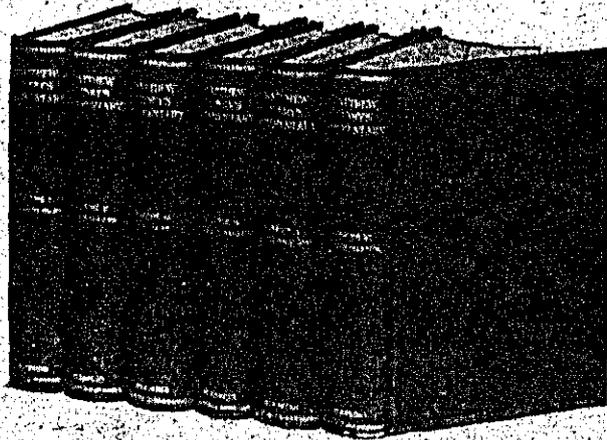
Page size 4½x6¼; only 5-16 in. thick; weight 5 oz.

If you are not entirely satisfied when you see this beautiful volume, return it and your money will be promptly refunded.

No. 0417x Our Price \$3.60

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Matthew Henry's Commentary
On the Whole Bible
A Storehouse of Biblical Information



Today, in the guise of Science, the Bible is being fiercely attacked on every hand. Its infallibility is questioned through the voice of Higher Criticism. Is, then, Christianity on trial before the world today? Will coming generations subscribe to a new faith?

Never since the dawn of Christianity has there been a greater need for true believers in the Word of God to hold fast to their faith; never a more urgent need for a clear, intelligent understanding of the Bible as *right now—TODAY!*—What the world lacks is old-fashioned devotion—staunch beliefs—the inspiration that can be found only in God's Word. After the strife of criticism it is a relief to find comfort in the calm, helpful interpretations of Matthew Henry, whose Commentary is second only to the Bible itself.

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Please send me, prepaid, the 6 vol. set of "Matthew Henry's Commentary." If I am not satisfied I will return the set in good condition at the end of seven days, you to return my money. Otherwise I agree to send you \$3.00 per month until the purchase price (\$18.50) is paid in full.

Name

Address

I enclose \$5.00 as first payment.

I enclose \$17.50 cash payment for set.

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

SEND \$5.00 NOW

Balance on Easy Payments

Fill out and mail coupon and we will send you, express prepaid, the full 6 vol. set of "Matthew Henry's Commentary." If you are not delighted with the books—if for any reason at all you do not wish to keep them—return the set in good condition at the end of seven days and we will refund your \$5.00. If you keep them, pay \$3.00 per month, total cost of set being \$18.50. If you prefer to pay cash send only \$12.50 balance.

The
Preacher's Magazine

VOL. I NO. 12

DECEMBER, 1926

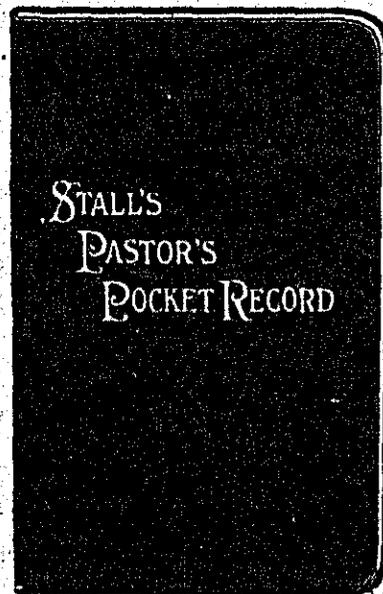
WHOLE NO. 12



THE MASTER PREACHER
"Lovest thou me . . . feed my sheep."

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

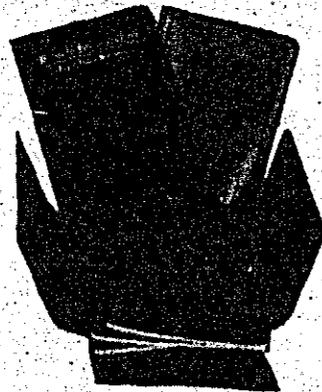
Pastor's Pocket Record



Used by the pastors of all denominations and acknowledged as the best and most thorough record published. It is an indispensable book for every pastor who values method and thoroughness in his work. This record affords space for 63 church officers, 714 members, 6,426 pastoral calls, directly or indirectly; 42 Communion seasons, 126 baptisms, 84 marriages, 105 funerals, 273 sermons, 63 addresses, 108 new members, text suggestions, themes for consideration, new books, engagements, money received and how disbursed, etc.

Prepaid, 75c

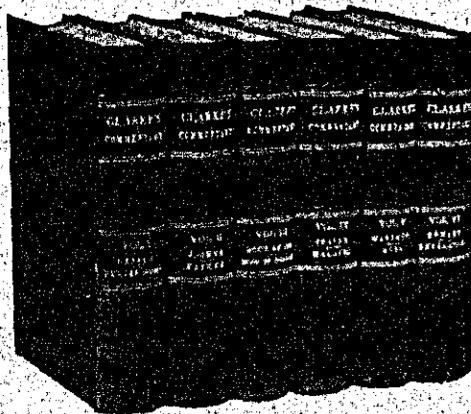
MANUAL FOR FUNERAL OCCASIONS



The most complete funeral service equipment published. The manual is a handsome volume of 260 pages, containing Scripture selections, poetical quotations, sermon outlines by fifty authors, committal services, Scriptural benedictions, etc., including seventy-eight pages of choice music from "Hymns of Hope," all elegantly bound in durable, flexible morocco. The Manual is accompanied by four separate copies of "Hymns of Hope," for the use of the singers. These are all enclosed in a neat crepe-cloth carton, which easily fits the pocket. The set complete \$2.90

The Manual, separate, flexible morocco, 260 pages \$1.75

CLARKE'S COMMENTARY



Copies of the original notes without revision or abridgment. The set consists of six large volumes approximating 950 pages each. Binding is of cloth, neat and durable. The full text of the Bible is given with the footnotes. Printing is in clear, readable type on fine-finished paper. This set of Commentaries will prove of inestimable value to every earnest teacher, desirous of doing the best work possible.

Price, \$15.00 (transportation extra)

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE, 2923 TROOST AVE., KANSAS CITY, MO.

The Preacher's Magazine

A monthly journal devoted to the interests of those who preach the full gospel

J. B. Chapman, Editor

Published monthly by the Nazarene Publishing House, 2923 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo., maintained by and in the interest of the Church of the Nazarene. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized December 30, 1925.

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER, 1926

NUMBER 12

THE PREACHING SPIRIT

Two weeks ago I waited for the completion of the "preliminaries," I suddenly awakened to the realization that I was not in the proper "spirit" to preach on the subject of the morning. I had my material very well in hand and knew very well what I expected to say. I had no doubt but that I would "preach a good sermon," as such matters are commonly measured among us. But I was pained at the reminder that my theme was much "beyond" me, from the standpoint of feeling and preparation of spirit. I would soon be preaching on love, but my own heart was rather cool. I would be talking about the fullness of the Holy Spirit, but my own situation was somewhat "common place." What was I to do? If I had been utterly without any thing to say, as I was without the proper spirit for saying it, I would have asked that the time be given to testimonies and that preaching be postponed for some other occasion. But as it was, I could not very well do that. So I lifted my heart in earnest prayer and repentance and contrition and promise of better conduct for the future, and God did hear me and help me to a goodly measure of the melting, unctuous touch which I so much desired.

Describing my experience of two weeks ago, I would not think of my sense of lack in terms of guilt, but I simply felt "secular" and "earthy" and professional. I felt more like a sermon deliverer than like a message bearer. I was more of a preacher than a prophet.

But one day last week I was exceedingly busy all day and came up to the time when I was to preach to a small group in a cottage meeting, and I came there uncertain as to what I should say. However, I was in "the preaching spirit." I was not hilarious, rather I was burdened and careful and almost depressed. Nevertheless, I "felt" like preaching, and I did preach the simple substance of my quickly gathered sermon effectively.

And all this has set me to thinking. Many times I have been asked to preach a certain sermon which I have preached somewhere else and have mentally agreed to do so, but when the hour arrived I found I was not "in the spirit" to preach on that theme at all. By some attention to my "feelings" in such matters, I have found that I must never preach on hell when I feel at all indifferent, that I must never preach on the Judgment when I have the slightest semblance of resentment, that I cannot preach on repentance when I am in any thing of a light vein, and that I cannot preach on sin when I am unmoved. As a matter of fact, "the spirit" I find myself in at preaching time has many times decided me as to the theme I should use. I can preach on doctrine—especially on the doctrine of holiness—when I cannot preach on any thing else, so I have just about decided to preach holiness all the times I preach except those times when I especially "feel like" preaching on something else.

But our main thought here is to emphasize the importance of "the preaching spirit," and to suggest that aside from material, texts, outlines and illustrations, it takes lots of prayer, lots of genuine praying through, and lots of holy living to qualify one for preaching the Gospel as it ought to be preached. The preacher must not only be saved from wicked things, but he must keep away from the smell of materialism and secularism and keep the odor of devotion, heavenly-mindedness, and the personal sense of prophetic ordainment upon him in order to be a real preacher.

THE PREACHER'S GRAVEYARD

LOVE and appreciation for one's work are elements which make for success, no matter what the calling in life; but these factors are indispensable with the preacher. We smile sometimes at the enthusiasm of "the young preacher," who thinks his people the finest there are and who thinks there are opportunities in his little village beyond those claimed for the metropolis. But his enamoredness for his work will produce a zeal and freshness which will make him succeed, while the staid old pulpiteer to whom preaching is a common place occupation will lose his crowd and lose his crown.

When romance dies the preacher dies. Romance is to the preacher what oil is to the machinery, and when it dies the preacher will feel the friction and the wear and tear of his life. He will be conscious of his sacrifices and will be hurt by his disappointments. He will be exacting in his requirements and dissatisfied with his remunerations. He will never be "at his best" any more, because he will never find a situation that is fully deserving of his best.

The romance of the preacher's calling never died in those preachers who served well their own day and generation. "Paul the aged" never ceased to marvel that "to me, who am less than the least of all saints this grace is given." Spurgeon testified that he never entered the pulpit without being so affected as that his knees smote together. Whitefield arose from his bed of final sickness and preached until the candle which he held in his hand burned low, all the time realizing that this would be his last time to speak to men on any subject. And the most used "soldiers of the cross" have asked for nothing better than that they should be privileged to "die in the harness." These men were so enamored of their work that they asked for no better companion in death than that they should be allowed to preach and die during the same hour. Preacher, young or old, if your work as a preacher of the Gospel no longer thrills you, you better select your graveyard, for you will need one, typically, if not physically, very soon.

HOW MANY BOOKS DO YOU READ IN A YEAR?

The Eastern Oklahoma District of the Church of the Nazarene in its recent annual Assembly passed resolutions requiring ministers to report at the next Assembly the number of books read during the year. And in discussing the matter, one minister was heard to voice objections to the requirement and to assert that he himself had not read any books during the year. Fortunately we do not know who the minister was who made this remark, for on that account we can speak the more freely about the matter. But any way, all we were going to say is that we think that a minister who can go a year without reading any books is already a long way on the road to permanent failure and that when the church sets him aside while he is yet in the prime of his physical life, because, like a passing tree, he is "dead at the top," he will have no one to blame but himself.

But as we have thought of the matter today, it has occurred to us that it might be just a little embarrassing if every preacher were required to report the number of books read each year; for many who read some do not read very much. We have heard it said that a writer who does not read will soon cease to be read, and we believe that a preacher who does not read and hear will soon cease to be heard.

Of course the question of what books the preacher should read is a difficult one, and with the best of care, he will have to read a good many books which will not yield much profit. But these considerations call for more, rather than for less reading.

It does look like any preacher ought to be able to buy or borrow one book a month and read it thoroughly. One young preacher read twenty-one books last year and was ashamed that he had read no more. Two preachers of our acquaintance make it a rule to read a book a week, and we know two who have set themselves to read four books every week of the year. We are not anxious to set a certain standard. Some will naturally read more than others. But we are anxious that no preacher should be satisfied who does not make some worthwhile efforts along this line.

DEVOTIONAL

LETTERS ON PREACHING

By A. M. HILLS.

XI. The Textual Sermon

WHEN we use the text not only to give us our theme, but also the divisions of the sermon, largely in the very words of the text, we have the textual sermon. Not infrequently some of the divisions are more or less implied logically but are not explicitly stated. Then it becomes a textual-inferential sermon.

Sometimes the thoughts of the text are brought out fairly and faithfully by the discussion, while they are not stated very definitely in the exact language of the text. It is still a textual sermon, but its variety is textual-topical.

I. The textual sermon should commend itself to every true man of God because of its reverent loyalty to the holy Word. The preacher is not preaching man's theories and opinions, but God's. The average audience will not be slow in finding it out. They will instinctively know that the preacher has put himself in the right place before them—as God's messenger, God's ambassador. It will tend to make them sit up and listen to what God has to say to them.

1. The textual sermon in its simplest form may unfold the text clause by clause, or even word by word. Some fifty years ago Dr. Deems was a prominent pastor of New York City. He preached on Rom. 6:21. His theme was "Characteristics of a Sinful Life." (a). Its Barrenness. "What fruit have ye?" (b). Its Slavery. "Slaves of sin" (v. 17), "Servants to uncleanness" (v. 19), "Slaves of sin" (v. 20). (c). Its Shamefulness. "Ye are now ashamed." (d). Its Destructiveness. "The end of those things is death." That is noble preaching on a neglected theme.

Sixty years ago F. W. Robertson's sermons were moving the English speaking world. He usually had two main divisions to his sermons, and subdivisions. Here is a specimen:

"THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER."

TEXT—Matt. 13:1-9.

I. The Causes of Failure:

1. Want of spiritual perception—the "wayside" hearer.
2. Want of depth of character—"Stony places."
3. Dissipating influences—"Thorns."

II. Requirements for permanence of religious impressions:

1. Sincerity—"An honest and good heart" (Luke 8:15).
2. Meditation—"Keep it" (Luke 8:15).
3. Endurance—"With patience" (Luke 8:15).

We heard a very able female preacher in England, Mary A. Hatch, discourse from the text Ps. 145:16, "Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

THEME, "GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE."

- I. It is God's own personal care—"Thou."
- II. He does it easily. "Openest thy hand." How easily we can do that!
- III. Abundantly provides—"Satisfieth the desire of every living thing." "Enough for each; enough for all, Enough forevermore."

What could be more appropriate or scriptural? Take the remarkable words of Jesus in Matt. 11:28-30; "Come unto me all ye that labor" etc. Theme, Christ's Rest for a Sin-burdened Humanity.

- I. All humanity is bearing the crushing burden of sin. "Labour"—"Heavy laden."
- II. An infinite, divine Person is the world's only hope—"Come unto Me." "I will give." No other religion like that. No other founder of a religion ever did or could speak so.
- III. The Savior offers Himself to all humanity. "Come unto Me." "Learn of Me." "All ye."
- IV. "Take my yoke upon you." All must serve some superior being—God or Satan! Which?
- V. Only in Christ's service can rest be found. "Ye shall find rest to your souls."

Such textual preaching is directly calculated to introduce a sinful soul to God. If the text is skillfully treated the divine Voice is heard in every paragraph.

This kind of sermonizing depends in a general way upon three things:

1. On the nature of the text. Not all texts can be so developed; but multitudes can be, and ought to be.

2. On the preacher's analytical skill. He must be able to discern the different lines of truth, and which should precede, and which should follow in the natural sequence of thought. The text, the theme and the sermon should be a harmonious whole. The mine of truth must not be "salted" with some extraneous matter, some foreign human element, which God did not put there.

3. The preacher should have a spiritual perception, a certain divine insight which only the Holy Spirit can give to sense the mind of God, and know what He would teach to men. This is no far-fetched and human notion. The true preacher ought to be able to say with St. Paul: "Now we have not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things which were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual." "We have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:12-16).

Really Spirit-filled preachers will not be likely to read into texts of Scripture wild fads and foolish vagaries of their own invention. They have too profound and reverent a respect for the Word of God to allow themselves to do it.

II. *The textual-inferential sermon is an advance upon the proper textual sermon.*

1. It holds fast to the thought and spirit of the text, and many of the words, but at times draws logical inferences which, when stated, are undeniable and irresistible. The force of this kind of sermon depends on the clearness and cogency of the reasoning. It is, in the hands of an acute reasoner, and a keenly logical mind, a mighty weapon of truth.

2. Not all texts admit of this kind of treatment. In many texts the truths are stated so plainly and completely that there is left no call nor necessity for inferences. But this is not always so, as we shall see.

3. When the text is of the right order and the preacher has an astute and legal mind, such as Charles G. Finney had in an eminent degree, this kind of a sermon is most impressive. We listened to that spiritual giant four years when

a student in college, and some of the impressions of awe which he produced, like the voice of God on Sinai, linger with us yet after fifty-eight years and will go with us into eternity.

Dr. Pattison, in his *Homiletics*, mentions "the tremendous force of Jonathan Edwards in 'wrath upon the wicked to the uttermost which lay in the resistless logic of a series of conclusions, drawn straight from the text.'" He adds, "The same holds true of the addresses of C. G. Finney, in which the passionate emotion of the preacher quenches his logical acumen no more than the ripening vines of Vesuvius quench the fires burning at its heart." Well do we remember such scenes. He would discuss a text in all its bearings, and then close with "a few remarks" in which he would draw his logical inferences like chain-lightning, which were sometimes indescribable in their effects.

An illustration of logical inferences may be given in the last text from which John Wesley preached—Isaiah 55:6-7, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found: Call ye upon him while he is near," etc.

I. The logical inference is that by nature we are *all-away from God*. Else, why are we commanded to "seek" Him? This is true to all human history and all saving truth. Sin separates us from God and "all have sinned."

II. Seek God *while* He may be found. The irresistible inference is that there is a time in every moral being's career when God cannot be found. The dead line will be crossed and mercy will be gone forever. When, then, shall we seek God? (a) In early life. I saw a boy yesterday who was converted at four years of age. He is just twelve, and two weeks ago had a definite call to the ministry. That is God's time and way. (b) Seek God when God is seeking you. (c) Seek God when others are finding Him.

III. In what way shall we seek Him?

(a) By repentance, v. 7.

(b) By faith, v. 7.

IV. In what Spirit?

"With all your heart."—Appeal.

I know this outline is in harmony with God's truth and will work, for I have won six hundred and eighty-six souls by the use of it myself.

III. The textual-topical sermon combines a close adherence to the thought of the text in the sermon-outline with a freedom in range of discussion. There is a careful analysis of the

text to find the mind of God; and then a *synthesis* of the arrangement of the thoughts suggested, in that form most adapted to the preacher's mental constitution. No two pulpit orators are alike, either in their original endowments or their reading and education, or in their experiences and observations. So there will be a large human element in their sermons and no two will be alike.

In this kind of a sermon often the thought rather than the words of the text receive the chief attention, and there is a large liberty in the discussion. "The thoughts which constitute the divisions are found partly in the text and partly elsewhere."

In such a sermon there should be a steady and purposed progress and development of the divine thought to a definite and intended conclusion, toward which the whole sermon moves from the beginning to the end.

A preacher who is drifting over the seas of human thought in his address, with no intended port in view or purpose, beginning anywhere and ending nowhere, is not preaching at all. He is simply wasting time, making some vapid remarks, himself a disgrace to his profession and an insult to Christ.

Dr. Pattison thinks that more than any other,

"the textual-topical method insures freshness and variety in the sermon. The mind of the preacher is indeed held in wholesome subjection to the words of the text and yet at the same time it ranges freely about the central thought." There is an ample opportunity for eloquence in this method combined with a marked regard for and adherence to the message of God.

We may conclude by saying that *textual preaching* is to be most heartily commended. It tends to keep the preacher in his true place as an ambassador for Christ. It cultivates in him a profound reverence for the truth of God's Word. It makes the people feel that God is speaking to them through the preacher's lips. It furnishes a vast variety and freshness in the pulpit ministrations; for the texts are innumerable with an ever-changing setting in the contexts. The Bible, carefully, lovingly studied and faithfully preached, is inexhaustible, and the prayerful servant of God will never lack for messages from the King to His people.

The famous Dr. A. A. Alexander wrote: "Learn to preach textual sermons. The mistake of my early ministry was in preaching almost solely on topics. If you preach textual sermons you won't be apt to preach out." Faithful, prayerful textual preaching is the royal road to long pastorates and a fruitful ministry.

HINTS TO FISHERMEN

By C. E. CORNELL

Bishop Edgar Blake, writing from Europe, to the *Christian Advocate*, New York, on "Is Protestantism Dying in Europe," makes some startling statements that ought to be carefully noted by the readers of this Magazine:

"The religious situation of Europe, as a whole, is a situation without a parallel in the world today. So far as I know, there has never been anything quite like it in the history of organized Christianity."

"The World War profoundly altered the whole life and outlook of Europe. The awful holocaust that swept the continent from 1914 to 1918 left it broken and bankrupt. The people were impoverished, their morale broken, and their hopes blighted. The total political, economic, and social fabric was weakened and worn to the breaking

point. Loads that before the war were undreamed of, were laid upon the people. It may interest you to know that the nations that were our allies in the war must now pay the United States a million dollars a day every day for the next sixty-two years. This is only a bagatelle of the burdens the coming generations of Europe must bear."

"The middle classes of Europe were ruined through financial reverses brought about by the war. Their salaries lost their purchasing power; their savings were swept away. Their station in life was completely reversed. No social group has suffered so immeasurably as they. The middle classes were the backbone of Europe Protestantism. Financial reverses have resulted in a depression of spirit, a lowered morale, and a loss

of spiritual vision and vitality. There were 781,000 withdrawals from the membership of the Protestant churches of Germany in three years. There were 60,000 such withdrawals in Berlin alone in twelve months. The number of theological students in the schools of Germany has been reduced to less than one half of what it was in 1913."

"The Roman Catholics constitute today one of the most compact and powerful political blocs in the Balkans. The hand of Rome is now one of the most powerful forces in southeastern Europe."

"Before the war the Polish people were distributed among Protestant Germany, Orthodox Russia, and Catholic Austria. As a result of the war the Polish republic was created with a population of 30,000,000 people, almost entirely Roman Catholic. Poland is now the largest Roman Catholic country in Europe."

THREE STRIKING DEFINITIONS

The Standard Dictionary gives the following:

REDEEM—"To regain possession of by paying a price,—purchase back, repurchase. To recover from captivity or from a liability to be wholly lost or alienated. Hence to rescue in any way, to deliver—save. (Theology) to rescue from sin and its consequences."

SANCTIFICATION—"The act or process of sanctifying, or the state of being sanctified; specifically, in theology, the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer is freed from sin and exalted to holiness of heart and life; distinguished from regeneration and justification."

In Roman Catholic theology it is the cleansing of the soul from sin together with the in-pouring of sanctifying grace, and the three theological virtues—faith, hope, charity."

PURIFY—"To free from admixture with foreign or vitiating elements. To make clean or pure, as to purify the blood, to purify silver. In theology, to free from sin or its defilement as to purify the heart. (Synonyms) clarify, clean, cleanse, filter, make pure, refine. (Antonyms) Contaminate, corrupt, debase, defile, deprave, infect, make foul, poison, taint, vitiate."

CHARISM

There are seven distinct charisms named in the Scriptures. Prophecy, ministering, teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, and showing mercy. All these functions were inspired, and were ex-

ercised, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in the service of the church.

A "charism" is a gift of power bestowed by the Holy Spirit for use in the propagation of truth or the edification of the church. Sometimes added to, and heightening natural endowments.

NEVER GRASP A HOT POKER

There's a time to part and a time to meet,
There's a time to sleep and a time to eat.
There's a time to work and a time to play,
There's a time to sing and a time to pray,
There's a time that's glad and a time that's blue,
There's a time to plan and a time to do,
There's a time to grip and to show your grit,
But there never was a time to quit.

—Florida Power and Light Magazine.

WRITE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

The following suggestive poem can be memorized and repeated with telling effect in connection with a Sunday night evangelistic sermon.

If you have a gray-haired mother

In the old home far away,
Sit down and write the letter
You put off day by day.

Don't wait until her tired steps
Reach heaven's pearly gate—

But show her that you think of her,
Before it is too late.

If you have a tender message,

Or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it,
But whisper it to-day.

Who knows what bitter memories
May haunt you if you wait?

So make your loved ones happy
Before it is too late.

We live but in the present,

The future is unknown—
Tomorrow is a mystery,
To-day is all our own.

The chance that fortune lends to us
May vanish while we wait,
So spend your life's rich treasure
Before it is too late.

The tender words unspoken,

The letter never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent.

For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some loved ones wait—
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.

N. G. O.

(Not Generally Observed):

Deut. 22:5-6.	1 Kings 8:46.
Ecl. 5:1, 2.	1 Chron 12:1, 2, 8.
Ecl. 5:12.	Psa. 118:8. (Middle verse)
Ecl. 5:19, 20.	Ecl. 1:7. [of the Bible].
Ecl. 7:20.	Prov. 30:18, 19.
Ecl. 9:14, 15.	Ecl. 10:20.
Joshua 1:2.	Prov. 30:33.

Take your Bible and find these Scriptures and select a text for a sermon.

"IN THAT NIGHT"

Dan. 5:30.

The very night of the drunken, profane feast, the Medlans under Darius and the Persians under Cyrus, had, by digging a canal, turned the river Euphrates from its bed, and, passing along the dry channel, turned towards the city, and, passing through the open gates along the water side, the great Babylon was theirs. It does not seem that there was any resistance. The inspired prophet Jeremiah predicted the outcome: "The mighty men of Babylon have foreborne to fight, they have remained in their holds; their might hath failed; they became as women; they have burned her dwelling places; her bars are broken. One post shall run to meet another, to show the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end" (Jeremiah 51:30, 31).

How could there have been any resistance when a thousand leaders were drinking themselves drunk, debauching themselves in profanity against the God of heaven? And here too we have the fulfillment of the prophecy: "And I will make drunk her princes and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men; and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, sayeth the king, whose name is the Lord of Hosts" (Jeremiah 51:57).

The record of the end is terse—"Was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." By whose hand and in what manner we know not; but it is probable that it was while he was in the festal hall, and it may be while he was intoxicated with excess of wine with the curse of God upon him: "No drunkard shall inherit

the kingdom of God." He was suddenly destroyed, and that without remedy. That night they slew him upon his father's throne; The deed unnoticed, and the hand unknown: Crownless and scepterless Belshazzar lay, A robe of purple round a form of clay.

"DIED, OF PRELIMINARIES"

I wonder how they will start a meeting in heaven! Will they do it always the same way? If not, a lot of Methodist preachers are going to have a hard time.

Night after night, hope springs afresh in the human heart, burning with a message and a chance to speak it to waiting audiences. Ask any missionary or other special speaker. I hopefully approach the pastor. "May we not make the introduction very brief tonight, brother?" I suggest.

"Certainly, certainly."

And then he waits fifteen minutes to be sure they are all there, sings three hymns to give the stragglers a chance, has a long prayer, a responsive reading, a solo and an introductory address. Forty-five minutes gone, a week-night audience weary and longing for home, a message discounted fifty per cent before the first word is uttered.

I implored a pastor at a Sunday evening meeting to please, please make it short, I really had something to say. Certainly he would make it short, but it took him fifty-five minutes to do so, and when I arose the people were beginning to go out. I wanted to myself. "Not many came at night," he said. I should think not.

I remember how when a young pastor, occasional lecturers expressed profuse gratitude for opportunity to begin after preliminaries that never occupied more than five minutes. I have come to understand it since I have become the victim of the pastor's propensity for form.

I have hinted, requested, begged and implored, I have felt like locking the preacher in the parsonage and taking charge myself, but to no purpose. It has to be done. And tonight I will hopefully ask the brother if he can't make it short, and he will cheerfully promise to do so, and then use up a half hour of my time.

Some time I will find somewhere a man who can really put across a short preliminary and I will mention him most favorably to Saint Peter, if I ever get a chance, after the preliminaries are over.

—BISHOP GEORGE A. MILLER.

AN OUTLINE OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

When we think of various massive two-volume tomes of systematic theology which ornament and usually gather dust upon ministerial book shelves throughout the country, the above outline may seem rather short. It is short. It is also sufficient. In fact, it is considerably longer than the outline of systematic theology drawn up by one of the Church's greatest theologians—Saint Paul. He produced a sufficient outline of theology in eleven words—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

—H. E. Luccock.

THE THRILL OF A HAND-CLASP

Jesus "took him by the hand!" This was one of the wonderful secrets of the Redeemer's power over human hearts. Touch—a personal touch, symbol of heart-sympathy—is a key which unlocks many an imprisoned life. A sweet example of it was seen in the Earl of Shaftesbury, as he went on his ministry of love among London criminals. One who was reformed dated his uplift to his intercourse with the Earl.

"What did he say to you?" asked one.

"Oh, it was not so much what he said, as what he did. He took my hand, and said: 'Jack, we'll make a man of you yet.' It was the touch that did it."

Daniel Webster went out from his country home to Boston to study law. He entered, without invitation, the office of Christopher Gore, then at the head of the Massachusetts bar. He was regarded as an intruder, and nobody paid him any attention. One day Rufus King saw the solitary student, and shook him warmly by the hand, and said:

"I know your father well. Be studious, and you will win. If you want any assistance or advice, come to me."

Webster said when he was sixty years old that he still felt the warm pressure of the hand.

When Peter took the lame man "by the right hand, and lifted him up, immediately his feet and ankle-bones received strength; and, leaping up, stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:7, 8).

It was an easy thing to take a man by the hand, and if the hand has a heart behind it, and the clasp is of the heart as well as hand, what wonder if by it men are uplifted and helped and saved!

CIVILIZATION AND WILDERNESS

The epic task of the nineteenth century in America was to make a path for civilization across the wilderness. The ironical discovery of the twentieth century is that civilization itself may be a wilderness. It inevitably becomes a wilderness when it is merely a standardized, mechanical industrialism with no dominant spiritual ideal or purpose.

—H. E. Luccock.

"WAIT TILL TOMORROW"

A hush fell on Hades. A silence intense,
While Imps stood in wonder and horrid suspense;
For Satan, the arch-fiend, in anger most dire,
Had summoned a council—from them did require
Some method unique; an up-to-date plan,
Whereby he might compass the downfall of man.
They gazed on his visage in fear as they heard
Their leader confessing the power of the Word;
That Salvation Armies were moving afield,
Invading his Kingdom with drum, sword and shield;

Of missions; of churches; of women and men
Devoting their talents of pencil and pen;
Their wealth, their position to spreading false views,

"Thus daily cheating me out of my dues."
Quoth he, "I went forth o'er the earth in great glee

Expecting my trip would bring profit to me;
Instead, I return like a chilly lamb shorn,
Pursued by the blasts of a noisy Ram's Horn.
Now don't stand like dummies; get over your fright,

Make use of your cunning, or, hear me, this night
These regions infernal, in less than a trice,
Though torrid, I'll make them far colder than ice."

He ceased, and at once there arose a great din
Of tongues harsh and strident; for each Imp of sin

Had something to offer. Some new evil way
To trap the unwary; to lead them astray.
Said one, "I will tell them their Bible's a lie.
And souls that love evil shall live and not die.
To live for the day; make the best of the show;
And as for the future—I'll say I don't know."

"Too late!" said the Devil, "The job has been let
To men who are crafty in spreading a net.

They plead on that line, their tongues tipped with honey.

Alas! they are making, not converts, but money."
And thus did they argue, plan, plot and propose,
While darker the brow of his majesty grows.
At last comes a voice. Such triumph is in it.
The babel is hushed, at least for a minute.
"I have it! I have it! No longer look blue.
Admit that their Bible, their story is true.
That He, whose dread name none here dare to speak,

Has suffered and died for the helpless and weak,
That conqu'ring, He rose over death and the grave,
And now reigns in triumph, with power to save.
Admit there is rest and surcease of sorrow,
If only they'll wait and accept it TOMORROW."

"Bravo," said Satan. "Now to work,
Haste! fly! begone! Let none dare shirk.
The problem's solved. Back to your task,
Deceive, betray, use any mask.
If some o'er sin are in a flurry,
Plead lots of time; no need to hurry;
Use every wile to make them wait,
THE MORROW IS EVER TOO LATE."

The above poem can be used with thrilling effect at the close of an earnest exhortation or sermon appeal.

HOMILETICAL

THEME—GOD'S CALL DISREGARDED

By A. M. HILLS.

TEXT: "Because I have called and ye have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man hath regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh in the day of your calamity. I will mock when your fear cometh." "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer." "They would none of my counsel. They despised all my reproof." "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own ways, and be filled with their own devices" (Prov. 1:24-26; 28-31, R. V.).

To my mind this has long been one of the most impressive passages in the whole Word of God. It depicts in beautiful language the primary attitude of God toward sinners. Then it represents the sinner's reception of the divine call. Then it depicts the awful results of driving God's Spirit away by turning from God.

I. Notice that God, under the name of wisdom, calls to men to come to Him and be saved. Sin is rebellion, lawlessness, the most dangerous thing in the universe. For his own sake God calls man to turn from sin. How many ways God calls.

1. Through reason. The very nature of all sin is the gratification of desires against the protest of the moral reason.

The higher reason stands forever with God against all sin. The reason faithfully warns and pleads against all unrighteousness.

2. God calls by our conscience—"the voice

of God in the soul." "We have a voice within us, still and small, yet louder than the thunder. It is the aboriginal vicar of Christ. It is a prophet in its informations, a monarch in its peremptoriness, a priest in its sanctions and anathemas. It is the wondrous power which works neither by insinuation, flattery nor threat; but by merely holding up the naked law in the soul, extorts for itself reverence if not always obedience. It is always against sin. It points directly to Jesus, whose blood alone can make the conscience clean.

3. God calls by His Spirit and His Word. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." "Look unto me and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

4. God calls by His providences.

Illustration: An officer of my church told me he lost a fortune and six children. On the way to the cemetery with the sixth casket his heart broke and he accepted Christ.

Illustration: The death of a mother has stopped the wandering feet of many a wayward boy or girl.

Illustration: The death of a godly wife has been the voice of God to many a husband on the way to hell.

5. God calls by the means of grace.

Church services, open-air services, prayer, song.

Illustration: In Southport, England, a rector of the English Church told me that his wife died from drink and his bishop had warned him for the last time to stop his drunkenness or he would be expelled from the ministry. In disgrace and despair he was on the way to the bay to drown himself. He passed by where the Salvation Army was holding a street meeting and singing, "Come to Jesus." He threw up his hands and cried, "O Jesus, I come," and he was saved. He came to my meeting and was sanctified. In how many ways God calls the sinner ready to perish.

II. MEN OFTEN TURN A DEAF EAR TO THESE BLESSED CALLS.

They love the delights of sin and are bent on having them.

They suborn reason to justify their insane conduct.

They stifle conscience to make it cease its chidings.

They will not hear the Word of God.

They brace up against all admonitions of providence.

They turn their back upon all means of grace.

They virtually say, "Who is God that I should serve Him?"

"They set at naught all my counsels and would none of my reproof!"

III. NOTICE THE END OF SUCH A COURSE OF CONDUCT.

No earthly king would suffer himself to be continually mocked and derided and disobeyed by his subjects. How much less will the omnipotent and infinitely holy God? A day will come when His forbearance will be at an end. Punishment will then come on apace.

1. Sin always brings calamity. And God said, "I will laugh at your calamity." Sin always brought a harvest of retribution upon ancient Israel. God has not changed. He does so yet.

The people of San Francisco were pleasure mad and money mad and desperately wicked. The papers boasted that the previous Sunday was the most wide open and flagrantly wicked Sunday the city had ever seen. One paper declared: "San Francisco has no use for God." That issue of the paper was not sold before God appeared upon the scene with an earthquake, and \$600,000,000.00 of property went up in flames!

2. "I will mock when your fear cometh."

In San Francisco in 1906, when God destroyed the city, godless worldings and defiant unbelievers and profane blasphemers ran out of their

falling houses half dressed and fell on the streets and screamed and cried to God. Men that said there was no God cried for mercy. But screams of terror from wicked lips are not prayer and God does not answer. "I will mock when your fear cometh!"

3. *Unanswered prayer.* Tom Paine wrote his "Age of Reason" and boasted that the infamous book had destroyed the Bible, and in fifty years whoever desire to see a copy of it would have to go to a museum and pay 25c to see an exploded relic of an exploded superstition. When he came to die he did not dare to be left alone. He declared that the Devil inspired his book, and he kept crying for days: "O Christ, have mercy on my soul,"—a mercy he never found! There comes a time when prayers for mercy go unanswered. "Then will they call upon me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently; but they will not find me."

4. "They shall eat the fruit of their own way." "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." *Illustration:* Robespierre, who sent so many to the guillotine in the French Revolution, had his own head chopped off by the same means.

Illustration: When Charles I, who had destroyed Strafford, was about to be beheaded, he said, "I basely ratified an unjust sentence and the similar injustice I am now to undergo is a sensible retribution for the punishment I inflicted on an innocent man."

Illustration: Lord Jefferies imprisoned a multitude of good and innocent people in London Tower. He was finally imprisoned in the same place. The shades of his own victims seemed to haunt him. He kept crying to his attendants: "Keep them off, gentlemen, for God's sake keep them off!" He was "eating the fruit of his own way." So men will reap the fruit of sin and rejection of Christ in added torment of sin and conscious rejection by Christ.

4. "They shall be filled with their own devices." The sinner says over and over: "I will not have Christ." In time God says: "Very well, my Son, leave him alone, he shall not have Thee."

The sinner says: "I will not be led by the Spirit." Finally God will say: "O Holy Spirit, he shall not insult Thee again; leave him alone forever."

The sinner says: "I want a wicked heart." Finally God will say: "O sinner, you may have your choice and it will be your eternal damnation."

O fellow mortals, before this awful harvest

of evil comes repent and turn to Christ. Before He ceases to plead and begins to laugh at your calamity and mock at your fears turn to the only Savior who can forgive your sins, give you a clean heart and fit you for heaven. Do it and do it now.

THEME—THE PRODIGAL SON

By R. J. SMELTZER.

TEXT: Luke 15:11-32.

I. THE STATE OF THE SINNER.

1. A sinful state is a state of departure and distance from God. (vs. 13).
2. A sinful state is a spending state. (vs. 13).
3. A sinful state is wanting state. (vs. 14).
4. A sinful state is a vile servile state. (vs. 15).
5. A sinful state is a state of perpetual dissatisfaction. (vs. 15).
6. A sinful state is a state which cannot expect help from any creature. (vs. 16).
7. A sinful state is a state of death. (vs. 24).
8. A sinful state is a lost state. (vs. 24, 32).
9. A sinful state is a state of madness and frenzy. (vs. 17).

II. NOTICE THE OCCASION OF HIS RETURN AND REPENTANCE.

1. His affliction. (vs. 14-17).
2. He considers his condition. (vs. 17).
 - A. He considered how bad his condition was. "I perish with hunger."
 - B. He considered how much better it might be made if he would return. (vs. 17).
 - (1). In our Father's house there is bread for all.
 - (2). There is enough and to spare.
 - (3). Even the hired servants in God's family are well provided for.

III. HIS PURPOSE.

1. He determined what to do. "I will arise and go."
2. He determined to confess his sin and folly.
 - A. "I have sinned."
 - B. He would take the load upon himself. "I have sinned against—"
 - C. He would judge and condemn himself. "I am no more worthy—"
 - D. However he would sue for admission into the family.

IV. THE RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT WHICH HIS FATHER GAVE HIM.

1. The great love and affection with which his father received him.
 - A. Eyes of mercy—"Saw him a great way off."
 - B. Bowels of mercy—"He had compassion."
 - C. Feet of mercy—"He ran."
 - D. Arms of mercy—"He fell on his neck."

E. Lips of mercy—"He kissed him."
2. The entertainment.

- A. He came home in rags, and his father not only clothed him, but adorned him. (vs. 22).
- B. He came home hungry, and his father not only fed him, but feasted him. (vs. 23).
- C. The way in which the father received and entertained him not only brought rejoicing to the returned prodigal, but to all in the house.

THEME—HEAVEN

By R. J. SMELTZER.

TEXT: Heb. 12:23.

INTRODUCTION: Heaven is used in the Scriptures in three senses:

1. The aerial or atmospheric heaven, where the birds fly, the winds blow, and the rain is formed.
2. The heaven or firmament, the place of the sun, moon and stars.
3. The heaven of heavens, or third heaven, which is the place of God's residence, the dwelling of the angels and the home of the blessed.

I. HEAVEN BEGINS ON EARTH.

1. Heaven is both a condition and a place.
 - A. Heaven a condition (Luke 17:21; Rom. 14:17; Luke 10:20).
 - B. We hold our citizenship in heaven (Heb. 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11).
 - (a) "Stranger and pilgrim,"—Greek, *Par-ep-id-ay-mos*, an alien, a resident foreigner.
- C. The citizen of heaven is different:
 - a. In appearance.
 - b. In clothing.
 - c. In speech. Speaks the language of Canaan. *Illustration:* The Swedish man saying in a Russian service, "Me know Jesus, you know Jesus. Shake" (Phil. 3:20).
 - d. In our calling.
 - e. In our desires.
 - f. In our objective.

D. Heaven is a place.

- a. A commodious place.
- b. A permanent place.
- c. A place of employment.
- d. A place of happy reunion.
 - (1). Reunion of blood relation.
 - (2). Reunion of all blood washed and redeemed.

d. In our calling.

e. In our desires.

f. In our objective.

D. Heaven is a place.

a. A commodious place.

b. A permanent place.

c. A place of employment.

d. A place of happy reunion.

- (1). Reunion of blood relation.
- (2). Reunion of all blood washed and redeemed.

II. TWO WAYS OF GOING TO HEAVEN.

1. Death.
2. Translation.

III. NOT EVERYBODY THAT DIES IS GOING TO HEAVEN.

THEME—THE GREAT DAY

By GEORGE HARPER.

TEXTS: Rev. 6:17; Jude 1:6.

I. INTRODUCTION.

1. There are some days which were great days in my life—the day God saved me, the day God sanctified me and the day I was ordained; but the day I stand before God at the Judgment will be the greatest of all days.
2. In the Bible God tells of a great wickedness, a great salvation, a great joy and a great wrath.

II. THE JUDGMENT DAY WILL BE A GREAT DAY BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A GREAT PRAYER-MEETING.

1. Abraham praying for Sodom, Jacob at Peniel and Daniel for three weeks, were great prayermeetings.
2. The prayermeeting in Gethsemane and the prayermeeting of the disciples where they prayed and the place was shaken was a great prayermeeting, but John said they cried for the rocks and the mountains to hide them from God.

3. Illustration:

Millions crying, screaming and praying but their prayers are too late.

III. A GREAT DAY BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A GREAT EXAMINATION.

1. The books will be opened.
2. We will all give an account.
3. When in school, I passed examinations, and when called into the army, I passed an examination, but this examination will be the greatest of all.

IV. IT WILL BE A GREAT DAY BECAUSE OF THE GREAT SECRETS THAT WILL BE REVEALED.

1. Nothing covered that will not be revealed.
2. God will bring every work into judgment with every secret thing.
3. If man can make an X-ray, what can God do?
4. If man can make a phonograph to reproduce the human voice, don't you think God can reveal all the curses and ungodly stories told in secret?
5. If man can make a moving picture, I believe God could reproduce ten of the most awful scenes of the human life and show them like a movie in action at the Judgment.

V. THE JUDGMENT DAY WILL BE A GREAT DAY BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS.

1. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord.
2. The parable of the ten virgins shows that five out of ten were disappointed.

VI. A GREAT DAY BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A GREAT SEPARATION.

1. The wheat and chaff (Matt. 3:12).
2. The wheat and tares (Matt. 13:24-31).
3. Parable net cast into the sea (Matt. 13:47).
4. Sheep and goats (Matt. 25).
5. At sinking of the Titanic there was a separation.

Illustrations:

A slave family of four—father, mother, son and daughter—sold at auction and each taken to a different part of the country. Describe a separation at a funeral.

THEME—THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUL WINNING

By G. HOWARD ROWE.

I. SOUL WINNING WILL HASTEN CHRIST'S RETURN.

- Mission of Church (Matt. 28:19-20).
- Prepares the bride (Rev. 19:7).
- A witness to world (Matt. 24:14).

II. SOUL WINNING SHOULD THEN BE DESIRE OF CHURCH (Rom. 10:1).

- Salvation of men, one and only program of the Church.
- Includes whole world. Missionary spirit needed.
- Will raise the budget. Inspire loyalty.

III. SOUL WINNING INCLUDES.

1. Vision and purpose (Prov. 29:18; 11:30).
2. Soul travail (Isa. 66).
3. Unity in prayer in the church (Matt. 18:19).
4. Prayer and fasting by the individual as well as church (Matt. 17:21).

IV. SOUL WINNING WILL HASTEN CHRIST'S RETURN.

1. Carry a burden for souls.
 2. Be a soul winner.
 3. Be at unity and harmony with my brethren in church.
- To carry on church's program—Missions, budget, tithing, revivals.
Woe to them that are at ease in Zion (Amos 6:1).

THEME—THE WIDE AND NARROW GATES

By G. HOWARD ROWE.

TEXT: Matt. 7:13, 14.

I. THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT (Prov. 14:12; 12:15).

- The only way is God's way. His way is best.
His way is a narrow way.
A gate is an entrance to a way.

II. WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE WAY—Leadeth to destruction.

1. The Wide Gate
 - Easy of access. Multitudes going.
 - Many incentives.
 - All classes going.
2. The Broad Way
 - Way of fast company.
 - Way of careless.
 - Way of ungodly.

III. STRAIT IS THE GATE AND NARROW IS THE WAY—Leadeth unto life.

1. The strait gate.
 - Not so easy of access. Few going.
 - Against the tide.
 - Must pick your crowd.
2. The Narrow Way.
 - Way of good company.
 - Way of holiness. Character.
 - Way of eternal life.

IV. ENTER YE

- Luke says, strive (agonize) to enter.
- Many will seek to enter in and shall not be able. Door shut (Luke 13:24).
- Children of kingdom cast out (Matt. 8:11, 12).

THEME—THE SANCTIFICATION

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: Heb. 12:14. (R. V.).

1. Sanctification used so frequently, throughout the Scriptures is from the Greek word *Hagiasmos*.
2. The word holiness is also frequently used. It is from the Greek word *Hagiasma*. These two words—*Hagiasmos* and *Hagiasma*, are precisely synonymous and mean wholeness-soundness; soul-soundness, soul-healing.
3. Another common word throughout the Scriptures is *perfection*. It is from the Latin word *perfectus*, "per-through, facere-to make; To make through and through, to finish, to complete.
4. The God of the Bible loves holiness and hates sin. The Devil of the Bible loves sin and hates holiness.
5. Sin in the soul is like fever in the blood, it indicates an unhealthy condition.
6. *Regeneration*, its significance. *Regeneration* changes our inward nature a work by which the spiritual life is infused into the soul.
7. *Evidences of regeneration*.
 - (a) Does not commit sin.
 - (b) Loves the salvation of souls.
 - (c) Separate from the world.
 - (d) Follows the Spirit.
 - (e) Desires holiness—follows after.

8. There is sin in the regenerate.
9. The Bible and all church creeds say so.
10. Entire sanctification eradicates original or inbred sin.
11. Then, there is (1) Purity. (2) Liberty. (3) Power.
12. How to obtain it.
13. Those who refuse.

Illustration: See Rev. 21:8. A black list that are going down to hell, headed by the fearful (cowards) and the unbelieving.

THEME—ETERNITY

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: "Forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5).

1. Eternity, serious to contemplate.
2. How long is eternity?
 - Illustration: If all space could be filled with water, and it would require a thousand years to annihilate one drop, to dispose of the whole one drop at a time, would be only the morning of eternity.
 - Impensity, is boundless space.
 - Eternity, is boundless duration.
3. The immortal spirit.—Its relation to eternity.
4. The foolishness of men to choose temporal things.
 - Most men are choosing the things of time.
5. The question of all questions.
 - Where will you spend eternity?

THEME—THE TRIUMPHANT DEATH OF A HOLY MAN

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: Acts 7:60.

- I. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR:
 1. His symmetrical Christian character.
 2. Compare him with Moses.

Illustration: See tract, "Almost a Martyr." (Free Tract Society, Los Angeles, Calif.).
- II. HOLINESS IN ITS RELATION TO CHARACTER.
 1. The great central idea of Christianity.
 2. A command.
 3. A necessity.
 4. Heaven's gates barred against the unholy.
- III. THE HOLY DIE WELL.
 1. They die well because they live well.
 2. They die well because they believe the Bible.

Illustration: Unbelief kept the children of Israel out of Canaan.
- IV. THOSE WHO DIED IN TRIUMPH.
 1. John Wesley.
 2. John Fletcher.
 3. Alfred Cookman.
 4. S. A. Keene.

THEME—SIX THINGS THAT GOD SAYS HE WILL DO

By C. E. CORNELL

TEXT: Ezek. 36:24-29.

I. SEPARATENESS.

"I will take you from among the heathen."

"Then" as pointing to Pentecost.

The water symbol.

There are other material symbols used, oil, fire, wind, air.

Water more frequent. Water suggests the idea of plentitude.

"Showers of blessing."

"Rivers of Waters."

"The windows of heaven opened."

II. COMPLETE CLEANSING.

"Ye shall be clean."

Regeneration, partial cleansing, initial, incomplete.

The Pentecostal baptism, complete.

Illustration: Dr. Keene says: "The repetition of the adjective 'clean' means perfectly clean. It is an idiom of the original Hebrew, that when a word of the same kind, such as a noun, verb or adjective is repeated in the same construction, it expresses the idea of completeness; so that the force of the text is, 'cleansing, I will cleanse you' or 'Ye shall be thoroughly clean.' The little word 'all' is what grammarians designate the final *all*, which means the last, the end, conveying the idea of finished, the last touch."

III. RENEWING.

"I will put my Spirit within you."

Refreshing.

Enlargement.

Refinement.

IV. EMPOWERING.

"I will cause you to walk in my statutes."

Activities.

Dispositions.

Adversities—environments.

V. MATERIAL PROSPERITY.

"I will call for the corn, and will increase it, etc."

Righteousness is both spiritual and materially advantageous.

God is back of nature.

VI. NO REPROACH.

"Ye shall receive no more reproach."

You will favorably impress those about you.

You will gain their confidence.

SENTENCE SERMONS

By G. HOWARD ROWE.

The only way to stop a runaway horse is to catch him—the Devil cannot stop a sanctified man who is running.

David slid back because he remained home when the battle was raging hot . . . You may

lose out in the midst of a revival. Keep at the front.

More light spells more responsibility—stir up your ability and respond to the light. . . Hell is awful dark.

Steam under pressure without a vent, will blow off—so will the old man. Needed . . . the safety valve of sanctification.

Wheresoever, the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.—Who hangs around your house? You may be a dead one.

Spiders seek dark corners . . . so do unclean men . . . and position seekers.

Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth.—A touch is enough to set Omnipotence in action.

—F. B. Meyer.

You can put powder on, but the wrinkles may be underneath.—So is the silvery tongue and a wicked heart.

THEME—"NEGLECT"

By W. D. SHELOR.

TEXT: Hebrews 2:3.

N—Nature of Neglect.

E—Ease of Neglect.

G—Growth of Neglect.

L—Levity of Neglect.

E—Expense of Neglect.

C—Crime of Neglect.

T—Termination of Neglect.

THEME—"THE END"

By W. D. SHELOR.

TEXT: 24:14.

I. SOME THINGS THAT HAVE NO END:

God. Eternity. Man. Influence.

II. THINGS THAT WILL END:

1. Earthly treasures; viz: money, fame, pleasure, etc.

2. False hopes; viz: Eddyism, Russellism, churchism, etc.

3. Probation; opportunity for finding God will end.

4. Time; nothing of such infinite value to man as time; yet "time shall be no more!"

III. QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DYING WORDS WERE "MILLIONS OF MONEY FOR A MOMENT OF TIME!"

"SEEKING AND FINDING GOD"

By W. D. SHELOR.

TEXT: Isaiah 55:6, 7.

I. GOD MAY BE FOUND OF MAN: "HE MAY BE FOUND!"

Also, God may not be found; "While he may be found!" Compare Gen. 6:3.

I. GOD MAY BE FOUND OF MAN: "HE MAY BE FOUND!"

II. GOD IS FOUND BY "SEEKING:" "SEEK YE THE LORD!"

"Seek and ye shall find."

"In the day ye seek for me with all your heart I will be found."

III. SHEKINAH GLORY SPIRITUALIZED. "WHILE HE IS NEAR."

Mention some of these times.

IV. GOD DEMANDS ACTION ON THE PART OF MAN;

1. "Let him forsake his way"—sinful way; unclean way; wrong way.

The way of death; way to hell.

2. "Let him forsake his thoughts."

"Good enough"—forsake it!

"I'm honest"—forsake it!

"Doing my best"—forsake it!

3. "Let him return unto God!"

God only can save him.

V. GOD IS MERCIFUL AND FORGIVING;

"Will have mercy!"

"Will abundantly pardon!"

THEME—THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BLESSED

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

TEXT: "Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them" (Luke 2:9).

I. They were shepherds—"Shepherds," not hirelings.

II. They were at their job—"Abiding in the field."

Others that night were in the city at the reunions—Unfaithful never get blessed.

III. They were careful of their trust—"keeping watch."

IV. They did not run away in a dark hour—"by night."

V. To this class of men and women God reveals Himself—

1. The True.

2. The Faithful.

3. The Careful.

4. The Determined.

THEME—SHEKINAH GLORY

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

TEXT: Isa. 10:16.

I. SHEKINAH GLORY MATERIALIZED.

1. Nature was subdued—Moses Rod.

2. Governments were subdued—King Pharaoh.

3. Education was subdued—Magicians.

4. Religion was subdued—Magicians.

5. Personality was subdued—Pharaoh.

II. SHEKINAH GLORY INCARNATED.

1. Nature was defeated—Jesus healing the body.

2. Governments were defeated—"Mob fell back."

3. Education was defeated—Christ at twelve.

4. Religion was defeated—"Except your righteousness exceed."

5. Personality was defeated—Christ defeated Satan in wilderness.

III. SHEKINAH GLORY SPIRITUALIZED.

1. Nature obeyed the Spirit—Sound of wind.

2. Government obeyed the Spirit—Paul and Silas walk out.

3. Learning obeyed the Spirit—Peter's first sermon.

4. Religion obeyed the Spirit—"What must I do."

5. Personalities obeyed the Spirit—Paul converted.

IV. SHEKINAH GLORY TRIUMPHANT.

1. Nature will be conquered—Resurrection.

2. Governments will be conquered—Every kingdom shall fall.

3. Learning will be conquered—Every eye shall see.

4. Religion will be conquered—Every knee shall bow.

5. Personality will be conquered—Satan Bound.

V. THE "GLORY."

1. Is our defense.

2. Our salvation.

3. Our life.

4. Our hope.

SERMON SEED

By T. M. ANDERSON

TEXT: "Keep yourselves in the love of God." (Jude 21).

I. A WARNING TO ALL BY THE EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO DID NOT KEEP IN LOVE OF GOD.

1. Some who were once saved were afterward destroyed (Verse 5). In this verse

Jude refers to Israel's state after they failed to go into the land because of unbelief. Thus regenerated persons can

incur the anger of God and forfeit their state and standing because they fail to

believe for holiness—which these things are a figure.

2. We are warned by the example of angels who kept not their first estate (Verse 6).

If such personalities as these can lose their place in the love of God, let us be

warned of the power of sin. Let us watch ourselves.

3. The inhabitants of Sodom and the cities of the plains are to us an example of

the wrath of God. All sinners have a place in the love of God in that He loves

them with the love of pity and offers to forgive them of sins. But sinners can

so sin as to merit wrath rather than mercy (verse 7).

II. THE WAY TO KEEP IN THE LOVE OF GOD.

1. Building yourself up on your most holy faith (Verse 20).

(a) To build up ourselves means to add useful material. Become rich in faith; abounding in love; strong in patience. In a word, every grace belonging to a holy life must be developed. God is not pleased with any who do not advance.

(b) To build one must reject all that would pull down. Persons whose conversation is not holy can destroy our souls. Refuse them, even if we make them angry or critical. Literature that does not edify, can harm us. The Movie with its curse is refused.

2. Praying in the Holy Ghost (Verse 20).

To pray delights the Lord. To neglect prayer grieves Him. Prayer is petition for needed grace. It is intercession for others. It is an act of worship. It is a kind of conference with God. The Spirit is necessary to help in prayer. If all Christians will heed this praying in the Spirit none will ever fall.

3. Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (Verse 21). Those who expect His return will guard themselves lest they be among the unready.

Those who expect Him give proof of their love for Him. To love His appearing so pleases Him that we remain in His love.

4. Others save (Verses 22; 23).

God is not pleased with those who care not for others who are lost.

(a) In saving others have compassion; and discriminate with care as how best to approach them (Verse 22). Do not be rough or unwise. Be loving with His lost sheep.

(b) Others save with fear. Like pulling them out of the fire. One must watch lest he be burned. We cannot be too careful of ourselves while we try to save others. Many preachers have gone down while they were conducting salvation meetings. Holy persons are often led to compromise in their efforts to save their loved ones.

III. THE GREAT ASSURANCE WE HAVE FROM HIM.

1. He is able to keep you from falling: God will do His part. Let us be sure to do ours.

2. He will present you faultless before the

presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Verse 24).

TEXT: "Do not err, my beloved brethren" (Jas. 1:16).

1. Do not err regarding the value of trial of your faith (Verses 2-4).

2. Do not err while enduring temptation (Verses 12-15).

3. Do not err concerning the source of all that is good and all that is perfect. This means all good for this life and for spiritual life. God gives all. The Devil gives nothing good (Verse 17).

4. Do not err regarding the importance of laying apart the remains of sin in the heart after regeneration (Verses 18-21).

5. Do not err by being a hearer and not a doer of the Word (Verses 22-25).

6. Do not err in the matter of vain religion and pure religion. Each has its proof (Verses 26, 27).

TEXT: *This is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you* (Pet. 1:25).

Note that it is the enduring or eternal Word which is preached. See text: Carry this thought of the enduring word in the study of the context.

1. The new birth is the result of the abiding Word of God. All flesh is as grass, but he that is born of God will abide forever (See Verses 23, 24).

2. Redemption is by the precious blood of Christ, says this Word of the Gospel. This is more enduring than either silver or gold (See verses 18, 19). These things are corruptible, but the blood cure for sin is eternal.

3. This word says, "be ye holy, because I am holy." Holiness is as eternal as God because it is what God is. God is what He is in all His graces because He is holy. Thus to be holy is to be like Him in graces. Such a truth is eternal. It shall never be changed (Verses 14-17).

4. The truth of pure love for the brethren is enduring. It must ever be the gospel (Verse 22).

5. The hope of the resurrection is enduring because God has raised Jesus from the dead as a guarantee (Verses 3:20, 21).

6. The hope of eternal reward is enduring because God is keeping His people by divine power through faith that they may have the incorruptible inheritance (Verses 4, 5).

ILLUSTRATION

By L. E. SNOW

They say it takes 500 tons of Carnotite ore to yield one gram of radium. In this process is used 500 tons of chemicals, 1000 tons of coal,

10,000 tons of distilled water. The final product being pure radium bromide, of a bulk sufficient to half fill an ordinary thimble, worth \$75,000.00 per gram.

Although radium is of such immense value, yet it is so powerful that it is put on the hands and figures of a \$1.50 watch, so you can see the time in the dark. The secret is that these hands and dials are simply brought into the presence of this radium, under a certain treatment when

it throws off part of itself penetrates these parts so that they will shine in the dark.

How like God's salvation, just a few moments in the presence of God, in confession and prayer and faith, and we come out "partakers of the divine nature" and will shine as "lights of the world" in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" and in sin's darkest night until people can see Jesus and the way to God.

THEMES, TEXTS AND SUGGESTIONS

By D. S. CORLETT

FOR THE CHRISTMAS SERMON

THEME: The Message of Christmas. TEXT: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10).

THEME: The Word in the World. TEXT: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

THEME: The Greatest Christmas Gift. TEXT: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

THEME: The Meaning of Christmas. TEXT: "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

THEME: The Joy Christmas Brings. TEXT: "For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10).

THEME: The Missionary Message of Christmas. TEXT: "Good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL people" (Luke 2:10).

THEME: The Saving Name. TEXT: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

THEME: The First Christmas Tragedy—No Room for Christ. TEXT: "Because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

THEME—THE DAY STAR

TEXT: "Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).

I. THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AT THE TIME OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

"Sitting in Darkness." There had been no prophetic utterances to Israel for over four hundred years. They were in the throes of a religious controversy, but spiritually they were in darkness when Christ came. This was evidenced by

1. The darkness of ignorance.
2. The darkness of sin.
3. The darkness of sorrow.
4. They were "sitting" in darkness denoting inactivity.

II. THE DAWN OF DAY SPRING.

"Dayspring" is the old English word for sunrising. Hence this was the sunrising of a new era for the world.

Note this "Dayspring:"

1. Is of heavenly origin—"from on high."
2. Has come to us. Not shining from on high upon us, but "hath visited us." Came to be one of us, to live among us.
3. He brings light—"To give light."
 - (a) Light for the darkness of ignorance.
 - (b) Light for the darkness of sin.
 - (c) Light for the darkness of sorrow.

III. HE IS A DIRECTING OR GUIDING LIGHT.

"To guide our feet into the ways of peace."

1. With Him there is life and activity instead of "sitting in darkness and the shadow of death."
2. His coming brings "peace," and His paths are the ways of peace.
3. His light cheers, comforts, directs and guides His people.

THEME—THE GLAD TIDINGS OF CHRISTMAS

TEXT: "For, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy."

1. Tidings of Joy—"great joy" (Isa. 12:2-3; 61:3; 1 Peter 1:6-8).
2. Tidings of Peace—"Peace on Earth" (Luke 1:78-79; John 14:27; Romans 5:1).
3. Tidings of Salvation—"A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Titus 2:11-14; 1 Timothy 1:15).

THEME—THE MAGIC OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

TEXT: "To give light to them that sit in darkness" (Luke 1:79).

An artist once drew a picture of a wintry twilight, the trees heavily laden with snow, and a dreary, dark house, lonely and desolate, in the midst of the storm. It was a sad picture indeed. Then, with a quick stroke of yellow crayon, he put a light in one window. The effect was magical. The entire scene was transformed into a vision of comfort and good cheer. The birth of Christ was just such a light to a dark world.—SELECTED.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The first Christmas service was not held in a great cathedral or temple; but in the temple of God's great "out of doors."

The time of the first Christmas service, was in the night; but the temple was lighted with the "glory of the Lord shining round about them."

The music of the first Christmas service was furnished by a "multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The preacher of the first Christmas service was the angel who said, "Fear not."

The congregation of the first Christmas service was "The shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."

The Message of the first Christmas service was a message of salvation, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The First Christmas Service was fruitful, and accomplished what all services should aim to accomplish—"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see . . . and they made haste, and found."

THERE IS NO "IF" IN CHRISTMAS

When preaching a Christmas sermon, the Rev. Danjel H. Martin brought out a striking fact that has escaped many. He called attention to what the shepherds in the field said to one another after the angel had brought them definite word about the birth of a "Saviour who is Christ the Lord." They did not say, "Let us go and see if this thing is come to pass." They said, "Let us go and see this that is come to pass." What a world of difference between the two ways of taking God's word.—SELECTED.

BORN IN ME

'Tis not enough that Christ was born
Beneath the star that shone,
And earth was set that morn
Within a golden zone.

He must be born within the heart,
Before He finds His throne,
And brings the day of love and good,
The reign of Christ-like brotherhood.

—MARY T. LATTROP.

BABE OF BETHLEHEM

Christ has elevated the ideals of mankind from the earthly to the heavenly, from the selfish to self-sacrifice, from sinfulness to holiness, from war to peace. He changed the date of the world's history, beginning a new reckoning of years. "B. C." and "A. D." have the pre-eminence over "In the beginning." He has put his stamp upon history, poetry, art, literature, reforms and civilization for all the years of time and the cycles of eternity. Why such influences exerted by the Son of God? Because he was "God manifested in the flesh," therefore great names were given him—The Prince of Peace, Immanuel, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and Redeemer of men, Conqueror and Intercessor. But none are sweeter than the Babe of Bethlehem and the Lamb of God.—SELECTED.

PASTORAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Many pastors have made a practice of sending special pastoral Christmas greetings to each member and friend in their congregation. This has proven to be a very satisfactory way to keep the members and friends interested in the progress of the church. A word of cheer from their leader, the pastor, at this particular season of the year, when everybody is sending gifts and greetings to their loved ones and friends brings a closer relationship between pastor and people. If you have never done this, pastor, make your plans to do so this year. You will find that our Nazarene Publishing House, 2923 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Mo., carries a very complete line of special Christmas features for the use of our busy pastors, which includes: special Christmas letter heads; special holiday greetings in letter form or they will print your own letter on these letter heads at a moderate price; Christmas greeting cards, specially prepared for pastors and leaders with ample space to have your name printed or written, thus making it a personal message. All of these are very moderately priced and are carried especially for the use of our pastors and people. The essential thing is to get your order in EARLY so it will not be delayed in the Christmas Mail Rush, but that you will have it in plenty of time to use for Christmas.

A little colored boy, having watched his old mammy's success in bleaching clothes, covered his face with soapsuds, and lay down on the lawn in the hot sun with the hope of turning

white. It was a very uncomfortable and disappointed boy whom his mother admonished a couple of hours later. "Lan's sake, Chile! Don't you know you can't make white folks out of yourself by bleaching from the outside?" she asked. And yet that is an experience the world has never ceased trying. But Christianity is not a change wrought from the outside but from within. This is a truth that needs new emphasis in our day. This Christmas time is a good time to give it new emphasis; for the Christmas Christ saves from without and within.—SELECTED.

A little Jewish girl from the East Side of New York, who secured work in a store during the holiday season, met with an accident, and was ministered to in her sufferings by a trained nurse. She looked appealingly into the face of the nurse, and asked incredulously. "Is it true that you are a Christian?" Upon being answered in the affirmative, she replied, "You are so polite and gentle, I didn't think you could be; but then the only Christians I've seen are Christmas shoppers."—SELECTED.

FOR THE NEW YEAR SERMON

THEME: Trust For the New Year. TEXT: "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things" (Matt. 6:31-32).

THEME: Strength For Our Days. TEXT: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deut 33:25).

THEME: The Venture of Faith. TEXT: "For ye have not passed this way heretofore" (Josh. 3:4).

THEME: The New Year Crowned. TEXT: "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness" (Psa. 65:11).

THEME: The Secret of a Happy New Year. TEXT: "If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasure" (Job 36:11).

THEME: The Right Use of the Passing Years. TEXT: "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psa. 90:12).

THEME: A New Year's Prayer. TEXT: "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not" (Psa. 17:5).

THEME: Renewed Though Decaying. TEXT: "But though the outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:17).

THEME: The Changing Years and The Unchanging Christ. TEXT: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

THEME: The Comfort of the Past and the Challenge of the Future. TEXT: (1) "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Sam. 7:12). (2)

"There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed" (Josh. 13:1).

THEME: The Passing of the Old Year. TEXT: "Ye shall henceforth return no more that way" (Deut. 17:16).

WATCH NIGHT SERVICES

"Watch-Night"—the last night in the old year can be used with great profit in a service of prayer and praise. Plan early for it. Arrange a program, and secure your speakers, as you will no doubt wish to have more than one, in advance in order to make proper announcement of the service.

Praise should be a great part in this service. When one considers the wonderful blessings of a passing year, he desires to praise God.

Prayer should have a prominent place also. While others are shooting the New Year in, or giving vent to their feelings in some useless manner; how appropriate it is that God's people spend this time on their knees in prayer.

MAKING WATCH NIGHT A CHURCH NIGHT

The writer once conducted a watch-night service, in which the heads of each department of the church had part. The Sunday school superintendent told of the blessings of God upon the Sunday school for the past year, and outlined his plans for the coming year. The president of the N. Y. P. S., president of the W. M. S. or other auxiliary departments of the church each had part in the program, stating their goals and plans. Thus each department of your church is brought before the entire congregation present; showing the progress of the past year and the prospects for the future.

REDEEMING THE TIME

Queen Charlotte said: "I am always quarrelling with time. It is so short to do anything, but so long to do nothing."

Cotton Mather said of a visitor who had needlessly occupied his time, "I had rather given him a handful of money than have been kept thus long out of my study."

Ignatius, when he heard a clock strike, said, "Now I have one more hour to answer for."

"Bind together your spare hours by the cord of some definite purpose, and you know not how much you may accomplish"—Wm. M. Taylor, D. D.

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every year find you a better man"—FRANKLIN.

HOW NAPOLEON USED TIME

Abbott in his life of Napoleon tells of a time when in his early career, Napoleon was quartered in the house of a barber at Auxonne. Some

spent their time coquetting with the barber's pretty wife; he was always at his books, studying hard. Years later, when he was commander of the army, on the way to Marengo he stopped at the door of the barber's shop, and asked his former hostess if she remembered a young officer by the name of Bonaparte who was once quartered in her family. "Indeed I do," was her pettish reply, "and a very disagreeable inmate he was. He was always shut up in his room; or, if he walked out, he never condescended to speak to anyone." "Ah, my good woman," Napoleon rejoined, "had I passed my time as you wished to have me, I should not now have been in command of the army of Italy."

FROM A PREACHER'S SCRAP BOOK BE YOURSELF

"If God wanted two people to pray alike or be alike, He would have made them alike. Never let the Devil trouble you because you do not pray or testify like some one else. Be yourself."

"Did God make man out of a monkey or did man make a monkey out of himself?"

"Where Christian Perfection is not strongly and explicitly preached, there is seldom any remarkable blessing from God"—JOHN WESLEY.

Man's highest wisdom is in understanding what the will of the Lord is"—J. H. SMITH.

"God's will for us, by us, and through us is greater and better than anything we can will for God's cause or for ourselves. Hence, our own enterprise or our ambitions, even when we have truly sanctified hearts, will not lift us so high, nor carry us so far, nor do so much for ourselves or for others, as will the apprehending of God's own will for us"—J. H. SMITH.

THE OLD TIME RELIGION NEEDED

"It's the old, old day of a world gone pell-mell to the Devil, a world that will never and can never be saved except by the old, old cross.

The fires of hell are old. The sin of man is old. The helplessness of the human heart to cleanse itself is old. The pitiful weakness of the flesh, human flesh, flesh under which the white hot furnace of appetite and passion burns, is an old, old weakness. Thank God, the Gospel is also old. The Christ, the Cross, the empty tomb, the fountain filled with blood—yes, glory to God, they are old, as old as sin. It is an old way to hell, starting from the garden. It

is an old route to heaven, beginning at the foot of the cross."—"BOB" SHULER.

ON GOD'S SIDE

"The voice of the majority is not always the voice of God. One man and God have often changed the course of history and the map of an empire. . . . John Wesley said, 'the best of all is, God is with us.' He could say that because he knew that he was with God. And Lincoln, was it not he, who said, 'I am not concerned whether God is on our side, but I am concerned whether we are on God's side? When man forms partnership with God, he is on the side of the winning party.'"

"We are apt to think concerning our everyday trials that they are of too homely a sort to work out anything beautiful in our character, but they are not more homely than the chisel in the hands of the sculptor."

"The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings."—GEORGE MULLER.

BELIEVING HIS WORD

One day when Napoleon was reviewing troops, the bridle of his horse slipped from his hand and his horse galloped off. A private soldier ran, and laying hold of the bridle brought back the horse to the emperor's hand, when he said, "Well done, captain."

"Of what regiment, sir?" inquired the soldier. "Of the guards," answered Napoleon, pleased with his instant belief in his word.

The emperor rode away, but the soldier threw down his musket, and though he had no epaulets on his shoulders, no sword by his side nor any other mark of his advancement than the word of the emperor, he ran and joined the staff of commanding officers.

They laughed at him, and said, "What have you to do here?"

He replied, "I am captain of the guards."

They were amazed, but he said, "The emperor said so, and therefore I am."

And he was.

THINGS TO FORGET

"If you would increase happiness forget your neighbor's faults. Forget all the slander you ever heard. Forget the fault-finding and give but little thought to the cause which provoked

it. Forget the peculiarities of your friends, and only remember the good points which make you fond of them. Forget all personal quarrels or history you may have heard by accident, and which if repeated, would seem worse than they are. Blot out as far as possible all disagreeables of life. They will come, but will only grow larger when you remember them, and the constant thought of the acts of meanness—or worse still, malice will tend to make you more familiar with them. Start out with a clean sheet today, and write upon it only those things which are lovely and lovable."

"Carnality allowed will soon be carnality excused. Inbred sin excused will lead to the excusing of actual sin. The excusing of the one is no worse than the excusing of the other. If we excuse the fruit we will excuse the root, and vice versa."

"In 1775 I resolved to dedicate my life to God; all my thoughts, words, and actions, being thoroughly convinced there was no medium, but that every part of my life must be either a sacrifice to God or to myself—that is, in effect, to the Devil."—JOHN WESLEY.

DEPOSITING OUR LIVES

"When we go to the bank as a depositor, we hand our money over to the bankers. We leave it in their hands. They use it as they think wise, paying us regular interest.

God is a great Banker. He asks Christians to deposit their lives in His bank, to place all in His hands, and leave it there. He must be absolutely free to use our lives as He will. It must be a real deposit. Then what good care he takes of us, and what wonderful interest he pays! What peace and joy He returns to us. When we deposit all, He gives His own Life to us in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. He makes our lives useful and safely keeps that which we commit unto Him against that day."

"When alone, a man's rights may be his own; when he meets others, they become relationships, and must be adjusted."

"Dis Darwinian theory don't worry me none," said Uncle Eben, "Tain' whar you come from dat counts, but whar you's g'ine to."

"God never lets His children go where they can do nothing for Him. The imprisonment of two Christians in a jail at Philippi means the salvation of a household and the founding of a church."

"Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."—ST. AUGUSTINE.

"Worse than dancing, playing cards, or theater-going; to have light and then sit down and do nothing."

"A dozen whole-hearted Christians can do more for the cause of Christ than a hundred half-hearted ones."

"No one can master a situation which he is afraid to face."

MAKE YOUR PREACHER

By R. W. HERTENSTEIN.

Nothing is as glorious as for a church and congregation to make a great preacher. Some churches make the preacher, some preachers make the church. What a combination when the pulpit and pew make each other. Preachers on the whole are God-called men. Get behind that man and push him into favor with the people; force out great qualities; make him preach in spite of his handicaps. Too many congregations think the schools and colleges are the only means to qualify a minister. Feed and house your preacher well. The horse that wins the race has a good stall. Bring on him to the townsfolk. A bragging church and fair preacher will soon fill every pew—while a nagging church and a good preacher will soon empty any church. I can't help but grit my teeth, pray harder and toil more when I know a church is behind me. When your check comes regularly, when the members bring in canned fruit, when the Bible you preach from was the congregation's present, when your expenses to the General Assembly were remembered, when on your birthday they shook hands and gave a love offering, when the best overcoat you ever owned was a Christmas present, when your wife and children are remembered from time to time; brother, you can but drop on your knees and cry out, "O God, help me to be a better preacher."

The thought has come to me that the next time you want to give a love offering you might send a fifty or a one hundred dollar check to your Publishing House; tell the House to credit that amount to your pastor's account; then tell the preacher to order the books he needs most to the amount of the offering. See how that would work. Your Publishing House would be benefited, the pastor would love his congregation more, and you, as a congregation would have fresh truth and greater preaching from the man you love.

PRACTICAL

THE MINISTER AND BIBLE STUDY

*A Literary Study
of the Bible*

By BASIL W. MILLER

AS THE storehouse of truth the Bible is unexcelled. Expressing in its broad outlines the fundamentals of science, sketching roughly the history of nations of antiquity, formulating the grandest code of morals and laws, as does the Bible, place it in the foremost rank of verities. Its moral lessons, spiritual precepts, and legal examples, its scientific accuracy, philosophical trustworthiness, and literary beauty—these alone—make the Bible worthy of the study and analysis of the brainiest scholars and most brilliant thinkers of the Ages. The mightiest intellects of nineteen centuries—Chrysostom, Augustine, Luther, Sir Isaac Newton, Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, G. Fredrick Wright—have spent a lifetime in mastering this wondrous Book of divine revelation. They but touched the shores of possible explorations herein. In every realm of truth the Bible is unsurpassed. As a moral dynamic it has produced the scientific and industrial progress of our age. As a spiritual power it has drawn from the sloughs of savagery and paganism every land touched by its glory.

The literary value of the Bible is incalculable. No man is well trained until he is familiar with this fountain source of literature. Much less is a minister fitted for his ennobling task until he has drunk deeply therefrom. One may know the contents of the Word of God, analyze it, collate its related scriptures, be acquainted with the great texts, be versed in biblical dogmas, but such study does for the grandeur of the Bible what a study of botany does for the beauty of flowers, or astronomy in its technical outlines does for the star-studded heavens. In the mass of details, in the jumble of dates, systems, chronology, dispensations and geographical information, the glory may be hidden, the fragrance lost. Study the Bible as literature; seek out its gems of thought, its flashes of exquisite diction, its flights of rhetorical grace, and its sweeping periods of eloquence.

Every form of literature is contained in the Bible. This Book is more than a mere volume of writings; it is a broad, and a varied literature. The most brilliant writers of the

ages, such as Goldsmith, Tennyson, Longfellow, have said if one desired a knowledge of the best in poetry, in the art of the biographer, the historian, true eloquence, it could be found in the Bible. No writer or speaker can be vulgar or common and be a student of the Oracles of God. In the pulpit the best form of address, the purest diction, the most exalted eloquence must be used. Hence we see the value of a study of the Bible by the minister.

The diction and style of the Book of books is unsurpassed. Then if one seek noble diction, a lofty style of expression, a rhetorical finish, grace of word and thought, mine such from the Scriptures. No writer of any age gave the story of centuries of history with such completion, such finish, such terseness as Moses. The portrayal of no character has been given with such beauty and graphicness as that of Jesus, though written by untrained men—as far as we know—in every case save that of Luke, the physician. That loftiness of sentiment, deftness of literary touch, characteristic of geniuses of the pen, found in the works of David, the 1, the 23, the 104 Psalms, and others of the same class—of Solomon,—the Proverbs,—of Isaiah,—the 35, 53 and 55 chapters—of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, and of Paul in the thirteenth of First Corinthians, finds not a parallel in all the annals of literature.

To be lofty in diction, noble in sentiment, pure in thought, rhetorical in descriptive power, rhyming with poetic beauty, fellow ministers let us master the Bible. To be terse in expression, master the style of Solomon. To be truly eloquent in public address, read Isaiah. To be graphic, pointed, simple yet profound, imitate the style of Jesus. To be philosophic, study Romans, Galatians, the first chapter of John's Gospel. To be poetic, let the ringing music of the Psalms permeate your soul. If you would be dramatic, or carry tragedy into your pulpit, memorize Job, or be thrilled with the moving love story of Ruth. If you seek material for "symphonic sermons" after the form of Stidger, there is the story of Esther, of Daniel, of the saints of old, the poetry of Job or the music of David. Fellow ministers, we will progress in the art of persuasion, develop in pulpit power, increase in vocabulary, eloquence, diction, in

proportion as we master the Bible, dwell with it daily.

The masters of the pulpit have been adept in the use of pure fiction; theirs also has been a true ringing eloquence. But such eloquence was the result of their long continued study of the Bible. The sermons of Guthrie read almost like flaming prose poems; those of Talmage lift one to the heights of life by their diction, their rhetorical flights. Maclaren won the recognition of the world as England's most interesting and thrilling speakers. Today Henry Clay Morrison, though without an early educational foundation necessary to true eloquence, stands as one of America's most eminent pulpit orators. These men caught something of the exalted phraseology, the mighty style, the lofty sentiments of the Word of God, and thus their eloquence was produced. Ours too may be this sought for pulpit power, this true literary simplicity, if we but pay the price of Bible study, constant reading, quoting, imitating the literary merits of this Book.

In making a literary study of the Bible one should constantly bear in mind the necessity of studying Scripture phraseology, unusual wordings, terseness of sentence formation, the descriptive power of each word used. In that masterpiece of all literature, the Beatitudes, not a word is lost, every word used is dynamic, nor is there a word that could be added to increase its power, nor taken away without destroying something of the beauty. This clearness of expression for our pulpit use may be had by studying, imitating the graphicness, the clarity of biblical diction.

The first literary study demanded of a minister should be the Bible. The drama of Job excels in beauty and power anything Shakespeare ever wrote. But usually we study Shakespeare first. The eloquence of the orations of Isaiah outshines that of Demosthenes, Cicero, Webster, Clay. No love story—merely as literature—is comparable with that of Ruth; George Eliot, Thackeray, Hawthorne, Lew Wallace never penned fiction so sublime, so interesting, so gripping as the simple story of Ruth. The songs of the shepherd king David out ring those of Milton, Burns, Longfellow, Tennyson. Ambassadors of God, then let us make our sermons brilliant with holy diction, saturated with the true poetry of inspiration, sparkling with that rhetorical grace of the Scriptures.

The pulpit should lead the age in nobility of thought, loftiness of sentiment, in the simplicity of expression which speaks to the heart. Ours is the opportunity as a denomination of forming a trained ministry, a holy God-filled eloquent ministry. May the Bible be the rock foundation

of our training, the fountain source of our eloquence, as well as the spring of our doctrines, and the inspiration of our messages. The grandest thought, the greatest choice of diction, the most sublime flights of rhetoric, the smoothest polish of structure and style, the most deft drapery of thought in enticing, alluring, dynamic words, is called for in presenting the message of God to humanity. With the Bible as our training book, our Book of literary as well as spiritual illumination, may we never become common, vulgar, ordinary in speaking as the "oracles of God."

PASADENA, CALIF.

WANTED: A NEW PREACHER AT BRIGHTVILLE

By C. E. CORNELL

Brightville was an old substantial charge. The membership was made up largely of good substantial people who treated their pastor well. But it was noised abroad over the District that Brightville wanted a new preacher. It had been quite generally discussed and some decisions made before there was much thought that the District Superintendent ought to be consulted. It is the unfortunate practice of not a few churches to "call" a pastor and then ask the District Superintendent to confirm the call. That is usually getting the cart before the horse. But Dr. Lovejoy, the genial District Superintendent, would soon be around on his semi-annual visit, and they would inform him that they wanted a new preacher, and that a change was absolutely necessary.

Dr. Lovejoy was a man of wisdom, careful and kindly. It was in his heart to have the church and the preacher both happily satisfied. Harmony is so much better than strife. He desired to make the people happy and to make the preacher happy, and then he was satisfied in his own mind the church would prosper.

But Dr. Lovejoy also knew that the situation at Brightville was rather ticklish and required careful handling. A District Superintendent must be as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove, he is expected to meet every situation with fair fearlessness as the church must move on. So, Dr. Lovejoy thought it would be the part of wisdom to interview several of the more influential and leading members, and find out why they wanted a new preacher.

He first called on Brother Sterling, an influential member of the church. Brother Sterling was considerate and very kind, nothing harsh about him. He said: "I have nothing in particular against our pastor. He is an exceptionally fine young man, and I love him and am loyal to him, but he takes too much time to make the announcements. There are Sunday mornings

when he does not get to preaching until noon or after. Last Sunday I timed him, and he spent twenty-three minutes in the announcements. Some few of the congregation went to sleep, and quite generally the people were tired out before the sermon was begun."

Dr. Lovejoy nodded his head. "I have heard that same story about many pastors. But you see the pastor wants to be fair with all departments of the church and each organization hands in an announcement with the remark, 'emphasize that good.' Thank you Brother Sterling."

Dr. Lovejoy next called on Brother Faithful. Brother Faithful was always at church; he was a front seater, a little deaf, but a credible listener. He had been a member of the church for many, many years; he had always stood by the pastor and the church was as dear to him as the apple of his eye. Dr. Lovejoy stated his errand, saying that he was seeing a few folks and getting their expressions and opinions. "You know," said Brother Faithful, "that I have been loyal to my pastors. They all have had admirable qualities. I like this man we have. He is well educated, a graduate of one of our colleges; he preaches good, sound sermons; that is, they are good as much as I can hear of them. Our pastor has the unfortunate habit—as many preachers have—when he reaches a climax he drops his voice to a whisper. I nearly disjoint my neck trying to hear him, but usually fail. His best point is gone and I am the loser. I am not the only one, for others with good ears tell me that they cannot hear him. Why do so many preachers make their introduction and their climaxes in a subdued tone of voice. Don't they want to be heard?"

Dr. Lovejoy was hearing the same old story of the preacher who does not know how to handle his voice.

Mrs. Gilderwild was president of the Ladies' Missionary Society. She was a very capable woman and a great church worker. Dr. Lovejoy went to see her; she told the District Superintendent that she liked the pastor and she thought that many of the members liked him also. "But" said she, "our pastor preaches over the heads of the people. We go to church, listen intently, go home and wonder what it is all about. The pastor is so well educated and spends so much time in his study, that he thinks in a different channel from what we do. He is so profound, so scholarly, so erudite, that his sermons are above us. We cannot get the children and the young people to stay at all; they do not understand the sermons either." As Dr. Lovejoy left the home of Sister Gilderwild he was thinking, and his thoughts ran about like this: Poor preacher! So much learning, yet lacks wisdom. Why cannot he understand that

preaching over the folks' heads doesn't help them. Sermons ought to be scholarly, but ought to go direct to the heart to be helpful. The preacher ought to give his sheep some fodder and put it on the lower shelf. A preacher can be well educated and yet not know how to preach for the edification and uplifting of his people. A real educated preacher states the great truths so simply that a child can understand them."

Dr. Lovejoy was getting tired and weary and thought he would better go home, but he decided in his own mind to stop and see the Sunday school superintendent. So he stopped in the store where Mr. Woodman was working. After a cordial greeting, Dr. Lovejoy stated that there was some agitation in favor of a new pastor, he said, "What is your candid and honest opinion?" Brother Woodman was silent for a minute or so, he was thinking of the boys and girls in his Sunday school, and he desired to be fair to them and the pastor. Finally he said: "There is some criticism of our pastor, but there is always criticism of every pastor. Our pastor is not a young folks' pastor, but as far as I can judge, the boys and girls like him. He is not particularly a Sunday school man—he usually comes in late—but I announce the church service to the Sunday school and urge all to attend the preaching services. He is not what you might call a man of social intercourse, he seems a little stiff and cold. But the biggest objection, that is, a general criticism, is this: Our pastor doesn't quit when he is through. He preaches remarkably well for half an hour, reaches a superb place to stop, but he doesn't stop, he goes on, flounders, repeats himself and don't seem to be able to land his boat and tie up to shore. A high-school boy said that he saw three or four fine places for him to stop, but he missed them and went on. My only complaint is, that our pastor does not quit when he is through."

The District Assembly came in due course of time. The General Superintendent, the District Superintendent and the Advisory Board met several times to make pastoral adjustments. Brightville had a new pastor sent to them. The man who was moved left against his wishes. He spoke unkindly of the District Superintendent as a man with a cotton string for a backbone; he bitterly criticized the "autocracy" of Nazarene ecclesiasticism, and talked "about a man not having an opportunity," and was generally disgruntled.

He was moved to a smaller charge where he would make long announcements, whisper his climaxes, preach over the heads of the people, and never stop when he was through. At the end of the year, the church was about dead and he was asked to move again.

THE PASTOR'S SUPER SIX

By N. B. HERRELL

In this article we shall endeavor to deal with the lights on the pastor's super six, the head lights, the tail lights, the dash light and the parking lights.

1. The necessity of the lights.
2. The use and misuse of the lights.
3. The highway signal lights.

The necessity for a full lighting system on the pastor's super six lies in the fact that he is driving through a land of darkness. Spiritual darkness is the blackest of all forms of darkness. There are no sun, moon or stars in sin's sky. It is like the awful darkness of Egypt that could be felt.

Not only is spiritual darkness black but it is filled with heavy fog clouds that rise from the swamps of unbelief and drift across the highways obscuring vision; and without powerful head lights, it would be impossible to travel at all without danger to the super six as well as all others. The head lights on the pastor's super six are of vast importance.

The tail lights on the pastor's super six are made necessary for two reasons. If any other driver of a super six desires to drive faster than others the tail light reveals the slow going church and permits the faster super six to go around without danger to either. Then the stop light. When anything goes wrong and a pastor needs to slow up for repairs, a flat tire, etc. he needs the stop light to warn those behind him that he is slowing down and stopping. We have a number of super six churches slowing down today and we hope there is nothing serious the matter.

The dash light is necessary in that it reveals the dash board on which are the many indicators as to the oil, charging of the battery, the speedometer, etc.

Then there are the parking lights, red, white and green. It is dangerous to both the parked car and to those moving to park along the King's highway without parking lights. Many super sixes are now parked but most of them have had judgment to get away from the main highway, so there is but little danger because of them.

The signal lights along the King's great highway are for the travelers' aid and to benefit those who have parked. The red lights of danger mark by roads, cross roads, etc. These signals are to keep the super six driver informed as to the course the highway takes, for he is driving through a country of darkness.

The use of the head light on the pastor's super six is first to show the driver the way so he

might keep in the King's great highway of holiness. To turn to either the right or left would mean trouble if not a total wreck. The head lights, to give the driver the best light, must be properly focused so as to throw the light ahead in such a manner as to reveal the road clearly far enough ahead to give the driver time to steer his super six by all dangers that might appear. There is danger of getting the lights set too high or too low. In either case the lights will be of little use. They can be and should be set and focused just right.

Again the lights are to be used and not abused. There are times when the dimmers should be used. The art of handling the lights and observing the signals will have much to do with the safety of the super six and her passengers. We have met cars on the highways with strong blazing head lights that would glare so that we could see nothing. A driver of a super six church can turn on too much light on a subject and blind the people. This danger is just as bad as not enough light. The light is to be used instead of abused. The truth of salvation can be preached in such a manner as to blind instead of enlightening. The preacher can denounce immorality in such a way that his preaching becomes immoral in suggestion, even as much so as the moving picture which he is denouncing. Light is to be used and not abused.

When churches park they should observe the rules and turn on their parking lights. It is dangerous to park along the highway in the dark. Churches holding petting parties with the world, flesh and the Devil should clear the highway and keep their park lights on.

Again, drivers of super six churches slowing down should see that the stop light is working, for just behind them comes a flyer at high speed. Super six drivers run at top speed and unless the rules are observed wrecks will happen. To avoid wrecks observe the rules of the King's highway.

If I were the driver of a super six car, I'd keep my lights all super in power; I'd use the dimmer, the tail, and dash. As well as the spot light that is super in flash.

THE PERPENDICULAR PRONOUN

By A. W. ORWIG

THE title of this article are words used by a certain bishop, years ago, at a prominent camp-meeting. In referring to some preachers he said that "the perpendicular pronoun spoils all they do." Well, truly, it often spoils a great deal of what they do. But the same is also true of many who are not preachers. Poor human nature seems to be impregnated

with the spirit of self-importance. Often self is manifested even in sermons, prayers, testimonies, etc., and in other relations in life. How self likes to parade its own achievements, and sometimes even at the expense of the good deeds of others! The "big I" and the "little you" pervade society in general.

A few years ago I heard a very excellent and useful man say, "Oh, there, now, I guess I have been saying too much about myself! please pardon." But the nature of his remarks justified a frequent allusion to himself. And yet he may have, in a degree, felt that he needed to guard against the manifestations of self.

Verily "the perpendicular pronoun" loves to be in the eye of the public. And good men are sometimes ensnared. The boastful spirit accompanying the publication of sermon topics, and the highly dramatic posture of their portraits in the papers seem to indicate more or less of self-glorification. The desire always to keep one's self before the public is illustrated by the following incident: A prominent and wealthy business man was told by a friend that a certain noted politician had "turned Baptist." The reply was, "I cannot believe the report; for to be a Baptist one must be immersed, and he would never consent to disappear from public view long enough for the performance of the rite." Somewhat amusing, but not without a lesson. The incident recalls the old fable of the frog which wished to migrate with some wild geese by holding on to a stick which one of them held in its mouth. The sight evoked the question by some persons as to who could have conceived such a clever idea. Upon this the silly frog shouted, "I did." And in thus opening its mouth in self-praise it, of course, fell to the ground and to its death.

Thus some persons who are troubled with the "great I" spirit, sooner or later come to grief. It is still true that pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Christ warns against self-exaltation by declaring, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased." The "I" must go down, and stay down, if we would be freely used of God. How blessed and important always to substitute Jesus for self! A certain preacher, before going into the pulpit, often asks himself, "Is it God or self you seek to glorify?"

"Out of everybody's sight,
Most of all my own,

So that all around may see
Christ and Christ alone."

That was a most glaring and obnoxious case of "the perpendicular pronoun," when the man in the temple told God how good he was. His whole prayer, or rather his insolent harangue, bristled with "I," "I," "I." But he got nothing except the contempt of God. But was it not also the "big I," when even the disciples of Jesus sought the exaltation of self, wondering who would be "the greatest" among them? There is perhaps no greater foe to our personal spiritual well-being and our success in God's work than the abominable and proud spirit that desires and seeks the honor of men instead of the glory of God. A good resolution for all of us would be that of a lady who, in giving her testimony, said that henceforth she would always use the little "I" for herself and the capital "I" for Jesus.

The apostle Paul said, "Not I, but Christ." What a glorious motto for all Christians, preachers and other! But it needs to become an actual experience, the real goal of all our pursuits. We must not only "decrease," and Christ "increase," but we must die to self, so that we shall be able truly to say, "None of self, but all of thee."

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

A LAYMAN ON PREACHING

MY MESSAGE to the preachers is that nothing in your ministry is so important as the earnestness born of living faith.

The people will forgive anything else in a minister except the sense that he is professional. Unless back of his learning and diction and eloquence they feel that he is dominated by a faith that lifts him to the heights, his sermons are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

"The reason I go to hear that man preach," said a prosperous and virile successful lumberman, "is that I cannot be sawing lumber while he is preaching."

Men and women, to use an overworked word, are "fed up" on the things that pertain to trade and business and sports and science and literature. They go to church—when it is not from habit, and the older I grow the more I believe that most good things that come to us are the result of a habit that puts us in a receptive mood in a good place—in the hope that they will be lifted up by a spiritual message and

have their walks brightened by the light that never was on sea or land.

The conception that there may be a religion in the heart separate from the religion in the head, and that one may be substituted for the other, finds no warrant in the Scripture or in life. Whenever I go to church and the minister rises and says, "I am going to preach to you out of my heart tonight," I immediately begin to fear that is an excuse for the lack of proper preparation, and I am in for a thin discourse. Often the impression is justified. People go to church to be fed as well as comforted and strengthened. You will observe that even Billy Sunday, believed to disregard the conventions, writes all his sermons, even if he seems to drive appeals home with a baseball bat.

It may be because of my upbringing in the oldtime Methodist faith, but I feel a sense of being denied bread, if I go to church and in the learned discourse, enriched with classical lore, I find nothing that gives warmth and cheer to the heart. Between the preacher who is short on learning and long on experience, and the one whose sermon is a cold ethical essay, give me the first. I can go to the library and the lyceum for the classics and for logic. But if the Church has no message or no influence that warms the heart and sends one forth to love and help his fellows, from what source is the essential to happiness and usefulness to come?—JOSEPHUS DANIELS, Secretary of the navy in the cabinet of President Wilson in *The Christian Advocate*, New York.

ATTRACTIVE CHURCH PUBLICITY

By ALPIN M. BOWES

This caption has been chosen for my article as most significant because it suggests the secret of the merits of effective advertising.

Advertising is a profession in itself and not everyone possesses this rare genius of making advertising attractive, yet every minister may learn much for his benefit by observation.

Advertising, when attractive, has a very significant place in the success of the Church, if we have anything of merit to advertise. And the more impressive, noticeable, convincing character of the publicity the more its influence in attracting the attention and interest of the public. If we are to reach the public with our great message of Full Salvation, we must get the people

into our services and we should not neglect to utilize every possible available means to obtain the attendance of the people.

"The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." They invest large sums in the most attractive and fascinating display possible, to catch the attention of the people and draw the crowds to their performances. Of course, we are not catering to the crowds and to the spectacular, but it is common sense to expect more blessing and more grace upon our work according to the extent of our mission to the public.

To conclude that advertising is superfluous and unnecessary, because, if we have a sufficiency of the Glory of God upon our services, that will attract the people, may be only presumption. Unquestionably, there is nothing so attractive and impressive as the wonderful outpouring of the Spirit of God upon our meeting. Nothing can be substituted for this and in reality, the more of the genuine we possess in our services, the more truthful and meritorious will be our advertising.

There must be some objective to our publicity, consequently we must, of necessity, have something worth while to offer the public. A very significant article in the press has come to my attention, from which I quote in this regard; a few lines of the address given by Charles Stelzle, of New York, told to the Eighteenth Annual Conference on Church Publicity:

"In advertising the Church the same principle of psychology must be used that the business man employs in selling goods. On general principles it is safe to assume that the public knows nothing whatever about the church. In advertising the church it should be made plain that it is not a reform organization, a quorum, a social service league, a political party; nor its preachers supposed to be economic experts. The church has an important social message and mission, and this fact should be advertised to the world; but its supreme task is spiritual. If it fails here, it has lost out completely. The church has a sure cure for sin, but, judging by the publicity, it is not very excited about offering this sure cure to the people. The church must let a sorrowing world know that it offers comfort to the desolate, that it heals the broken hearted, that it gives strength to the weak and weary, it can advertise no greater facts than these, for

herein it offers what the world craves most earnestly."

Our Lord said in the parable of the great supper, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." That may include street services and tent campaigns and the personal, individual invitation, but it may as consistently include a compelling advertisement in the newspaper, on the bulletin board, on the electric sign, etc.

In regard to the amount of advertising to be done or the character of the publicity, we must distinguish between the country church, the suburban city church and the larger city church. It will not be profitable to do as extensive advertising in the former as in the latter instance. However, some kind of publicity of the right character, is always helpful.

We have gained a great victory in publicity if we have discovered the secret of attractive, compelling advertising. Publicity is not, as some seem to infer, a useless, extravagant expense, if it actually brings people to our services; for if we may welcome the people to our services, we will have more penitents at our altar, more converts to welcome into our churches, more inspiration upon the people, and, as a consequence, an increased offering in our treasury.

It is difficult to suggest any set method of publicity applicable to all churches, yet I would offer for consideration such publicity as: The weekly bulletin, (this the members may read and pass on to others) an attractive church card, (to be kept in your pockets for ready use) the newspaper display; the bulletin board, (something neat and attractive); a running advertisement on some pages in the telephone directory; the hotel directory; an easily read bulletin board at some conspicuous corner on each road leading into the city; a flood-light to illuminate the front of the church; etc.

It has been my experience that no publicity reaches the people more nearly to an entirety or more effectively than a newspaper advertisement, and, by discrimination, many news items may be published free of charge.

If it were not for the lack of space I would be delighted to give some samples of the hundreds of advertisements which I have collected from many sources in my twenty years in the pastorate, but I can only give a brief statement here.

A series of special revival services affords every

pastor a wonderful opportunity for advertising his church. It has been my method to visit the City Editor of the newspaper and get personally acquainted with him. Then a week or two before a revival, visit him with a short story of the Evangelist's life and his picture, which he would gladly publish as news. Then follow this with some display advertisements which reach every home in the city. Then we use a large banner over the church entrance, and banners stretched across, several leading streets. Also, either cards or circulars for general distribution during the services and distributed systematically to the employees of factories and department stores; cards on the front of street cars; large cards mounted on frames placed on prominent vacant lots; and announcements, if possible, over the Radio. Our effort has been to enthrall and awaken the people until they are talking Revival everywhere. It may not be necessary to use such an extensive program of publicity everywhere and in every revival, but experience will prove what advertising God will bless most, for the benefit of our services.

What a Convention we preachers would have if we could get together and discuss the question, "How I would advertise the Church."

HERE AND THERE AMONG BOOKS

By P. H. LUNN

Of special interest to preachers at this particular time of the year is Doran's Minister's Manual for 1927 (Doran \$2.00) I am informed that the first volume published last year, met with an acceptance even beyond the publisher's expectations. The Minister's Manual really is a remarkable publication. It would be unreasonable to expect every suggestion contained in its 729 pages to be adaptable to every minister's program. But it does unquestionably contain enough usable material to make it well worth the price and more. Even to list its different divisions requires considerable space. The book contains sermons and illustrations for the following special occasions: Armistice Sunday, Christmas, Commencement, Communion, Easter, Holy Week, Independence Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, New Year's Sunday, Old People's Service, Palm Sunday, Thanksgiving, Washington's Birthday. Also ceremonies for weddings, funerals, baptism of infants and adults. Another feature is about

sixty sermons for children; still another, discussions on the Christian Endeavor Society Topics which will do for addresses to any body of young people. There are evening sermons for each Sunday of the year also enough mid-week messages for the entire year and besides this a special sermon for each one of the fifty-two Sundays. Then a discussion of each Sunday school lesson and finally poetry for all special days of the year. Book publishers have been accused of profiteering but no sane person would bring that charge based on the value for the price of this volume.

It was a happy thought that prompted the title "Andrew Murray and his Message" (Revell \$1.75) for the volume narrating the life of this saint of God. For the man and his message were inseparable. He wrote, not his theories, but the interpretations of his inner experiences. This detailed account—334 pages—has the further value of being authentic, compiled as it was by a friend, W. M. Douglas, with the help of Murray's daughters.

Although Andrew Murray's writings have that mystical quality that classes them with the works of "Brother Lawrence," a Kempis, Augustine and such men, he belongs to the present day, passing to his reward in 1917. This biography should be carefully read by everyone who aspires to deep spirituality.

One chapter entitled *Divine Healing* gives us a revelation of how Andrew Murray applied to his own needs, the principles of prevailing prayer about which he wrote. If there wasn't another thing worth while in the book the chapter of Murray's home life would be worth far more than the price of the volume. As the compiler says: "Many men who are great in the outside world fail lamentably in the home." Not so with the subject of this biography—his tenderness of spirit must have been quite like that of his Master. His love and solicitude for his wife was beautiful and touching. One gets the impression from the entire book that the Psalmist's testimony "Thy gentleness hath made me great" could be spoken of Andrew Murray. I may be biased by personal preference—most of us are—but I believe a preacher's library should have a good sprinkling of biographies. "Lives of great men all remind us"—you remember. The achievements of others stir us to high endeavor; the victories of another encourage us to go forth to conquer; the weaknesses and failures

of others when they are portrayed, warn us to take heed lest we fall. Preachers, stock up on biographies and by all means get this one.

"Harnessing God." Yes, a bit shocking, that title but don't pass judgment until you find that Paul Rader the author of a book by this name (Doran \$1.25) doesn't advocate harnessing God but shows the futility of men, as individuals and as systems and organization attempting to utilize God's power to further their schemes and projects. Rader's thoughts along this line are so invigorating and refreshing that we must quote just a paragraph or two: "Men tried to harness God. They are still trying to lay scientific hands upon Him; measure His ability and bind Him to their own ways of thinking, confine Him to their brain's ideas. New religions spring up every day, offering to harness God and put Him at the command of men. Old religions unwind their ancient rules and regulations for flattering Him into their net or appeasing His wrath and gaining His favor. Great pageants of pomp are displayed—also shapely altars of art, gifts of gold and precious stones, gorgeous robes of costly fabrics are supposed through priestly intoning to draw God within the cathedral walls where permanent obligations to grant life and power can be fastened upon Him. This power in turn is to be dispensed to the multitudes by those who have managed to put the harness on God."

But the title of the book before me represents only one chapter or sermon—there are eight others, everyone of them short, very readable, simple in a sense yet pointed and pregnant with truth—truth that we and the world need to hear and heed. Rader has mastered the problem of the proper appeal to present-day readers. No rambling, no long drawn out arguments—truth in chunks, here and there an illustration—homely sometimes, but always to the point. In this book especially, Rader's messages close with you wondering why he didn't say a little more when he was doing so well.

Francis A. Wright has sent us for review, a copy of his late volume, "The Beast, Modernism and the Evangelical Faith." It is a comprehensive survey of prophecy fulfilled and unfulfilled. The book is divided into five parts. Part one discusses the prophecies concerning the Beast and False Prophet. Part two contrasts the fundamentals of our faith as opposed to false systems of government and religions. Part three depicts

very strikingly the fallacies of Modernism giving birth to the False Prophet. Part four places emphasis upon the divine inspiration of the Word of God; calls attention to Scripture prophecies already fulfilled and traces the hand of God in history down through the ages. The book is not unduly speculative and furnishes much food for sober thought and careful study.

The idea is current that many business men take the attitude that religion and all that goes with it—church attendance, prayer, Bible—is well enough for women and children but it has no appeal to the practical, hard-headed man of business and affairs. Perhaps even the careful Bible student will be astounded to know how much the Scriptures have to say on the subject of business—vocations, merchandising, etc. W. G. Barnes, evidently after exhaustive research has compiled a modest little volume, classifying all Scriptures alluding in any way to business and its allied subjects. "Business in the Bible" (Vir 50c) is a handy, pocket-size book of 86 pages, with nineteen chapters, each one covering one classification of Scripture references. We mention just a few, Maxims for Business Men; Occupations Mentioned in the Bible; Occupations for Women; Arts and Crafts; Merchants; Farmers; Workers and Wages; Manufacturers.

It requires no great stretch of the imagination to picture great possibilities for this little volume. Christian business men will enjoy it, other business men need its enlightening message, the preacher in preparing a sermon for business men will find it of inestimable value; the minister called upon to address a group of business men will find here just the material he needs; the teacher of a men's Bible class will constantly refer to it. It's a big little book. Why hasn't someone done this before?

For the twenty-second time Revell is offering Tarbell's Teachers' Guide, by Martha Tarbell, Ph. D. (\$2.00). This annual volume needs no introduction to church and Sunday school workers. Neither the author nor the book needs an introduction to Christian workers. After handling hundreds of books and reviewing scores of them the sense of wonder at the material which one can procure for a mere bagatelle is in no sense abated. This particular volume struck us especially as an example of what modern inventions have made possible in the way of getting your money's worth in the book line. Here we have 415 pages, filled with information and sug-

gestions that must have taken months to gather and to write. A Sunday school lesson commentary is not only valuable for the current year, but for a preacher or teacher it makes a worthwhile reference book to be referred to again and again. There probably are other good commentaries on the Sunday school lessons but we are sure that there is none better than Tarbell's.

The Fleming H. Revell Co., also have submitted a copy of R. A. Torrey's "The Gist of the Lesson" (35c) for 1927. This is a neat vest-pocket volume giving a concise exposition of the International lessons. Dr. Torrey enjoys the reputation of being one of the foremost Bible scholars of this day, and as such he is well qualified for the difficult task of condensing the great amount of material that might be written on any of the lessons into a nutshell as it were. For a busy pastor or superintendent, especially, this little volume is worth many times its price.

FACTS AND FIGURES

By E. J. FLEMING

Noisome, noxious insects cause a great deal of trouble and destruction in this world. The United States is foremost in the fight against them. Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology, has a personnel in his bureau of 575, of whom 369 are scientific experts. Scientific men from many other nations come to the United States to see how we handle this problem.

In 1925 the Methodist Episcopal Church through its home missionary society spent more than \$2,500,000 in the United States and its territories in the interest of home mission work.

Late reports from the great disaster in Florida caused by the hurricane, show that nearly 365 persons were killed or fatally injured, 150 are missing, 1,100 injured, and 20,000 homeless. Property was damaged to the amount of \$165,000,000.

The World Zionist organization will spend \$10,000,000 in the agricultural industrial development of Palestine during the next year. The Jews of the United States contribute \$7,500,000 of this amount.

Oil wells in the United States appear to have a great attraction for many who desire to acquire sudden wealth. It is reported that on December 31, 1925 there were 306,100 producing oil wells in the United States which was an increase of 7,000 over the number reported for 1924. The average daily production per well was six and five-tenths barrels. In 1925 there were 25,623 wells drilled, distributed as follows: Oil wells 16,559; gas wells 2,300 and 6,734 were dry holes. We are led to wonder if churches organized within the last twelve months could be characterized as "oil wells," "gas wells" and "dry holes."

The Way of Faith carries the following:

"The dries swept the slate in Illinois, Indiana and Oregon primaries. Here is an incident worth noting: Ward B. Heiner of Indiana, toured the state in a \$12,000 automobile, displaying a sign in big red letters, 'I am wet.' Robinson, his opponent, 'dry,' received 226,439 votes and Heiner received 30,743. But the wet newspapers are playing with the soft pedal on when this incident is mentioned. Prohibition, the greatest boon to this country, marches on."

Before prohibition America was paying \$2,438,000 annually for drink and in 1916 \$253,567,900 for education. In 1922 the situation had so changed that we spent \$1,783,970,000 for public education but not one cent was spent for liquor by public permission.

Prof. Irving Fisher, of Yale University, estimates that prohibition is netting the United States \$6,000,000,000 a year in values.

The largest church organ in the world has been built in the Liverpool Cathedral at a cost of \$175,000. It was dedicated on October 18. Work on the organ was started before the war but was abandoned during the war; or until peace came. The lowest note weighs more than a ton and is thirty-seven inches in diameter. The instrument has five rows of keys, 222 draw knobs, 168 stops and 10,934 pipes. The electric motors that operate the mechanism have a total of 35 horsepower. The organ is so large that it requires 17 telephones in various parts of the instrument to enable workmen to communicate with the assistant at the keys when the organ is being tuned.

A pastor of a sister church in Alabama has just finished eight years of service with his church, during which time there have been 3,133 additions to the membership. The average Sunday school attendance increased from 557 to 1,211. The church has raised for current expenses the sum of \$355,723, while during the same time it has raised \$435,825 for missionary and educational purposes, with a present membership of 3,117. It is evident that this prosperous church is contributing as much for others as for itself.

The Union Lutheran Church in America at its recent convention adopted a budget of \$4,400,000 for its work of 1928. This represents a ten per cent increase over the amount approved for 1927. Of this amount \$1,320,000 is for foreign missions, \$1,674,200 for American or home missions, \$517,000 for Ministerial Relief, \$424,600 for education, \$226,600 for inner missions, \$11,000 for the American Bible Society, \$50,800 for the National Luther Council, and \$176,000 for executive expenses.

Rev. John Thomas, founder of the Friendly Islands Mission, applied to the London Mission Society for permission to extend his work to the island of Haabai, whose chief desired his coming. He waited with some anxiety for a reply. About that time a box was washed ashore, and carried to one of the missionaries, containing a letter from the society, authorizing the establishment of the mission. Neither the vessel to which the letter was entrusted, the crew, nor any of the freight, except the box containing the letter authorizing a new effort for the salvation of the heathen, which came to the right place at the right time, was ever heard from.

The death of Rev. Andrew Broadus, III, pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, near Sparta, Va., ended a pastoral service of the third generation of this name and an unbroken service of 106 years given by the three men to this church. This is a wonderful testimony of both the faithfulness of men and the fellowship of God.

Are old ministers being crowded to the shelf? Not all together. Dr. George Alexander preaches in the First Presbyterian church, Dr. James Burrell in the Marble Collegiate church, and Dr. I. M. Haldemann in the First Baptist church, of New

York. These three preachers are all octogenarians. Dr. Henry Howard, who is nearly seventy years of age, has just begun his pastorate at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church.

John Wesley Chapel, City⁶ Road, London, is now open daily for prayer and meditation, having recently been renovated. A Wesley museum has been founded in a nearby house, in which John Wesley died.

What is supposed to be the oldest American Protestant church now standing, is the old Swedes Church in Wilmington, Delaware. The Swedes preceded William Penn and by their peaceable dealings with the Indians, laid the foundation for the treaty of peace between William Penn and the Indian tribes. The corner stone of this church was laid in 1698.

It is always interesting to note what other churches are accomplishing. The November report from the Disciples of Christ shows a net gain of six and one-tenth per cent in membership. They received for regular missionary and benevolent work \$2,803,360.10 of which \$1,008,846.66 were special funds and \$1,794,513.44 were general funds.

The Union Christian Missionary Society with the six organizations represented, lists gross assets of \$12,207,939.31 as at June 30, 1926, and a permanent endowment of \$1,869,234.98. The Department of Foreign Missions reports 4,827 baptisms during the year on ten foreign fields. The Department of Home Missions made appropriation for pastors' support in 141 churches, of which 13 became self-supporting. These churches show 2,122 additions to the membership. There were 912 children cared for in the six children's homes, and 183 aged men and women cared for in the six old people's homes. The Department of Ministerial Relief disbursed \$95,642.73 to 344 homes. The Department of Church Extension assisted 55 churches with loans totaling \$461,000, making possible church property valued at approximately \$1,500,000.

PERSONAL CHRISTIAN WORK

By A. W. ORWIG

PERSONAL Christian work does not wholly consist in an endeavor to secure the salvation of the unsaved, momentous as is such work. And certainly all God's people ought to be thus engaged. The Bible freely enjoins it.

But there is often need for real personal work in helping weak, discouraged and feebly instructed Christians. "Comfort ye My people," is the divine injunction. And having ourselves been instructed in the Holy Scriptures, as to doctrine and duty, we should be somewhat "apt to teach," or engaged in "teaching and admonishing one another." And there are some who fall into sin, or are "overtaken in a fault," and need help. It may be our personal work to "restore such in the spirit of meekness." The Church has many weaklings or "babes in Christ," and an essential part of personal Christian work is "rightly dividing the word of truth," to "feed" the "sheep" and the "lambs," and "to succor them that are tempted." Such work not only belongs to preachers outside of the pulpit as well as in it, but to the laity as well, "according to the grace that is given to us."

The preacher who is content with pulpit work alone comes far short of duty and misses the blessings derived from private or personal contact with people in an effort to win them to Christ. An unsaved man, who very often attends a certain church, and knew the preacher well, said to him, "You do not seem to tell sinners how to be saved, and you have never spoken a personal word to me about my soul's salvation." In gratifying contrast is that of the preacher who asked a man on the street if he was a Christian, and received the reply, "That is quite a personal question." To this the preacher answered, "I know it is and meant it to be such, but asked in the interest of your soul."

There are professors of religion who are willing to do general church work, but not such as involves a personal effort to save souls. A preacher asked a male member of his church if he would give a gospel street talk on a Sunday afternoon. The man said he would gladly do so. His pastor then asked him if he would do some real personal work by speaking to some of the unsaved men where he was employed in a large bank, "Oh, that's different," was the reply, implying a lack of holy courage to do some "handpicking" work. God help us to single out some of the unsaved and prayerfully strive to lead them to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Perchance in heaven, one day, to me
Some ransomed soul will come and say,
'All hail, beloved! but for thee
My soul to death had been a prey.'
Ah, then, what sweetness in the thought,
One soul to glory to have brought!"

THE SMALLEST BIBLE

To the best of our knowledge there is no Bible published, with clear, easy-to-read type and references, as small as this Number A 2094.

It is only $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick; page size $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., and weighs only 8 ounces.

The size is not the only special feature. Just think of a Bible printed on high-grade India paper, silk-sewed, bound in genuine Morocco leather, leather lined, selling for \$4.15, postpaid. This is almost like "old times" before prices began to soar.

The following is part of a page of the Bible showing exact width also exact size of type.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ZECHARIAH. Redemption of Zion. 233											
Vision of the horns.											
trees that were in the bottom and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white.											
9 Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.											
10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth.											
11 And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.											
I pray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horns over the land of Judah to scatter it.											
CHAPTER 2											
1 I LIFTED up mine eyes again, and looked, and, behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand.											
2 Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.											
3 And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,											

We would like for every minister and layman who needs a pocket Bible to send for one of these with the understanding that it may be returned at our expense if not satisfactory. But we are confident that not one will be returned. The value is too apparent and the combination of size and type is something so unusual that you will be delighted.

Without Concordance, No. A2094, \$4.15

With Concordance, No. A3094, \$4.60

OXFORD POCKET TESTAMENT WITH PSALMS

INDIA PAPER EDITIONS

- No. 0429X. Persian Morocco; overlapping covers; leather lined; silk sewed; red under gold edges; silk marker; large black-faced type. Size $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{3}{4}$ x 13-16 inches. \$5.00
- No. 0430X. Levant Morocco, overlapping covers; calf lined; silk sewed; red under gold edges; silk marker; large black-faced type. Size $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{3}{4}$ x 13-16 inches. \$7.00
- No. 0417x. Same as 0429x except that this one is bound in French Morocco. Unusual value at \$3.60

SPECIMEN OF TYPE

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
40 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.
41 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and
spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Nazarene Publishing House, Kansas City, Mo.