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TRUTH THAT BLESSES OR BLISTERS

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Stillwater, Oklahoma

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INTRODUCTION

To the reading public, I am offering another small pamphlet. I have written these articles and am sending them forth without pulling their teeth. Much that I hear and read today, has the appearance of beating their gums with teeth pulled, the bite mostly gone.

For the past forty-five years, my tithes have gone through my church; likewise, my offerings have gone through my own church. I have a host of friends in other groups, but I have been true to my own church. In every area of the church, I have been loyal, but, I refuse to be blinded by this modern push in the Holiness movement today.

I have written with this day of shallowness and hypocrisy in mind. If this seems to be written for you, that is the way it was intended.

I am not sending this to the man in the moon or into space, even if this is the space age. But, to you, right down here in this world. If it does not hurt, I'm glad. If it does, I hope it helps.

If you think some of the inferences seem to be for you I would say, I meant it that way. God have mercy on anyone that preaches or writes to tickle itching ears.

* * * * *

1

DIFFERENCES ARE WHOLESOME -- LET US HAVE THE MINORITY REPORT

The occasion was an annual church meeting. While nominations were being made from the floor and placed on the blackboard, as was the method used by that church at that time in selecting the church board, one strong layman nominated another strong layman. Knowing that these two men had disagreed in a very pointed way at different times during the past year, I was a little surprised when this happened. In discussing the matter later with the one who did the nominating, he said, "I don't always agree with my brother, but he is a good man and a good thinker. I believe this church is safer and its future is more sure with men on this board who disagree sometimes than it would be if we all agree, all the time."

I have meditated this question of honest differences many times, and viewed this line of thinking in connection with our entire Zion. It is so easy to think that the fellow who agrees with me is a genius and the one who disagrees is a crack-pot. It has been the other way enough of the time to keep me in a very good state of humiliation.

I have often read with interest the reports of judges in these United States, and felt it was wonderful to live in a country where the minority report could be given as well as the majority. The minority is not condemned or censored, and the newspaper publishes one the same as the other. Thank God for freedom of the press.

In our beloved church there are signs that give me concern along this line. The man that wants to give a minority report is brought in question as to whether he is a good Nazarene. We all say we don't want anyone to rubber stamp for us, but just the opposite is the way it often looks. For example, when a layman does some thinking of his own and crosses the views of his pastor, it is interesting how quickly the news travels and he is labeled as a sour note or off bloom. If the pastor fails to agree with all of the program of the District, although he supports all of the major moves promoted by its leaders, he is branded as an independent and this news moves fast. The District Superintendent fails to agree with some of the promotional ideas originated in Kansas City. If he expresses his opinion in any way, the reports that are circulated go something like this, "He is bucking the Church Program."

If our General Superintendents disagree, as I am sure they do, all we get officially is the majority report. Maybe a little something seeps out here and there, but it is colored until you are not sure how it really looked originally. The minority report might be very encouraging to some of the church, and that number could be larger than we think.

Another avenue of service to the church is the Herald of Holiness. This is the official organ of the entire denomination, but only the majority reports are accepted. What I mean to say is that only what the majority agrees with is printed. Take the Publishing House: If you want a book or pamphlet published and the majority report is, we don't need this, the minority is never heard from.

The elders' report recorded in the 11th of Hebrews was by no means the majority report. Joshua and Caleb gave the minority report of their trip into the Land of Canaan. The majority report was accepted. But I am glad, even in this day, the minority report is available, and here it is: "If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us; their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not." Num. 24:8-9.

To infer that a minority report would cause more trouble in the church, as some have suggested to me, I am not ready to admit, for to me that is saying, we do not have the blessing we profess, but if some misunderstandings did result, they would be of a less dangerous nature.

It is common to hear someone say, "Sure, everyone can have his own standards of conduct and personal convictions as long as he doesn't violate rules in the manual, and as long as he doesn't try to impose them on the other fellow." I heartily agree with the statement, but not with the inference. The inference is: believe it, but don't say anything about it. Most everything you have received that did you good, whether it came from God or man, was given to you to share in some measure with someone else. To be different and express it is dangerous, but when we discourage honest and sincere differences, we encourage dangerous divisions.

To disagree with good men is not to dishonor them, for good, honest, sincere people and especially preachers, will eventually speak, or lose their soul, and when they do speak it will be from a feeling of desperation. An honest minority report in the freedom of conscience and of the spirit would be better for us all.

The majority of trustees of a College voted against the old standard of modesty that had been the custom of the school for more than fifty years. However, that vote was not unanimous, but when a group of students and a large group disagreed with the action of the board and desired to sign a statement to that effect, the minority report was not allowed. Those in authority forbade them exercising their own will in using their own pen to sign their own name. Some would say that was done for the sake of peace. That is what the Church of Rome would have said.

The great issues of life are the things men die for, not the things men agree on. This action and similar ones tend to make pigmies out of men who should be giants. When we curb the minority report, we also reflect upon the doctrine we preach; for we talk freedom but practice oppression. The facts are: the coward never speaks; the weak quit after the first battle.

Actions like the one mentioned above in the curbing of the minority report encourages a polly parrot, rubber stamp ministry. There is a vast difference between respecting authority and being subdued by it. I believe the minority in the Church of the Nazarene has a right to be heard and that without intimidation.

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2

SOME DANGERS AS I SEE THEM

The Church of the Nazarene was born with great soul travail pains. It can only be reproduced by the same methods.

The idea of Crusading for Souls did not originate at Kansas City but at Calvary... Promotionalism may temporarily build an organization or Political Party and bring temporary success generated through fear of an ecclesiastical head. Weak souls bow to such pressure, but sincere, holy men of God resent such political ecclesiastical pressure. A Holiness Church must have a different source of motivation. It will take inward compulsion generated by the mighty baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire, giving a real soul passion that says, "I would rather die than fail the lost of my day." The love of Christ constrains me. This must be our source of motivation if it is to endure and turn the tide in this materialistic day.

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3

AM I WRONG IN GIVING CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM?

Do we have to be a rubber stamp in order to be a good Nazarene? If we don't agree with some things in the church, shall we hold our peace, or will our methods stand serious inspection? Is it wrong to stand our weak points up by our successes? When the church is headed for trouble, is the preacher supposed to sit complacent, and by his actions say to his flock and his family, "all is well"? Is he a traitor if he uses his voice and pen to warn those he loves of the grave danger or approaching storm?

If those leading a church are infallible, as the Pope of Rome is supposed to be, then, no one should question their judgment. In our beloved church we do not hold to these tenets of faith. We should seriously guard against reflecting upon the character of any leader, and not assume that we know his motives and impugn such!! But every man is a king and a priest. At least, this is the true Protestant position. As a priest he enters the Holy of Holies, spreads his petitions personally before the Sovereign of the Universe, then comes forth with a commission from the King of kings and can speak with dignity and authority. Paul said immediately after such an experience, "I conferred not with flesh and blood." We can respect flesh and blood without being in bondage to it. Paul said again, this time in regard to one of his brethren whose present was colored by his former religion, "I withstood him to his face for he was to be blamed."

I have heard leaders make statements like this: "We have your records. We know more about you than you think." No truly sanctified man objects to having his record thoroughly inspected, but all truly sanctified men suffer at heart when praised or paddled on the strength of colored evidence. Let me illustrate: One pastor stands up before the crowd and is given a certificate as the pastor of a ten per cent church. Any pastor could have given ten percent under his

circumstances. Another pastor gives his report and apologized because his church is just a seven percent church. God knows the last man worked harder and sacrificed twice as much as the other. I heard one say, "... figures tell the truth, yes, but they don't tell all the truth." Often they are in the wrong man's column when men do the figuring. When men praise and give out credit in God's work, often they give to the wrong person.

A man in a very determined way objects to methods used by the President of these United States and his cabinet. This can be done without reflecting upon the character of any man, and the man who objects to some things is not questioned as far as being a good American citizen. In this freedom has been much of our strength. Someone asks, "Hasn't this been abused?" and my reply is that it certainly has. But don't change this, for if you do our way of life will become stagnant. Great souls shrivel and die if they hold their peace.

My plea is for the same thing in our church. Some of us can remember when we stayed a week or more at our District Assembly and opened up almost everything for public debate. No one's religion was questioned if he spoke what he thought was best for the church he loved. I would not insist on hanging all of our linens out on the line before the public, but on the other hand, nothing should be covered that would in any way shade the truth or shield sin. If our little program or play house will not stand the close-up scrutiny or serious inspection of good sanctified people, it should be junked anyway.

* * * * *

4

A PATTERN PREACHER

Matt. 7:29 "Jesus spoke with authority."

An apologetic preacher is very repulsive to grown-up spiritual men and women. The good layman wants a preacher that speaks like John the Baptist, "Oh, generation of vipers." The same preacher said, "Behold the Lamb of God." John was a voice and he was also a message. You cannot separate God's message and God's man. The man of God is both an Isolationist and a world figure. He has a message for the world, but he has some things that are confidential between the preacher and his God. The preacher may not know all the side roads, by-passes, and detours, but he is familiar with the road of repentance that leads to God and the Highway of Holiness that leads to Heaven. Here the man of God speaks with authority. He does not do exploratory surgery, he is not just hoping he finds the trouble. Sin is known by its name and no allowances are made. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. The true man of God knows this is a death struggle. Sin must be killed to save the patient. He may not have had the privilege of attending Solomon's College, but he is conscious of the fact that it takes wisdom to win souls, and courage to use the sword. The man of God is more interested in saving the patient than the ambulance or even the hospital. They are important but the chief concern is the complete recovery of the patient.

There are perils and blessings to the positive. But, only the positive can silence the enemy's gun. He must shoot to kill sin. To speak with authority is dangerous. It was so with Jesus for He could see the cross and John the Baptist could see the head-man's block. They could see

beyond the cross or the ax. This must be so with every true messenger of God. To draw the battle line clear has its perils, but also its blessings. He speaks with authority for He sees beyond the cross. No compromiser's acid is found in the blood stream of the truly sanctified servant of God.

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5 WHO IS SCUTTLING THE BOAT?

Is it the man that screams and warns the people of the approaching storm, that cries loud and long about the holes in the ship, and that urges the skipper to stay away from icebergs that have sunk other ships? Or is it that serene man that says all things are as they have always been, that storms should be dreaded only by feeble-minded, and that holes in the ship are only noticed by the alarmist, and that icebergs need not be avoided, and fails to take heed to the poison in the pot?

For more than 40 years I have been riding the Gospel Ship known as the Church of the Nazarene. I was young and so was the church when I got on board. Many brilliant stars flashing like comets have sailed across Nazarene skies in these years. Some of these burned out in a short time in spite of the fact they were prattled and praised by many.

May I ask who is scuttling our nation's ship at this time? Someone says communism from Russia, but really our greatest danger is from within. We are in great danger of becoming a cuddled, ease-loving nation pampered on soft diet and cheap entertainment, with flabby muscles as far as deep moral principles are concerned.

And the crowd that is scuttling the boat, spiritually, are those ease seekers who are too lazy to pray, who live off the glory that comes from other people's crowns, make clever, critical statements in regard to the standards of the church. They have no calluses on their knees or birth pains in their souls, wanting to play out where laurels are spread instead of praying where blood is shed. The church has done better crawling on her knees than living in ease. Jacob did better wrestling with angels than scheming with men.

It is easier to parade brass than dig for gold. Is it the one that turns the light on the termites, or is it the termites that are boring holes in the boat? It is easier to see the one that is holding the light, so he is often shot as a traitor, and the termites continue to bore holes in the boat.

To ignore dangers is the modern method of operation. Call the one who speaks a "rabble raiser" or one that muddies the water. No real Christian has any desire to be either of these. Sometimes, if he speaks he receives the wrath of men, but to keep silent brings the frown of God. He chooses to obey God rather than man -- then leaves the results with Him that never misses a pay day. If the man of God warns -- his hands are clean, If he fails to warn -- his hands are covered with the blood of his fellow-men. Who is scuttling the boat?

* * * * *

OPERATING WITH A SAFE MARGIN

In my teen-age years, the Saviour came into my heart in saving and cleansing power. The "call to preach" was not of my own choosing, although from my youth I had strange feelings along this line. When Christ came into my heart, with the fullness of His Spirit, there also came the feeling "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel."

If I must preach the Gospel, there must be a Gospel to preach. No doubt but what there are places where the truth of the Gospel and error of men are close together, but there are no places where sin and Holiness can be mixed. So I decided early in my ministry, by the help of God, to live a life with a good margin between my soul and sin, by "shunning the appearance of evil." Also, that the Gospel we preach shall have a clear and distinct line between right and wrong.

This age has shown some serious danger signs among those who are supposed to be Holiness preachers; uncertain statements that leave the hearers in doubt as to their position; by saying there are those that believe in eradication of carnality and never make his position clear. You naturally know where he really is doctrinally; crossing the lines with shaded statements; a pat on the back of the world, and a praise to God in the next breath, If they are not endorsing sin or worldliness, their margin is very narrow, in fact, so close you are given a very uneasy feeling on the inside. Often your preacher friends have TV sets in their homes. They say they control them and, of course, they would not profess Holiness and watch Hollywood pictures in their homes or allow their families to watch such. Neither would they allow "shoot 'em up" pictures to be watched by their children. No one can imagine a Holiness preacher approving of nearly nude men and women parading before his family in the living room of his home. When asked if it isn't possible to have a television in the home and control it, my reply is this, "I saw a man walk a wire once, and he did not fall, but it was so dangerous that no other man in the crowd was willing to try it. Also, he kept his own child off the wire." The element of risk was too great to take the chance. The benefits were too small.

No doubt but what thousands of people are backslidden in heart as a result of being captured by this modern picture show in the home. Recently, while praying around the altar in our church, a very fine woman asked to speak to me; this is what she said: "My husband is unsaved and turns on the TV at night. He thinks I am not congenial if I leave the room, so I decided to stay but not to pay any special attention to it. But it is so entertaining and intriguing that after watching awhile with no intention of doing wrong, my soul felt contaminated or dirty just like I needed a bath." I was ready to admit that her problem was a complicated one; not easy to keep a good margin of safety but possible by the grace of God...

The hair is one of women's great problems. However, the Bible does say it is a shame for a man to have long hair and that a woman's hair was given her for a covering and that her long hair is her glory. A person said in my presence, "God doesn't pay any attention to the length of the hair." If He knows the number of the hairs of your head, it also seems reasonable that He would take notice of the length, inasmuch as He inspired Holy men to write on the subject in His Word. Paul did say that nature itself did some teaching on this matter of long hair for women. Some say such a little thing would not cause spiritual trouble. Let me illustrate: A car wreck was very serious in life and property loss. The driver lost control of his car, left the highway and struck a tree. Everyone said,

"what a terrible wreck," but only the close observer knew that days before, a small nail was picked up by a tire. Just a little thing, but with the pressure of the highway on the little nail, a flat tire and a wreck and tragedy is the result. The little foxes still spoil the vine.

The idea of wearing one ring originated somewhere. I do not believe that it originated with God. If not with God then Satan or man must be responsible or perhaps they worked together.

"I only believe in wearing one ring. It is not for show, but I certainly want to show it", is the action which speaks louder than words. Whoever heard or read of God saying all right, wear one gold ring and no more. Just one small hole in a dike can be easily stopped, but if it isn't stopped, it will get larger. The hole will be larger when it gets to your children and still larger when it reaches your grandchildren. Oh, the tragedy that has come from loving one little ring. It just opened the door and let in a flood of jewelry.

Why insist on wearing so many clothes? This question is common in our day. No age's so-called civilized people had more vulgar body exposure than the one in which we live, yet God's Word is plain in its demands for modest apparel. My farthest imagination cannot conceive of anyone who loves a Holy Christ wanting to parade around on the streets, at bathing beaches, or on ball courts with shorts on, exposing their bodies to public gaze. This is a flagrant violation of the Word of God and the law of common decency.

If in our hearts we sincerely love Christ, it is easy to love not the world. "But if any man love the world, the love of God is not in him."

The Christian, whether preacher or layman, enjoys keeping a safe marginal difference between him and the world. They will not follow the world, neither have pleasure in them that do.

* * * * *

7

SAVING YOUR SOUL OR YOUR HEAD

This is a day of diplomacy. Just where diplomacy ends and compromise begins in any individual only God knows.

John the Baptist was once a very popular man. Large crowds attended his revival. There went unto him Jerusalem, Judea, and all the regions round about Jordan and were baptized of him in Jordan. What a crowd this was, but few men can stand outstanding success in his field and not show some trace of pride. John was one of those rare men.

It was his privilege to introduce Jesus to that crowd, notwithstanding they had come to hear him preach. "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world", was his marvelous introductory statement. "I must decrease but He must increase", showed the caliber of the man, John.

John the Baptist could have avoided truth; ignored the act of adultery by Herod living with his brother's wife. He could have tried to place the responsibility on his superior. This time it was Jesus. He could have condemned sin in a general way but this preacher was specific. Oh, how my heart cries for men who are against specific sins and are not afraid to say so. Ecclesiastically they may lose their head, but they can save their souls.

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8

THE COMPROMISER'S DIET

The menu to feed to this age by the compromisers is started with an extra large portion of what is called "tolerance" spread thick over a lot of things. This is followed by a perverted type of church loyalty, then add some generous sprinkles of broadmindedness under the guise of love or sentiment. Add a ring or two -- this is to open the door for all the jewelry to be worn that carnal hearts crave.

The hair of the women is trimmed just a little. This is done to sear the conscience so there will be no inner alarm when the style says shingle it like a man. A light amount of lipstick is added for coloring -- this is done to keep the world from thinking we are different.

Hesitatingly, sleeveless dresses are worn. First, this is done at home, then gradually moves out into the public. This is done to add courage to face what is coming in the future and dulls the sense of modesty.

Selectivity of TV programs is given as an appetizer to blur the line between right and wrong.

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9

WHAT WAS HE SHOOTING AT?

I went hunting with a man once, and after being in the woods for a little while, we separated. In a few minutes I heard him shooting. My thoughts were, "He is getting game." This continued for more than an hour. He was shooting every few minutes. I thought, he is doing so well and my hunting ability is so poor, I dreaded to meet him on the other side of this strip of woods. But when we finally met, I was greatly surprised. He came out of that shooting episode with an empty bag. When the facts were revealed, he had been shooting at nothing, just wasting ammunition.

Some of my observations in the church world are almost too embarrassing to mention, but I have heard a lot of shooting across the years. The guns sounded like this, "Greatest revival in the history of the church", "Attendance the largest ever", "Broke all Sunday School records", "422 seekers". This part was not in the written report, but with some effort, I got it. How many members did you receive? Three critics by transfer, two disgruntles from another denomination, one moron

boy on profession of faith. This last part wasn't supposed to be in the report, but this is really what was in the bag. Judgment day revelations will be both serious and interesting.

Are we just shooting, wasting ammunition or what are we doing anyway?

* * * * *

10

DID HE MEAN WHAT HE SAID?

The Apostle Paul in writing to the different churches, wrote on many and varied subjects emphasizing the different phases and effects of the Gospel. Many times I have heard someone say, "Oh, you know he didn't mean that." This was said in regard to some clear, plain statement in the Word of God. What in the Word of God should I believe if I can't believe Paul? "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, or instruction in righteousness."

Some of the statements I have heard referred to were in regard to cutting the hair of women, and men wearing long hair. When God inspired Paul to write on this subject He was fully aware of this our day and gave guidance for holy men and women in His Word. All scripture does not deal with equally vital subjects, but all scripture is equally inspired. My feeling is that God knew we would have this bobbed hair craze, and the people would have perverted desires contrary to nature. So, He inspired Paul to write on the subject. Here he gives guidance to the honest. The eleventh chapter of First Corinthians will give guidance to open minds and honest hearts. I believe God meant what He said through the Apostle Paul.

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11

THE CHURCH IN DANGER

The church in its normal healthy state is like a lion. The number may be small, but the courage with which they fight is like that of the lion. One of the first approaches of modernism is to curb that lion-like spirit. The next step modernism takes is to curb the Holy enthusiasm of the people of God. The excuse used is that the person that was curbed, talked too much, which is sometimes the case, but what Satan desires is to cool the spirit of the church anyway he can. Then to tell stories about inconsistent people that were the shouters in the church, puts a good tool in Satan's hands and helps him keep down the Holy Ghost shout. For nothing sends conviction to sinners more than a Holy Ghost sent shout. Then the modernistic trend contrives and rationalizes. Tries to figure out everything. Satan's point here is to gradually rule out the supernatural working power of God. It gradually turns the new birth or regeneration into a decision time. Instead of sanctification or death of the old man, the more modern term is dedicate or consecrate. Substitute glamour for grace. This will inspire the fleshly appetite for the athletic, near-nude social functions of the day.

A visit to the skating rink or bowling alley -- of course, with so-called Christians -- will surely get you used to the dance floor music, and make bowling and pool playing, cigarette smoke and liquor breath less offensive. Card games at home are to make gamblers under your own roof; thus, you won't have to go to a dive to learn to gamble.

Of course, you have a light flavor of religion throughout all of this menu; and with an icicle in the pulpit for a special mixing stick. It is, of course, served cold but very enthusiastically.

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12

HE BARKED AT NOTHING

I love a dog even though I am not a boy anymore. The little powder-puff house dog with a pink ribbon around his neck doesn't impress me very much. But a faithful watch dog does and they have saved many a life. He warned when there was real danger. He had been so true that when his voice was heard, those that knew him best knew danger was near.

A true hunting dog, who was a dependable squirrel dog, barked treed; a casual look by one of the hunters, and someone suggested he was fooled. "Oh, no," said the owner, "He never lies; there is a squirrel here." When closer checks were made the squirrel was found.

Another dog barked; it seemed just to be barking. He barked if there was danger; he barked if there wasn't. He barked if there was a squirrel; he barked if there wasn't. In fact, most of his barking was at nothing.

I have observed some like this in the church. When some people give warning, there is danger, and usually more serious than the casual observer sees.

Then there are those that may not speak real often, but they have something to say. There is something in the tree when they speak.

Then I have found some that speak on every subject and don't know much about anything. In fact, they just want to say something. Bark up any tree, in fact, they enjoy barking.

Do you bark at something, or is most of your fuss raised about nothing?

* * * * *

13

MARKS OF A TRUE PREACHER -- MARK THE PERFECT MAN

A preacher to be a success must be known by some marks. He must have the mark of honesty so plainly written that it is easily read. Honest with his family, honest with his friends, honest with his enemies, and in reality, first and above all, honest with his God.

The family of the preacher does have a right to expect some things and that without embarrassment to them. How sad to see the members of a preacher's family covering things over for the preacher that is careless with his words or with money.

His friends can be hurt and sometimes seriously by the preacher's indifference to some of his personal obligations. He should remember that business men are business men even though they are good friends. The preacher must never shield his friends from the truth. The closer the friendships the greater the responsibility. Some of your friends may be drifting; if you are easy on them, they will be lost. Nathan's frankness to David, no doubt, saved his soul.

The preacher should check closely his honesty with his enemies. Here, of all places, go the second mile. Do the big thing. Don't try to be a show off. Genuineness can be felt even if rejected. Be so crystal clear that looking in the mirror will not embarrass you, and when alone, there is comfort in your own conscience.

Honesty with God is rewarding. Here, there is no need for pretense. There is no need to try to impress Him. I have heard praying and preaching both that sounded like an effort was being made to impress God. Remember, He knows what we need before we ask and the effectiveness of the ministry can only be measured by the amount of God's blessings it has. Sham, veneer, and pretense are a stench to the nostrils of a Holy God and an embarrassment to honest, sincere people. Take heed and put a mark here.

II Peter 1:8. If these things, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity, be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful.

* * * * *

14

I WAS A FRUIT INSPECTOR

The apples were beautiful. They just made your mouth water to look at them. The aroma from that basket was an appetizer in itself.

But I must check some of them. The first one was uniform outwardly, solid and delicious clear through. This reminded me of some Christians I have known. They were ethical, well-balanced in their attitudes. In their presence you sensed a beautiful aroma of God's nearness which lingered long after they had gone.

Another apple from that basket was sound and good on the inside, but was very lopsided. Some Christians I have found like that; good on the inside, but very much out of balance when it came to ethics. Strong on works, but low in love. Demands on others, strong; easy on themselves.

The next apple looked very good outwardly, in fact, almost perfect. By close observation just a little discolored spot was found. Upon cutting inside, I found that a worm had reached the center and it was decaying. If it was to be used, some cutting and carving must be done or all

would be lost. There will be some losses, the best you can do. In trying to help Christians in this situation is not always easy -- carnality must be removed or eventually there will be tragedy.

Another apple I checked had some blemishes on the outside; it didn't impress one favorably. Just remove a little of the outside and it was sound and very enjoyable. Some Christians seem a little rough on the outside, but when you get past the rough exterior, you find they are pure, genuine, very choice saints. By their fruit you shall know them.

* * * * *

15

THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

A number of years ago a young preacher in our church invited me to go with him to a preaching appointment. The invitation was accepted. He was at that time very popular with the church, exceptionally talented, much in demand as a special speaker. I loved him, prayed for and with him many times. On our way home that night from hearing him preach, we passed close to a ball park. The crowd was screaming and yelling. My friend turned to me and said, "If that is wrong (referring to the ball game), I need something I don't have. I don't go because of my influence, but I still love it."

When he was overtaken by something much worse a number of years later, my feelings were that there was a serious lack in his soul all the time. If we knew the appetites of the souls of men, no doubt but what it would cause great alarm. Small things are often arrows pointing inside to serious trouble.

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16

MAKING LIBERAL NAZARENES?

Oftentimes the methods used by the modern Nazarene workers remind me of the man that had a small quantity of pure wine and wanted to increase what he had. A friend or (enemy) suggested, "Get you a big barrel. Put what wine in it you have. Then, add water and most anything to fill it up. Put a lot of alkalizer in it for fizz."

The Nazarenes put about anything in the barrel, now, just be sure that the barrel is big. I knew one church that had 17 known masons, and a number of tobacco sellers and users. Then, got a kitchen and recreation building. They added other commodities, too numerous and some too ugly to mention. Add some Nazarene alka-seltzer, be generous with this, so as to make a big fizz. It does have a little Nazarene coloring. Report the big fizz to the District Bulletin and the Herald of Holiness, -- and I was about to forget that the official mixing stick for this big barrel was to be a Dr. of Divinity, the degree not earned but acquired by having gone to extreme in supporting a religious institution, and by having been a specialist with the financially and flatteringly designed back-scratcher.

This will almost guarantee him a call to a better church or an appointment to a prominent place in the denomination.

Don't forget to be liberal with the fizz!

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17

SATAN'S NEW REVELATION TO THE HOLINESS MOVEMENT

The "new revelation" in the Holiness Movement says that the old timers, who with great soul travail, pains and physical sacrifice, brought into existence a Holy spiritual movement were wrong in their standards and that the strategy of this generation is right in deciding to keep the doctrinal statements and at the same time, junk the standards that made the church great. Enjoy the river but tear down the banks.

The second "revelation" is that the things the church condemned in its early day of infancy were only childish notions. All they really need is just a Holy Robe and a New Name and God's blessings will be upon it. Let me illustrate:

Some would make jewelry sacred by having the blessing of the church. Notwithstanding, it was brought into the church from heathenism, and [brought into the church] by saying that the Bible does not mean what it says on the subject. It has also been discovered in the "new revelation" the Bible did not really mean what it said about modest apparel, and that the early church fathers were biased, and, of course, not as intellectual as their children or grandchildren. What they saw wreck some of the churches they came out of was only an emotional phobia. Don't be deceived, you can bathe and powder the pig, but he is still a pig. You can perfume and pet the skunk, but he is still a skunk. Be ye separate is still in the Word of God.

The third "revelation" I mention is that our founding fathers missed the mark greatly by opposing the social and recreational program. In discouraging soup kitchens in the church, our fathers, no doubt, read where God condemned Israel for eating and drinking and playing. Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple. They usually run with the eaters, drinkers and players! The only ones of the athletic social crowd, that I have met, that are active at prayer meeting is one once in awhile that is loaded with gall instead of grace. A holy heart loves not the world; and has no fellowship with the works of darkness. Moving black into the church will not make it white.

The fourth "revelation" is: Don't cross swords with the world but make yourself palatable. You must go to ball games, skating rinks, and bowling alleys with them in order to reach them. The early fathers said too much about separation, and made the line too clear between sin and the world. They were too offensive. The lodges have some good in them, and, of course, some bad, but you know the church is the same way. So, refrain from this dogmatic preaching. In fact, you should protect your church from preachers that preach on negatives. This kind of preaching unsettles people. This is common talk these days in the Holiness movement. Notwithstanding, every spiritual movement had its foundation roots in the very things this new "revelation" crowd oppose. The first generation of a spiritual movement is humble and worshipful. The second is wise

and worldly. The third is winsome and wicked. This seems to be the usual pattern. Which group are you identified with? Satan's new "revelation" or God's Holy way.

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THE END