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## **PLAIN TRUTH FOR COMMON PEOPLE**

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**Clearmore, Oklahoma**

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life".

The false always trembles in the presence of truth. But the false never surrenders easily. Darkness never appreciates light. But light is never afraid of darkness. The Sanctified heart is comfortable even in the presence of the false, but the false is never quite comfortable in the presence of truth.

Thus, I am sending forth another little booklet (Plain Truth For Common People). I am not sending it to the sophisticated, elite, wise of this world. An ox goad, a sling or a jaw bone of an ass were not the weapons of the wise. Neither of these were the weapons approved by the war strategist of that day. But God, not a bunch of political schemers or shyster committeemen, gave the victory. They went out to win and were not subdued by the pressures of their day. Great victory was on the side of this valiant trio. They went out in the name of Israel's God and not in the name of Israel. We have a lot of going in the name of the church instead of going out to please the God of the church.

This was not written as a text book for Einstein's University or to get a Degree from Solomon's College, but to encourage the common folks that want to do right and would rather have the unclouded smile of Almighty God than the praise and applause of any man.

We have nothing to fear but sin and nothing to boast of but the Blood of Christ.

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Part 1  
THE TRAITOR OF SILENCE

If I always knew just when to speak and when to keep silent, but that is not the case. It is so easy to over-talk. The tongue is the unruly member of the body. Words spoken can never be retrieved. These facts drive good people to caution and sometimes to over-caution.

When am I a traitor if I keep silent? When a principle is involved and my silence will reflect upon the wrong side of the issue. I can keep silent and possibly keep more friends and be more popular with more people, but to do so will leave men in doubt as to where I am. The issue

sometimes seems small, but my silence will endorse a trend, and that trend could have been changed if warnings had been given. At least, I can keep clear with God and man.

When a young man, many times questions arose, and I looked for directions from some of the elders and sometimes from leadership and was grieved because it seemed to me they were silent for diplomacy's sake or for the lack of courage. Young people are groping in darkness and confusion, in need of direction. To speak will reveal your identity, and location makes you an easy target for your enemies. Had we not better be a tragedy for a cause than a traitor of silence?

The man without the wedding garment was there but silent. I shall give an account to God for my silence when I should have spoken and did not.

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## Part 2

### LORD, SAVE ME FROM BEING FINICKY

The occasion was a family get-together. Lots of good food had been provided. One member of the group didn't like this and didn't like that. The folk that knew him best did their best to find something that "Mr. Finicky" liked. That wouldn't be bad if he lived alone, but this type of person seems to reproduce his kind.

Finickiness often carries over also into the religious life: finicky about the singing, too stiff to get blessed. So particular about the tones that the spirit was lost in the effort. The preacher does have some faults, as all mortals do, but "finicky" people sit around and pick over the gospel beefsteak and put in the whole time looking for some little specialty of their own liking. What they are looking for may have some spiritual vitamins, but they often overlook some of the weightier matters that would build them up in holy character.

My mother cooked well-rounded meals and gave her family to understand that food was put on the table to eat. As a growing boy, if my appetite waned, the need was black draught tea or possibly more work. Both were given in full portions. I sincerely thank God that any little finicky whims that I had in my youth weren't catered to by my mother.

When I go to church, I want something for my soul. There is singing that I like better than some other. There are preachers who are more to my liking than others, but what I like is not always the kind that does me the most good. So pass me the gospel; let the preacher preach the Word as he feels God bids him, use the flavor or seasoning that suits his own personality; let him reprove, rebuke, exhort. If my appetite is strong, I will find something good in the service. If I get paddled or praised, blessed or blistered, Lord, save me from being finicky.

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## Part 3

### I'M GLAD I HEARD THEM PRAY!

In the past more than thirty years in the Church of the Nazarene, it has been my privilege to hear many different singers. Some with unusual talents, beautiful voices, and radiant personalities; a few with extraordinarily-anointed spirits, I have heard many varieties of preachers, and these have been so very interesting: silver-tongued orators, great Bible expositors, and many in the mediocre class.

But nothing has impressed me like the pray-ers I have heard: young pray-ers with lots of green zeal; seasoned veterans whose praying caused my soul to tremble in the presence of Jehovah. Their prayers were not always couched in beautiful rhetoric. Sometimes the language was crude and without grammatical polish. They spoke in reverent, familiar terms. Their prayers lifted me up close to the heart of God. A depth and quality of spirit gave you to understand that the one doing the praying was in the throne room talking to the King. Boldness and humility, beautifully blended, inspired me to spread my petitions before the Lord. Their praying inspired my faith, renewed my strength, gave fresh courage for the battle.

I am glad I heard them pray.

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#### Part 4

#### A FENCE RUNNER

I recall one time watching dogs chase a rabbit. The rabbit ran back and forth through the fence. The dogs could not tell which side the rabbit would be on next.

I have met a lot of religious professors and some preachers that you could not tell which side they would be on next. If opposition came they would change sides. They would not risk their case on a straight run. They are with the radical conservative crowd one day, then the next day they are on the other side of the fence with the liberal crowd.

They remind me that there is a small frog I have seen in the Ozarks known as a tree frog. It changes color so as to match the tree it is sitting on. Its surroundings change it. A lot of professed Christians are like that -- they change to match their environment. They should change the environment by God's help.

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#### Part 5

#### A VISION OF BUILDING THE CHURCH

The Church is what we are to help build. I personally believe the preacher is the first fundamental human factor in building churches, the one institution God chose to use to save man. With the proper vision, the right preacher in the right place at the right time can build a church anywhere. The material to be used and the methods adapted reveal what the Church will be like as it develops. God the Father, the Designer; God the Son, the Purchaser; God the Holy Ghost, the Divine Executor of this work. The preacher the first human workman, the Gospel his chief tool; for

it is the Power of God unto Salvation. Although the preacher is to lead in this work, he must guard against ownership complex. The Church is the Habitation of God through the Spirit and belongs to God. Our business is to help Him build His Church. This institution is at the center of the love of Christ. He gave Himself for it that He might Sanctify and cleanse it. This is the Golden Pipe through which the love of God flows to a lost and sin-soaked world. This is the institution Christ plans to present back to the Father. A glorious Church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. What a wonderful privilege to be associated with God in this glorious work.

To build the Church is not an easy task. It calls for the best in red-blooded men and the noblest in pure womanhood. This is the one institution God entrusted with the great Commission. He did not give this Commission to a bunch of worldlings, but to those who are not of the world. A spiritual vision -- "Where there is no vision, the people perish." A vision according to Mr. Webster, is a Divine Revelation. Peter had such a vision and God sent him to Cornelius. Paul's call to Macedonia was a Divine Revelation. Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up. Then he saw himself; then he saw the lost. That is the usual pattern. It is revealing to see the sinner as he is, but more wonderful through Spirit-anointed eyes to see what he can be by the grace of a good God. The right kind of vision is important.

We need a clearer vision of Christ. A vision of Calvary causes sinners to tremble and saints to weep. Here we are brought face to face with the terribleness of sin. If we treat sin lightly, we will treat souls lightly. Jesus emphasizes the fact that one soul is worth more than the world. It was a pitiful cry made by one years ago, "No man cared for my soul." In all of our communities, there are cries like that going up daily. A vision of a soul in sin and a vision of a transformed soul. Immortal souls is the material that Christ planned to build His Church out of. Souls are all precious in His sight. Oh, for a fresh revelation of the value of souls. The late evangelist, Bud Robinson, told me that when he was a young preacher God gave him a vision of lost souls. A dark, murky tide came rolling by him -- when he looked closer he noticed that this mighty stream was immortal souls -- millions of them. He could hear their groans and see that lost look in their eyes. In his desperation to help, he ran into the stream; gathered his arms full of precious souls and carried them upon a hill. "When I looked at them they were the most beautiful beings I had ever beheld. I have never lost sight of that vision, and it still keeps me working at 80 years of age trying to rescue souls." Oh, the multitudes that went down never to return. Why aren't more of our young people being called to this business of soul winning as missionaries and preachers?

I am not sure I have all of the answers, but this is my sincere opinion. The Christ of the blood spattered cross is not being lifted up as He should be. Holiness is not preached with a death note that says, "Fade, fade each earthly joy, Jesus is mine." Standards are preached on apologetically, when preached on at all.

Our youth need a challenge to go out to fight and not for fun. Some folk seem to think that this age calls for a little soft rose water Gospel, soft peddled to suit the crowd. I still believe that the truth preached with a burdened heart and tear-stained faces, and without compromise, will bring sinners to repentance and believers into Heart Holiness. Here youth will receive definite calls for special service and sacrifice will become an inner joy and compulsion. This is God's way to build His Church.

Don't make too many allowances for human weaknesses. This makes good hiding places for carnality.

Walk in the Light. This indicates more progress and more Light.

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Part 6

## SOME OF OUR DANGERS

Too much looking at the faults and weaknesses of my brethren blurs my vision of Christ and a needy world.

Trying to spread out over too much territory.

The Church with a clear vision will stay safe by keeping in the main channel. With sound doctrine for one bank and consistent ethical living for the other -- here the Old Ship of Zion has outridden every storm of the past. I have perfect confidence in her Captain and He said the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. If God helps us, we must use His methods and heed His warnings. Tarry, shun, abstain, take heed are some of His admonitions, as well as Go.

There are more car accidents at twilight and dawn than at any other time of day. The same is so with the Church. More people are wrecking their lives religiously over things that aren't all black sin and not white Holiness. I feel we are being defeated in this area, possibly more than anywhere else. It is extremely dangerous when we see men as trees walking. Sounding brass is also a familiar sound these days. There are a lot of things that may not be sinful in themselves, but they scatter the power and productiveness of God's Holy people. Why play with one of our most precious possessions -- TIME -- while civilization hangs on the brink of Eternity and lost souls drop into Hell by the millions.

I am reminded in some of our churches of the fellow that drove his car in a garage and complained that his lights were weak. It is your battery suggested the mechanic. "Oh, no," said the man, "my horn works good." To this the mechanic replied, "It takes more juice to shine your light than it does to toot your horn."

I heard a Sunday School specialist a few weeks ago. I have no disposition to be critical, but his message was clever and pointed; but all the enthusiasm that seemed to be generated was an artificial kind -- planned ahead as a little dramatic stunt -- with preachers largely doing the acting. But the compulsion to build a Holiness Church must come from the inside. This will only be done as we recognize the terribleness of sin and that Calvary offers a complete remedy -- that the Gospel is still the Power of God unto Salvation. The less soul passion the church has, the more socials they will have. The more soul winner's glory, the less human glamour is seen. A close-up view of the bright and morning Star will cause a total eclipse of Hollywood, Baseball, Basketball and T.V. stars. "Ye cannot serve two masters." Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." This is still good for our day.

Some have substituted hot wieners for hot hearts. Let us for God's sake and the sake of immortal souls get off the parade ground and get down where dying men are found. We need the heat turned on -- not in the church kitchen -- but in the upper room. Kitchens never draw men to Calvary.

A bishop made this statement in the South a few years ago in regard to his denomination. "There was a time that we were a strong evangelistic force. Then we built a denomination and now we are a large organization supporting our wonderful institutions." It is not too early in our history to sense some serious dangers along these lines for our Zion. But, as far as I am concerned, any institution that sucks the blood of evangelism from the Church of the Nazarene is an off-bloom or a parasite and does not have my sympathy or money for its support.

Termites work in the dark, but they work just the same. I am afraid there are mirages in our vision; it looks like water, but it is mostly wind. It rattles when it should ring.

A nephew of mine was in the Belgium Bulge when the Germans broke through in World War II. He said their great problem for days was not at all -- together the strength of the German Army, but confusion as to where the battle line was. Overcast skies added to the confusion. Worse than that was German troops, yes, S. S. troopers, if you please, were dropped out of an overcast sky and stood with real red-blooded Americans. They wore G. I. clothes and spoke our language; could talk about New York, Boston, Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; or Los Angeles, California -- talk about these places, naming streets, buildings, parks with great familiarity. In reality, they had never been in any of these places. Their words sounded good. But, my friends, they were definitely at heart our enemies and had a big part in confusing the battle lines and proved to be a great Peril to our fighting men.

In thinking of the church in this connection, it seems to me that the battle line is becoming confused and alarmingly so. One group says what we need in this day is a social, soft Gospel that tickles itching ears and offends none. Others tell us to cry loud on sin in general, but don't name anything in particular. I hear someone else say, preach positive and everything else will take care of itself. Then another pipes up and says, get a Doctor's Degree for all our preachers and that will give us more prestige and solve many of our problems. Then I hear this offer, build us a building for social and recreational purposes and we will save our young people. At least one fellow said, get some musicians and singers that can play a lot of instruments with a great ragtime swing and we will get the crowds and do the job. Another one came up with this -- what we really need is a pastor that is a mixer, popular with all the clubs, including the golf clubs, and then get to be president of the tobacco-soaked, goat-riding ministerial alliance. With these offers I ask again, "Where is the battle line?"

In a Holiness army we fight out in the open. "Walk in the light and run with patience", is our slogan. Trenches are built for Ecclesiastical defenders and not a Pentecostal crusader. The early Church went everywhere preaching the Gospel, was the report on their work.

Jesus ate with publicans and sinners, but was never popular with a Pharisee unless he was a repenting Pharisee.

What did God call us, as Nazarenes, to do? I am afraid the vision of many of our Nazarenes is becoming seriously blurred.

What are we really trying to do? Fight a war or cuddle a foe. We have an ardent enemy deeply entrenched in the human heart woefully awake. Only by God's help can we win. In fact, this is His war. We are His soldiers. He that entangleth himself with the affairs of this life who hath chosen him to be a soldier? Certainly there will be casualties and you may be one. Jesus was. Let us count not our lives dear unto ourselves. God will not cross any line to compromise a principle. God is always on the right side, you don't need to guess where He is. He is against sin in every form. And in His Word, we are admonished to shun the very appearance of evil. Put on the whole armor of God. He says that the Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation. If I be lifted up I will draw. Nothing is as attractive as the Gospel of Christ. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace. This is also the hammer that breaks the stone. Keep your battle lines straight. Let our trumpet's call be clear. Don't quit fighting to polish your gun. God does not need a crutch or walking stick; furnish Him a channel and He will bless. A God-sent revival we must have. It has always taken prayer, sweat, tears and blood to build God's work and to have revivals. Let your vision be clear -- when you shoot, shoot to kill; if you don't the enemy will kill you. He may lull you to sleep, make a compromiser out of you, but kill you just the same. Remember the early Church was built with blood. This was the fuel used for its projection. The early Church history was first written in blood. Give a call to repentance that is as clear as John the Baptist; not a decision day, but a day of repentance. Preach second blessing Holiness; not just a higher life, a deeper experience or more love. Make it clear carnality is to be destroyed. Keep the fire on until he is burned out, not just smoked. We must have carnality eradicated by the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and Fire. It is dangerous when unsanctified people can feel comfortable in our services Sunday after Sunday and not get a vision of their need. It is dangerous if you press, but more dangerous if you don't.

Carnality never dies easy. If you aren't prepared to fight, you are in the wrong army. Your skies will become overcast if you fail to obey the Holy Ghost and press for unconditional surrender. You will be helping lose the war. You may have on the uniform, learn to speak the language of Canaan like a parrot, stand up in our ranks and call yourself a Nazarene; but in heart you are like the German S. S. trooper, you are against That the Church of the Nazarene was called to do.

The thing to do, if we are honest or honorable at all, is to find a place of prayer and get what we need from God; or do like Judas, get out. The church didn't fold up when he left. They had Pentecost after he was gone. Do not make your battle line dim. Draw it clear. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." Have a blood test to see if there has been a blood transfusion from Calvary into your own spiritual blood stream., if you have seen sin through spiritual eyes. Like Paul, bonds and afflictions may abide, but none of these things will cool your zeal or slow your steps in this race for souls. Is your vision clear? Some give orders but never fight up on the front lines. Others man the big guns. The bigger the gun the farther behind the main point of skirmish you find them. Here is less blood shed. We need men with callused knees and burdened hearts with visions clear to go across and beyond no man's land with the Sword of the Spirit and an attacking faith; beard the lion, build a Holiness Church in his den, use his hide for a banner with "Holiness Unto the Lord" written on both sides. Don't look for a bee gum until you

have killed the lion. Some people are looking for Eschol grapes and pomegranates in Egypt. You only find this fruit in Canaan. Political plums and milk and honey are not found in the same country.

No crowd ever stood in a more strategic place than the Nazarenes stand today. We have more money, more prestige, more polish, blow loud whistles, run lots of machinery, do entirely too much bragging. Yet, the lack of glory is often our embarrassment, and lack of soul passion our shame. Every preacher should find a secret place of prayer and stay there until the mist, gloom and smog of this confused age is cleared away and he gets a new sense of the bigness of God and the seriousness of his task. With our vision clear, by the Grace of God, let us beat a charge that will challenge the best in the weakest, that will inspire the noblest in the strongest, that will cause devils to tremble and bring Heaven's best to Earth's neediest. Stand up with a backbone that will not crumble under ecclesiastical, political or social pressure and with eyes washed with soul-agonizing tears and that will not blink before the devil's upraised gun. And by the Grace of God have revivals from the river to the ends of the earth.

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## Part 7

### AN UNHAMPERED MINISTRY

The ministry of Jesus Christ holds a unique place in the affairs of men. Prophets, Priests and Preachers have played an important part in the life of nations. He must work with people. No one works closer to people than the true Shepherd, and at the same time must never be in bondage to them. He is the Voice of God to the people, not the mere voice of man to man. When curbed by purse, political or ecclesiastical pressure he ceases to be God's big man and becomes man's little man. His surroundings must not dim his vision nor color his convictions. Friendships will not alter his course on the road of duty.

The preacher's life is a hazardous life. Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel. Fearless his sword must be -- sharp on both edges. It will be pointed with truth, held with a will, fired with courage, backed by faith, and oiled with love. He must succeed to survive and his success is a constant danger. Why does he want success, is a good question. If he is selfish, success will be his peril. He must not be a dabbler with truth, but a proclaimer, with the citadel of his soul clean. Let him go out to conquer, his battles in reality are not his own. The preacher is always expendable to the cause of Christ. He is definitely involved, but principles are always on his main battle line. These cannot be sacrificed even to gain a temporary victory. The methods used by others may tempt the preacher to blindness in principles. He must not yield, for to do so would be paying too much for too little. The true servant of God always respects leadership, but never bows to it. He keeps that inner Christian conscience that bows to no one but God. There is no inner rival for his loyalty to his God is supreme. He must not be entangled with the affairs of this life if God has chosen him to be a preacher.

The preacher works with warped, twisted, sin-soaked souls. He must preach a Gospel that is adequate to man's need and must have faith in the remedy he offers. His heart must be so hot that those that hear will feel the heat. The toll from his Gospel bell must be clear with no uncertain

sound. The water from his spring must be fresh from the Living Fountain. There must be a Vision of a Christ that is free from the mirages of doubt.

With Purpose in his mind, Pathos in his tongue, Passion in his heart, Power in his soul and a Commission from God, he marches forward. The enemies of Christ tremble in his presence. Strong men bow at his words. God gives the victory to such a captain in the Army of the Redeemed.

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## Part 8

### A PREACHER'S FAITH IN THE VALID FUTURE

God's Word is a strong anchor for the unknown future. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to the called according to His purpose.

When a young preacher enters upon his mission as a called of God minister of Christ, he is not sure he can preach. Here he has great concern.

His dependence is upon God after studying theology, homiletics, and many books on a variety of subjects. Yet, success is out of sight. If success does come the young and devoted preacher is so lost in the work of God he scarcely realizes he is succeeding. There is danger when the young preacher is constantly looking to see if he is succeeding. This reminds me of the laborer that constantly watches the clock and covetously counts the days until pay day. Neither of these are succeeding. But God will help the man He has called, so look to God and trust Him for victory!

There will be tragedies arise, some misunderstandings and possibly no votes. He will be blamed for things he had no part in. There will be some better days, the sun will again shine and the birds sing. Some day there will be praises and credits that are undeserved. The magnanimous attitude of the people will often make your heart humble. When you remember that He Whom you chose to follow had no place to lay His head, for Jesus came not to be ministered unto but to minister. Your future is as sure as the promises of God. His promises are exceedingly great and precious. Concern yourself with doing the will of the King and the King will concern Himself with making your future secure both in this world and also the next.

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## Part 9

### LITTLE THINGS HAVE VALUE

Cutting the hair and wearing of gold were practiced by some of the early Corinthians but not approved by the early Church. The position of the early Church would be a safe position for a church in our day. Someone asks, "Why pay attention to such little things?" A gold wedge and Babylonian garments occasioned the defeat of God's Israel. Just small things, but God took notice. David killed a giant with a sling and one stone. Just small things, blessed of God, turned the tide

from disgrace to glorious victory. Atoms are little things, but in the wrong hands are the dread of our day. Let us not be fooled by Satan into ignoring the little things.

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## Part 10

### MODERNISM IN WORSHIP

Recently I went to worship in a church well publicized for its denominational history.

The singing was in the vein of polished entertainment -- tones were nearly perfect. The order of service was written and followed without variation. The pastor's message was nice with lots of grammatical correctness; very good pulpit manners and a proper length sermon.

But I asked myself this question: "Would you consider this a Holiness Church if you did not know the name on the bulletin board?"

Amens were conspicuous by their absence. The congregation sang as if depressed. There was no shine on the faces of any choir members except that produced by make-up and lipstick.

The pastor was, it seemed, super cautious. He appeared to purposely avoid any statement that might seem dogmatic, that could be considered given in holy boldness.

My mind ran back thirty years. I knew in those earlier days two preachers who served that church. One was the John the Baptist type who was fearless and rugged. The other was the theological kind like Paul and just as analytical, who preached with a sharp sword that cut going both ways. He was positively for some things and definitely against some things. The glory of God permeated the place. The oil of joy flowed freely. The contrast was readily seen.

At present they have a lovely building on a good corner in a great city, but the lack of that spiritual glow and romance caused me to leave with a heavy heart. I wondered if the candlestick had been removed or had it been smothered by modernism?

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## Part 11

### THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK

The preacher works with warped, twisted, sin-soaked souls. He must preach a Gospel that is adequate to man's need, and must have faith in the remedy he offers. His heart must be so hot that those that hear will feel the heat. The toll from his Gospel bell must be clear with no uncertain sound. The water from his spring must be fresh from the Living Fountain. There must be a vision of a Christ that is free from the mirage of doubt.

He speaks with purpose in his mind, pathos in his tongue, passion in his heart, power in his soul and a commission from God. The enemies of Christ tremble in His presence. Strong men bow at his words. God gives the victory to such a captain in the army of the redeemed.

The true preacher is always the people's servant, but never their slave. His strength is in his freedom. The Voice of God is clear and above the voice of any man to the man of God.

He walks with his head high but with a heart humble. The deep fountain of his soul is undisturbed by a whale or a mud turtle. He is crucified unto the world and the world unto him. From the world he asks no favors and receives no orders. His soul is in bondage to no one but Christ.

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## Part 12

### 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 statements 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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## Part 13

### THE OLD AND NEW VERSION OF NAZARENE-ISM

The Church of the Nazarene was established on the premise that there is a Holy God and that He plans to have a Holy people. They were sure that acceptance with God did not depend on a pat on the back from the world. Many of the early members came out of the old-line churches. They did not feel at home in a formal church with an icicle for a pastor.

This old crowd placed considerable emphasis on such statements as: "Shun the very appearance of evil; come out from among them; love not the world; walk in the light; Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord". They emphasized praying through, getting blessed,

persecuted for righteousness' sake, uncovering carnality, without compromise, confessing sins, making restitution, kill the old man, daring to trust God and living Holy, reckless lives.

New version in Nazarene-ism: This is wrapped up in a lot of question marks such as: Why make it so hard on young people? Who made the rules anyway? No preacher is going to dictate to me! I don't understand Holiness anyway. Why preach all the time on negatives? What is wrong with bobbed hair? Wasn't Paul and Peter fanatical about the dress question and jewelry? Why do preachers tell so many stories? Can't we be Christians without being so emotional? Why not let us follow our own conscience? I don't like such dogmatic preaching and why do they preach at people?

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#### Part 14 THE PASTOR AND THE REVIVAL

I am discussing one of the most important people connected with the revival. In the first place, the pastor should not favor the call of an evangelist he cannot co-operate with from his heart.

The evangelist should be comfortably situated for his entertainment so as to put both pastor and evangelist as much at ease as possible.

They will need to be united in this battle against Satan and for souls. A little discord acid can have a serious effect on the meetings. All good people don't always agree on all matters. The pastor can easily throw a wet blanket on the meeting over some small quirk the evangelist has. If something is of major importance to the pastor, this is a good place for the scripture to be used -- slow to speak and slow to wrath. Prayer and patience may turn what looks like defeat into victory. If the pastor has a warm attitude toward the evangelist, the congregation can feel it. This will build unity and faith in the people. There need not be flattery of that mushy type. Genuineness can be felt and appreciated.

In my humble opinion, where the pastor sits in the service is of great importance. If he is not in the meeting with heart and soul -- gets off the platform as soon as his little part is over. But, if he is happy, radiant and has a real desire for a revival, his smiling face and some enthusiastic amens will greatly help the evangelist and prove a real inspiration to the members and show the visitors he has a heart interest.

Have seen some pastors that were about as inspiring as a cabbage head -- not as much as a pumpkin at Halloween. No evangelist should have to try to pull a revival over a pastor sitting on the platform with his head between his knees or with a graveyard look on his face. The congregation is able to see that the pastor was not in harmony with the evangelist. His looks and spirit make this very clear.

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Part 15  
NAZARENES AND TELEVISION

In the attitude toward television, we have three distinct groups:

The one group say by their action, "Let everyone look at whatever he desires". That covers every member of the family and reaches all brackets of church members as far as positions are concerned -- average members, Sunday School teachers and officers, Church Board members and ministers. If you question this as being true, work the cross section of the church and your findings will reveal this to be a fact with a large segment of our church. They have no control or very little and even slight control is done in a contentious way and confusion and consternation are the results.

Then we have some that try the rigid control method. These are the folks, and they are entirely too few, that conduct their home life on very systematic lines. These control television as they control the reading and all other activity of the family. These are few and far between and what these families think is legitimate for a Sanctified person to look at covers a large variety, none of it contributing to deep spirituality. Some of these, we fear, are dangerously close to wrong -- if not outright sin.

There is another group of Nazarenes, and this group is not large, and in some places getting smaller, although they are often more fully aware of the danger than the people in one of the other groups. I am reminded here that straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it. The minister is largely responsible for the attitude seen in most laymen (perhaps they are sometimes classed by some people as weak characters) . This group feels that the programs that are wholesome are too few and that the danger to the family is too great and the temptations are too strong, so they decided on total abstinence, or not to open their home to it at all. I do not hesitate to be identified with this group, for I have watched this spiritual blood-sucker work like the vampire bat; fan their victims with clever entertainment and suck their spiritual life's blood at the same time. Some of their reasons for not taking a T. V. are listed here:

It takes too much valuable time.

It destroys the family fellowship.

It destroys the appetite for prayer.

It has a far reaching influence for bad upon the character development of the individual.

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Part 16  
NAZARENES AND THE WORLD

The past more than forty years of my life have been spent in the midst of the people called Nazarenes. As a teen-ager, I was received into the membership of the Church of the Nazarene and

from that hour felt myself a part of the church. From that night until today I have been a Nazarene in my heart. Anything that hurts the church hurts me. I enlisted with no thought of retreat or compromise. The same fire burns fresh today.

I haven't followed for the loaves and fishes, but in these I have been abundantly paid. A lot of my friends have not lived as many years as I have spent in the Church of the Nazarene. God has been good and the people, as a whole, have been kind.

The world has always been against God's holy people. And the people of God have always been against the world -- from righteous Abel down to you and me.

When The line has been kept clear between the church and the world, the records reveal crises, tragedies and victories. Had Elijah not been willing to risk his head he would have lost his greatest victory. The fire would never have fallen on Mount Carmel. If Paul had fallen for the praise of a fortune-telling woman, he, no doubt, would have missed the jail house revival. Luther's courage in a crisis opened the door for the reformation; Wesley's determination to preach a live gospel even from his dead father's tomb, was a good pattern for uncompromising men today. We are trying, in many places, to win great victories without fighting great battles. Bee hives are built out of lion's skins and not political bubbles. A national leader said recently, "Selflessness is the greatest asset an individual can have in a crisis."

The world first praises, then embraces, then destroys. The deeper the crimson, the greater the victory. History worthy to be written with ink is first written in blood. Woe to them that are at ease in Zion! Cushioned pews, as comfortable as these are, and soft music did not give birth to the Church of the Nazarene, but men and women with fire in their voices and tears in their eyes. Travail pains in their souls gave us this glorious heritage. I feel indebted to the rising generation to, at least, offer them as good as I have received.

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## Part 17

### PREACHERS -- LET US LOOK AT OURSELVES

Preachers do have problems -- and it takes courage to look himself square in the face, admit his weakness and try to improve. Is he honest? This is a strange question to ask of some of the best men you have ever known. I do not think they are premeditatedly dishonest. But is he trying to sell himself for more than he knows he is worth because of his goal to succeed. The story he told reflected the good which might be all right, but it covered up the bad. An older man told a young preacher friend of mine that was in somewhat of a dilemma along this line: "Son, you can't beat the bare-faced truth." What an elder preacher once said to me has made me a little more charitable and gave some comfort. He said, "You know, good men do forget."

It is not in my thinking to reflect upon anyone. Preachers should look at themselves as to their faith. So faith as a grain of mustard seed will remove mountains, but entirely too few of us are moving ant or mole hills much less mountains. We talk about faith, but the actual results are very embarrassing. To look at ourselves at this point helps keep us in a good state of humiliation and

almost in the state of despair. There may be some unbelief that is wholesome. If the preacher's inner house is in order this furnishes a foundation for solid faith. If the visible results are great or small and there is no praise of men, he still feels secure because his heart is pure. He can look himself in the face and know he is looking at an honest man, at least with some faith.

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#### Part 18

### NUMBERS 12 -- MIRIAM AND AARON FIND FAULT WITH MOSES -- LACK OF RESTRAINT DANGEROUS

Moses, the Law-giver and one of the greatest of Old Testament characters, under the impulse to protect his brethren, killed an Egyptian. This, no doubt, slowed the work of God for forty years. Then Moses, in his later life, after being harassed by his own people and after asking for help from the Lord and receiving a promise and a plan; then exceeded God's instructions by smiting the rock instead of speaking to it as God had instructed. When victory began to come he used the rod that represented his authority when the spoken word was sufficient.

When we use all of our resources on a skirmish, then a real battle comes, we have no ammunition with which to fight. Moses missed forty or more years of life in the Land of Canaan by smiting the rock instead of speaking to it. In our zeal to help God we often retard our own spiritual progress and slow His eternal Kingdom work.

No doubt but John, (Luke 9:55) later known as John the Beloved, under undue pressure of the moment, suggested it was a good time to have fire come down from Heaven and destroy their enemies. He, no doubt, knew of fire and brimstone coming down from Heaven on Sodom and according to his hasty judgment the same thing should be meted out to the Samaritans.

Jesus, in a very frank way, went to the heart of John's trouble, (Luke 9:55) saying, "Your zeal is hot, your courage is strong, but you are blind to your own spirit. You know not what manner of spirit you are of. You and James are asking for fire to consume the Samaritans because you were not received by them." Fire is a wonderful thing when sent from God. Courage and caution should go hand in hand when fire is placed in the hands of men.

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#### Part 19

### MODERN HOLINESS PREACHERS

A modern holiness preacher used for his text, Genesis 18:12, "Sarah laughed." His four divisions for his so-called sermon were four TV stars who put in their time making the people laugh.

Modern Preacher number two went to a church ball game on the night the Zone Missionary meeting was being held, and acted as umpire for the ball game.

Preacher number three had a city league ball game in the church gym While a General Superintendent was preaching in the main sanctuary of the church. The Nazarene church team was playing.

Preacher number four announced two ball games for the week with emphasis, but no emphasis on Prayer meetings.

Modern Preacher number five is a college president, that lets the college ball team run an intercollegiate program, notwithstanding such a program was violation of the spirit of the church manual.

Modern Preacher number six conducted a testimony meeting in his church like this: "Some of you young people testify who won the ball game Friday night." A young person jumped up and said, "We did." The preacher said, "Praise the Lord." How were the scores? Another young person gave the score and the pastor praised the Lord again. The pastor then said, "I used to be against these things, but I have a much broader view of things now. There is nothing wrong in having some fun." If the blind lead the blind their destination is certain.

Modern Holiness Preacher number seven met for a ministerial meeting. After the meeting was over in private conversation he said, "We must go now, it is about prayer meeting time." He was talking about watching the world series on TV and went on his way to watch a ball game and called it prayer meeting. This looks like blasphemy.

Modern Preacher number eight-this preacher sponsored one of these church ball clubs. In one of the newspapers that announced the games, this ad appeared: "Church of the Nazarene plays Joe's Tavern tonight."

Some people were surprised at this announcement, but I was not for one skunk can't smell the stink on the other skunk. The size of the stripe up his back may change the value of the animal, but it does not change the animal. Whether sponsored by Joe's Tavern or a Holiness Church she has the same spirit.

Modern Preacher number nine told his congregation about watching Red Skelton do the twist on TV. That would not feed a hungry soul or help populate a Holy Heaven.

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Part 20

## THE REPORT FROM THE MODERN JERUSALEM CHURCH

We, your Committee of the modern Jerusalem Church, submit the following report:

Inasmuch as it is our duty to safeguard the denomination, we feel that the following should be recorded and sent to all the Church. Some leaders need encouragement in their roll of dictatorship. Of course, we know they are not really leaders because they need a club with which to drive. Then, there must be such deep loyalty to the organization that, even though they abuse

good people with their power, we must encourage their action, hoping the results will justify the means used.

Obligation is upon us to call your attention to Brother Paul who got off to a good start on the Damascus Road. It is true that he received a very unusual experience, but we regret to remind you that he erred from the present set pattern of the Ecclesia. Every place he went there was trouble. He greatly offended some of the followers of Diotrephes. He had the appearance of an agitator or fault finder, He has been known to do writings that were not approved by the book committee. Some of his writing dealt with controversial subjects such as women cutting their hair and men wearing long hair. His statements in regard to the crucifixion of the old man caused no little fear of fanaticism among some of the highly recognized liberal church members. The three prayer meetings he and Silas conducted at Philippi (one by the river, one in the home, and one in jail) were not authorized by the official board at Jerusalem. Of course, we all believe in prayer, but it should be promoted from Headquarters.

In the interest of unity, we further feel responsible in regard to the use of certain speakers. Some liberal members were greatly offended and felt that stern warnings should be given to Peter about his preaching on Pentecost which bordered on fanaticism. Also, his teachings on the wearing of gold, pearls and costly clothes were off the well-beaten path of our modern day and were highly offensive. We feel that he exceeded his authority in presenting such controversial subjects.

Furthermore, this report is necessary in order to clear the atmosphere on certain non-essential matters which have been magnified out of proper proportion. The Church has always been against worldliness, but we feel the cause has been hurt more than helped by dogmatic preaching and writing. Naming specific things does not appeal to the taste of refined people, although things have been mentioned many times in the Word of God. Our strong appeal is for everyone to live by his own standards and conscience. Therefore, we go on record as sincerely opposing any writing or preaching that sounds like a reflection upon the Church. Such statements as Brother Paul made, "that there is fornication among you" even though true, should never be mentioned. Modest apparel is unduly stressed by some agitators. We want it understood that anyone that condemns the public wearing of slacks, peddle-pushers or shorts is going beyond his authority as a church leader since the learned of the colleges encourage such apparel by word and example. Those of the common cloth should be ignored even though they do pay a lot of the bills.

There was a time that these were considered off color, but they are not so regarded among the elite of the modern day. In the light of these things, we earnestly urge all those involved to believe what they please about the above mentioned things, but tact is very necessary in this field of thinking. Diplomacy is so very important if one expects to make progress in the Church. You, no doubt, have noticed that in these modern days no one is ever appointed to a responsible position in the Church if he is known as a rugged contender for the old standards of the church, even though he may be brilliant, gifted and loyal. Speak very loudly about a lot of nothing is a better policy, or speak, but use moderation in putting it into practice. Keep division out of your church at all cost. Regulate your conscience so that it can move around to fit the locality and leadership. A back-scratcher, the kind used on the money changers, is very important if you are seeking promotions.

You don't need to fight Paul's statement, I Timothy 2:9, but let us ignore those that would mention these things and they will die on the vine. Of course, modesty doesn't mean what it did in Paul's day. No one who is really broadminded would object to one gold ring. And, the wearing of expensive clothes is merely a matter of one's own taste.

If you don't have a TV in your home, that is your business, but we instruct you to refrain from preaching against it. Don't put it in the category of the picture show down town or the drive-in out on the highway, although we know there is little difference in the three. Of course, in the home is the worst of the three evils. It is our opinion that the best method for the young preacher to follow in these days is to guard against allowing himself to be a storm center.

It is possible to twist and squirm or slide around the controversial issues without meeting and crossing them for we have seen this done, and if you should come to grips with an issue and it causes a struggle, someone may get hurt and it could be you. We think that it is better for you to let the news go out that you are very diplomatic than for the grape vine to pass the word along that you are a rugged contender for the old standards of the church, naming certain sins. Although Paul did say, "Fight the good fight of Faith", we feel it is pure folly to cross swords outright. It is safer to heal the hurt lightly than to risk your future in the church on a death struggle. We do remember that the Saviour said, "I come not to bring peace but a sword". It is better to say peace, peace, even if you have to use the sword from the back. However, the tongue is one of your most effective weapons, having been used effectively as a poisoned arrow on many occasions. The coloring of envy, jealousy, and strife or personal ambitions mixed thoroughly by the tongue with liberal helpings of denominational loyalty and religious enthusiasm will get the desired results. Kill the individual by ruining his future and the public will never see the blood. If they do, you can explain it was suicide. Most of the gullible will sorrowfully accept your explanation and say, "Isn't it too bad that he made an issue out of such a small thing?"

However, it does disturb me, as a member of this Committee, that there is a Judgment Day coming. There the secrets of men's hearts shall be revealed. There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed or hid that shall not be known and come abroad. According to the preaching of Jesus, some will say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name and in Thy name cast out devils, and in Thy name done many wonderful works?" Then will I profess unto them, "I never knew you". From the decision made by the Judge of all the earth, there will be no appeal. It is more important to be on good terms with Christ than to be on good terms with this Committee.

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## Part 21

### THE COMMUNICATION LINE IS DOWN

I well remember when the first telephone reached our community. We were on one of those much publicized party lines. When they rang our phone two longs and a short, you could hear the receivers coining down all along the line. I don't think our neighbors were nosey -- but just curious.

Since those days the methods of communication have changed fast. Now we get news from remote parts of the world as soon as it happens, if not as it happens. With all of these modern methods of communication it is a common thing for something to happen between two old friends that breaks fellowship or communion. This is sad if it is an experience or an observation. To find that an old friend that once your hearts melted together with his like two drops of water in a spoon, now there is an iceberg between you and you are unable to melt it. Sometimes doing your solemn duty before God causes this. Other times the cause for this broken communication is never known. Some people sit in the same pews in the same church, and sometimes live in the same home with the communication lines down.

Some people don't want to know the truth. But in many instances of broken fellowship, if both could or would face the truth, fellowship strained or broken would be restored. Very small misunderstandings are at the root of many of these strained relationships. A sincere "I am sorry" or "Forgive me for my blunders" would bring people close together that have been far apart for a long time. Cold shoulder or isolationism is the method so often used in these cases. This tragically widens the gap.

Have you ever shaken hands with a person that was once very warm toward you? This time they did not snob you or go down the other aisle of the church, but their spirit never did come up and shake hands. You felt like you were shaking hands with a total stranger. If you are what you ought to be, there was a hurt in the heart. Instead of pulling back immediately, you started looking for the road with the second mile sign on it that led in his direction. Ephesians 5:11 ". . . have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness . . ."

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## Part 22

### ATHLETICS IN THE CHURCH AND DRAM DRINKING ARE ALIKE

I have watched the athletic evil in the church for years. The same spirit accompanies and guides this wolf in sheep's clothing that was responsible for the great events in the amphitheater in Rome.

They usually start with a little ball game on a vacant lot. Then a Sunday School teacher sponsors the boys. He is usually very shallow religiously and real strong on athletics. He also takes the boys to athletic events -- then enters them into a little league, but never enters them into a red hot prayer meeting. Then the Sunday School teacher works on the shallow church fathers whose boys are involved and insists on them attending the game. This will keep the spiritual of the church from opposing the program, telling them his object is to help them save their children. Sometimes he enlists the help of a shallow, worldly preacher who knows more about the late Home-Run King than he does about the King of kings.

This inspires a desire in the young goats and the sick sheep to have a Nazarene City League. This grows and the love of the world increases and the interest in God's work gets colder. Then, they are invited to join the City League with the other Dead Churches. Blindness has so gripped them now until they can't see the evil of tobacco, liquor and petting. The blind are still

leading the blind. This crowd of boys that started to play on the vacant lot are completely lost to God and the church or they have seen the folly of all that mess and have come back to God and the Church. A few hold on to the church and the ball club. Their purpose is not their love for the church, but they stay around to deceive and contaminate the next generation.

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## Part 23

### WHAT AM I AFRAID OF?

I heard a brother preacher speak at a college board meeting. He was greatly concerned for fear someone would put over some extreme radical position on our school, and the question occurred to me while he spoke -- what should a good Holiness preacher be afraid of? No doubt but what there are some dangers. However, I could see no cause for alarm in the area where he was excited.

There was a time that there was a possible danger of someone running in one of his extreme radical notions on the church -- and I speak from more than 40 years of observations. But that day is in the far distant past. There was a time that our doctrinal position was not as clearly defined or plainly presented as it is today. This did give some concern to some of our leaders of other days, but this is clearly crystallized as of the present.

The friendship of our Nazarene ministry has been one of great profit and real joy, but what should I, as a minister in our beloved church, be afraid of? To say there are no perils is to be foolish -- too many facts are in the records. There are two ever present dangers to guard against -- relationships to money and the opposite sex. These are twin dangers and often walk hand in hand. We thank God for the sincere warnings of the past, but there are tragedies. When men are selfish, God knows. But only the deeply honest preacher will bare his heart and open his mind for a real revelation of his deepest need, then confess the findings. It is easier sometimes to be honest outwardly, where men look, than in the soul where only God can see. The heart is deceitful above all things. This is a good scripture for the preacher to read to himself once in awhile. The honest preacher not only pays his bills, but pays his vows and bridles his tongue. There will be preachers at the judgment who will hear the Master say, "I never knew you or I know you not." Notwithstanding, they had preached in His name, cast out devils in His name, and in His name have done many wonderful works. May we as ministers take serious heed lest after we have preached to others we become castaways. This Gospel is to be practiced as well as preached.

The preacher should keep a close check on his tongue. This is an unruly member and very dangerous. My faith in preachers has been hurt more by their words than by their deeds. "Speak the truth in love" applies well to the preacher.

There is the ever present danger of being a fence rider. The preacher or layman that wears the seat of his pants out riding the fence is more dangerous than the outright sinner. Like the dram drinker he is more damning with his influence than the outright drunkard.

Just have twilight religion. This is very popular these days. Gray is the religious color desired in most places. Neutral is the coveted position. Here you can shift into the speed, gear and direction the other fellow is operating in without a clash.

A wise preacher will not put in all of his time looking for atomic missiles to use in his toy pistol. An ox goad, a jaw bone of an ass or a smooth stone in the right man's sling with God's blessings can still bring victory to God's Israel.

Modern warfare has a new term for an old idea. It is Cold War. This is also used by the church -- cold shoulder, cold tongue, cold attitudes, cold doctrine, cold logic, cold fellowship, cold hands, cold feet, cold heart.

These are dangers in the life of preachers. We fear blindness, at least in part, has happened or is happening to the ministry in these last days.

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#### Part 24

#### PAUL AND THE MODERN PREACHERS

Paul was emaciated by fast, worn by toil, exhausted by watching, pining away from confinement in prison, mutilated by the rods at Philippi and the stones at Lystra. He was troubled on every side, but not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. II Cor. 4:8-9.

He lived in peril of water, in peril of robbers, in peril of his own countrymen, in peril of the heathen, in peril in the city, in peril in the wilderness, in peril in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirsting, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness, and besides this the daily care of all the churches.

Stand the modern, compromising preacher up by this record and see how he looks. He has everything a modern man needs; has several hats and a dozen suits of clothes (but can only wear one at a time), two cars with a modern garage, has a deep freeze and it full, has many modern labor saving devices and never exhausted from toil, has never been persecuted for his religion, never has been arrested for his testimony. They have never stoned him or beaten him with a rod for his testimony of Jesus Christ. Has never been in perils of the sea. The police protect him from robbers. His fellow countrymen are nice to him. The religion he has is so weak it never stirs the heathen. He has beautiful highways through the wilderness. He is so much like the false brethren that he is never in peril of them. He is never very tired, for fishing and playing golf are not inclined to make him weary. Has three good meals a day and many snacks in between. All kinds of drinks are provided for him so he has no occasion to be thirsty and no desire for fasting. His car and his home are air conditioned. They are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. He is comfortably clothed to suit the weather.

He has no serious concern for the churches. While a lost world hangs on the brink of destruction, his love for both God and man is cold. He has his eyes on bigger churches and better

parsonages. Would rather give more money than to pray and fast. As a shallow preacher, members and money are his major emphasis. For he knows nothing about glorying in tribulations. For John the Revelator described him perfectly. He is in reality neither cold nor hot. He is saying, "I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing." He has no consciousness that he is poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked. His blindness keeps him from seeing anything wrong in rings, bobbed hair, vulgar bodily exposure, bowling alleys, ball playing, mixed bathing, boasting; as he greatly enjoys being praised by those in authority, and being called Doctor of Divinity. All of this does reveal the blindness of the prophet.

Sin does not disturb him any more. He can scheme and connive and sometimes lie outright without any apparent compunction of conscience; inasmuch as most people, church members and all, sin in the light, There was a time that sin was mostly in the dark.

He tries to stir himself, but the alarm is only for a moment. While the bridegroom tarries he slumbers and sleeps.

He should be a shepherd, but is an hireling. The church does need soldiers, but his spirit of loyalty has grown weak until he is afraid to cross swords with the world. He finds something in him that would rather heal the hurt lightly than shed blood for a cause. Tries to be popular with men rather than be powerful with God. He should say, "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? For the Lord is departed from me and answereth me no more."

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THE END