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ARTICLES BY WILLIAM MOSES TIDWELL
With a Tribute to Him After His Homegoing

Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

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INTRODUCTION

This publication consists of 12 parts -- 11 articles by William Moses Tidwell followed by a Tribute to him following his Homegoing. All 12 portions of the publication were taken from The Missionary Revivalist, and the articles are arranged in the chronological sequence of the publication. -- DVM

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01 -- SEED FOR THOUGHT -- 02/1966

From the February, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

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Shuddering Suicide Rate In U. S.

While few know it, the suicide rate in the U.S. is probably far higher than any other civilized nation in the world. While the U.S. is by far the richest nation, more cars, more money, more T. V. sets and pleasure resorts than any other nation, still more suicides. Stark proof of the vanity of earthly things. "At last they bite like a serpent and sting like an adder."

The following facts are taken from authentic sources. "For the white population in the U.S. suicide is outranked only by three causes: accidents, heart failure and cancer." Shuddering! "The fifth cause of death among the young people from ages 15 to 19 is suicide." Parties, smoking, dancing, drinking, unnamable immoral affairs do not satisfy.

We were made to cringe a few nights ago when we heard the leading evangelist, we suppose, in the U. S. say he had never seen the time when the young people of the U.S. were so interested in the things of God. Is he blind? "For every life taken by polio, 77 die by suicide." Now here is the most startling -- "For every two persons killed in automobile accidents, one commits suicide." Half as many suicides as deaths by car accidents. Think on this a moment.

Only one solution and that is for the Prince of Peace to come. Many false hopes held out now, but false hopes are very dangerous. --W. M. Tidwell

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Not A Tither

It is said that an American Indian once came to Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple, Protestant Episcopal Bishop, and asked him to give him two one-dollar bills for a two dollar note. "Why do you want the two, bills?", asked the Bishop. The Indian :replied, "One dollar for me to give to Jesus, and one dollar for my wife to give." The Bishop asked him if: it was the only money he had. He said, "Yes." The Bishop was about to tell him, "It is too much," when an Indian pastor standing near by whispered, "It might be too much for the white man to give, but not too much for an Indian who has this year heard, for the first time, of the love of Christ."

--The Sunday School Times

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"But Doers Also"

It's not what you'd do with a million,

If riches should e'er be your lot,
But what are you doing at present
With the dollar and a quarter you've got!

--Selected

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A Patient Creditor

Too many are like the man in a Chicago church who was pressed to put something in the contribution box. "I can't do it, deacon," he replied; "I owe too much money." "Ah, William," said the good deacon, "you owe the Lord more than you do anybody else." "Yes, I know that," came the reply; "but He ain't pressing me like these other fellows." -- Christian Life

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Sodom and America

In Luke 10:13-15 Jesus said, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which are exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell." Then in Matt. 10:15 "It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

In the day of judgment it will be a question of light. The heathen will not be judged by the Bible, for they never heard of or saw a Bible, but will be judged by their own conscience. That is the light God gave them. All have some light. "This is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9 Missionaries tell us that heathen sinners are much like sinners here. They reject the light God gives them.

Let us for a moment compare Sodom and the cities of America. Look at Sodom. What they did not have: they did not have a song book; they did not have a Bible. Bible not written until the days of Moses. They did not have a church building; they did not have a preacher. (There was one, but his spiritual status very low. Could not persuade his married daughters to leave Sodom. "He seemed as one that mocked!" to his daughters and sons-in-law. Thought he was crazy. He got them in Sodom, but could not get them out. This true in the home and church. Can lead them into the world, but not out.) Had no services, camp meetings, radio (must watch that now, lest it be a curse.) They did not have any of these, yet God overthrew them and left them in ashes. The angels had to literally pull Lot, his wife and two daughters out. His wife looked back and God smote her and she became a pillar of salt. Soon Lot is drunk in a cave and his two daughters in the way of motherhood by their father, Lot. Sodom had little light, but God wiped them off the earth.

Now a glance at America and her cities. Look what she has. When I see a motto which says "God Bless America" I shudder. America has been wonderfully blest. She has church houses on

almost every corner, Bibles by the millions, preachers on every hand, radios, and living in the blazing light of the Holy Ghost dispensation. Now the point is, if God burned Sodom to the ground, not leaving a single one, (see 2 Peter 2:4-6) what will be the doom of America with all her light? Think of Sodom's last night. The angels of doom were in Sodom. Impending doom hung over Sodom, but Sodom plunged on in her hilarity, to be consumed by judgment fire the next day. Graphic picture of America. Rapture may take place any moment and fiery judgments of great tribulation begin to fall. But America plunges on and will continue. -- W. M. Tidwell

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02 -- SEED FOR THOUGHT -- 03/1966

From the March, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

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Pride

We were just ordinary poor folk, reared on a farm, down in middle Tennessee. There was a family, maybe a bit poorer than we were. In this family there was a girl a bit smaller than my sister, May. (May was a missionary and killed in a car wreck in India) May would give her outgrown clothes to Mary. One day May came in crying as if her heart would break. Mother said, "May, what in the world is the matter with you?" She sobbed bitterly, "Ma, I met Mary down the road and she was all dressed up in my clothes and she was so proud she would not speak to me!"

Some folk are proud of their place, some of their race, some of their lace, some of their grace, and some even proud of their face. Does not take much to make some folk proud. Either sense or salvation will save us from this insidious monster called "Pride".

I met a little boy one day and I said, "Edward you are a pretty little boy." He hilariously replies, "Yes, sir, I know it!" When folk find out about their value, it is too bad. It is dangerous, "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 Beware. Maybe pride was the cause of the fall of Lucifer.

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How It Happened

I met my old friend Brown yesterday. He and his wife used to run a sanitarium for women with plenty of money and nothing to do, who had been doing nothing for so long that their nerves had got ragged and they fancied they had everything in the world the matter with them. Brown and his wife were making a fortune out of the place when I saw them last and the women not getting much better, but having a fine time, all talking at once telling each other how bad they felt.

But Brown looked pretty glum yesterday, and after we had shaken hands I asked him how the sanitarium was getting along.

"Had to close it," he replied gloomily. "You know how women are always starting some fad and how the rest will all jump over the fence and follow it like a flock of sheep? Well, one of those women started working one day-making clothes for the poor and needy -- and working hard, too. And with that all the women start working, making clothes for the poor and needy -- working from morning to night. And pretty soon every single one of them forgot all about their nerves and realized they didn't really have anything the matter with them -and left -- and I had to close the place down!"

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He Could Take It -- Can You?

A business failure at 22, he accumulated another stake and tried it again. His partner drank up the assets in two years' time and left him deeply in debt. He refused to take bankruptcy and on his thirty-ninth birthday paid off the last dollar of his indebtedness. Offered a job which required that he have certain equipment, he secured the latter by borrowing money but before he could go to work a creditor levied on the equipment. Completely broke and looked upon by his friends as a failure, he was further crushed at this time by the death of the one woman he had truly loved. Ten years later he tried politics. Elected, he worried through two short terms and was thrown out by the voters. After a dozen more years of constant defeat, he was elected president of the United States. His name was Abraham Lincoln! -- Reader's Digest

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Man On His Knees

In the early days of the Republic, a stranger once asked at Congress how he could distinguish Washington.

He was told, "You can easily distinguish him when Congress goes to prayer. Washington is the gentleman who kneels."

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It Is So Dark, Papa

There was a little family of three. The mother had a lingering illness and finally passed on. The father and little Mary, about five years of age, were spending their first night after Mother had departed.

Little Mary slept in a small bed beside her Father's bed. In the dark he heard her crying bitterly and felt her outstretched hand searching for her father. When she felt his hand she sobbed out, "Oh, Papa, it is so dark and lonely. Are you here?" He stroked her brow and said, "Yes, Mary, I am right here by you." Then she said, "Papa, you will stay with me, won't you? Then it is all right if you're here." Jesus said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

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03 -- SEED FOR THOUGHT -- 04/1966

From the April, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

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The Unknown Soldier

England, France and the United States have each tenderly laid away an "unknown soldier" who fell in sacrifice for his country in the first World War. No king, no potentate or president ever had more honor than has been bestowed upon this unknown hero. At Arlington Cemetery quietly rests, in a costly tomb, the body of some mother's boy. At present he is "unknown."

The newspapers gave much space to the record of the burial of this soldier and the ceremony connected with the same. One leading newspaper, with emphasized headlines, declared: "The Identity Of This Soldier Shall Never Be Known." This is a mistake. The identity of this soldier will be known. There will come a time in the universe of God when the body of the soldier boy shall rise, for the scriptures declare, "There shall be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust." There will be a resurrection for the "righteous dead" and the "wicked dead." The dead in the graves shall "hear his voice and come forth." This is inevitable. There is no other way. The dead, small and great shall stand before God. We know not now. who this young man may be. His mother may live in the same block with any of us. His mother might have been English, French or German. So far as we know, it may be the body of one of the black boys from the Southern belt. It may be the most humble mother whose boy has been thus honored. This is all concealed from human knowledge, but there is nothing hid from God. Everything will be revealed at the very house top of the universe! His identity will one day be known.

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A Gift That Cost

Two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a merchant, joined a party that was traveling around the world.

In Korea one day, they saw, in a field by the side of the road, a boy pulling a rude plow, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it. The lawyer was amused, and took a snap shot of the scene.

"That's a curious picture! I suppose they are very poor," he said to the missionary, who was interpreter and guide to the party.

"Yes," was the reply. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was being built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money; so they sold their only ox and gave their money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The lawyer and the business man by his side were silent for some moments. Then the business man said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought that it was fortunate that they had an ox to sell."

The lawyer and the business man had not much to say. But when they reached home, the lawyer took that picture to his minister and told him the story. -- The Evangelical

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04 -- THE DIFFERENCE IN EVIL SPEAKING AND TRUE WARNINGS

From the October, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

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In Eccl. 3:7 we read, "There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak." The problem of when to speak and when not to speak is a problem with which we speak when should not is often a sin and to fail to speak when should is likewise a sin. Two kinds of sins, omission and commission.

Some feel it is always wrong to reveal sin. This is untrue. To expose sin and evil principles in order to save people from wreckage and damnation is not evil speaking. But how are we to know? By the motive. If the motive is selfish and a desire to harm some one we dislike, we know that is evil speaking. If it is done in order to save some one from the wicked slanderous tongue of some talebearer that is not wrong, but right.

Now we give a few Bible references of evil speaking. Prov. 26:20, "Where no wood is the fire goeth out: so where no talebearer the strife ceaseth." Then Prov. 18:8, "The words of the talebearer are as wounds that go down into the innermost parts of the belly." Then in Prov. 6:16-19, God catalogues a fearful list of the things He abominates, closing with these words, "And he that soweth discord among the brethren." Then James declares, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." Jesus locates the origin of all this, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The conversation is a sure index to the heart.

Thus we learn that while malicious speaking is horrible and will damn in Hell, that to divulge a secret in order to save some innocent soul is not evil speaking, but it is right.

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Now Some Examples

First, Mordecai. Much of the Book of Esther is given to this. When that wicked Haman concocted a murderous plot to slay all the Jews it was known to Mordecai. What did he do? Did he hold his peace, concluding, as many insist, that to reveal would be evil speaking? Never. He made it known to Queen Esther and thereby saved himself, the Queen and all the Jews. Was he an evil speaker? No. Just had good sense and good religion.

Second, Paul's Nephew. Acts 23:12-24. There was a wicked plot among more than 40 Jews who had bound themselves together under a fearful oath that they would not eat or drink until they had murdered Paul. But when Paul's nephew learned of this he made it known to Paul. Then Paul had this young man taken to the Chief Captain and revealed to him, who delivered Paul out of their hands. Thus divulging that treacherous plot was not evil speaking, but saved Paul's life.

Then we learn there is a place for rebuke in the church which is not evil speaking. Paul said, "Them that sin rebuke before all that others may fear." I Tim. 5:20. Again we find that Paul wrote to his son Timothy and warned him against that traducer, Alexander. He said to Timothy, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil and greatly withstood my words, the Lord reward him according to his works." (II Tim. 4:14). The Lord will do just that.

Then we glance at Absalom the "kisser." All this is found in II Sam. 15. Absalom murdered his brother Amnon and then fled to Geshur where he remained for some time. Finally through the cunning subtlety of Joab he was permitted to come home. Doubtless he was brought home too soon: Matthew Henry thinks he had treachery 'in his heart a long time to usurp the throne and kingdom of his Father, David. Finally the time was ripe for this. We doubt if there is an example in all history that equals this cunning plot. He stood by the gate and when "one came with a matter to be judged Absalom would say, "Your cause is just and right." Flattery, which is plain lying. If he were made judge, you would get your due. The Bible-says, "Absalom stole the hearts of the people:" Then the next verse says, "After 40 years" he went to his father and asked permission to go to Hebron to pay a vow he had made while there in exile. Doubtless the indulgent father was happy at the thought of his son doing something religious. While treachery had been in his heart for a long, long time, this kissing episode was the climax.

But now the rebellion breaks out in full blast, and we read the people increased toward Absalom. David had been their faithful King so long, but now this proud, wicked, subtle, treacherous Absalom appears and they forsake their old and true friend for him. Many a time we have seen this. Then we read how artful this traitor was. He secures 200 of David's special friends in Jerusalem. To have David's friends with him would add support to his rebellion. It is said, "These men went in their simplicity. They knew not any thing." Gullible! Pitiful! How often will "The hearts of the simple" be thus deceived. Often have we seen good, but gullible people deceived and led to destruction; but for one to seek to disillusion them and thereby save them, one is accused of "Evil Speaking." But one of David's friends, learning of this murderous plot and revealing it to David may have saved his life and the lives of many others. No, this messenger was not a talebearer.

But now the most striking of all -- Gedaliah. When the king of Babylon took the Jews captive and carried them to Babylon he left many of the poor of the land and made Gedaliah

governor over them. Gedaliah set up headquarters at Mizpah and Jews from many lands come unto him and great progress was being made. But there was a man named Ishmael (Not the Brother of Isaac, of course) who, it seems, became jealous, and sought to betray Gedaliah. This was known by Johanan, who was loyal, at that time, and came to Gedaliah and informed him of the murderous plot, of Ishmael but Gedaliah said, "Never." Gedaliah said, "Untrue, thou speakest falsely." Johanan wanted to help him but he would not let him. Only a few days later, Ishmael, with a number of men, came and wickedly slew Gedaliah and all the Jews that were with him. Too bad, if he had, only listened. Then a few days later some men came bringing a present to Gedaliah, and Ishmael said, "come unto Gedaliah," when he had already murdered Gedaliah and cast him into the pit. Thus he deceived them and slew them.

Horrible, but was Johanan an evil speaker when he came to warn Gedaliah? If Gedaliah had listened he would have saved his life and all with him. I have known of some, when one came to reveal something to them to say, "Shut up," and pride themselves in this. I would not want to listen to slanderers, but I am to be courteous, until I am sure, lest I should "Play the fool."

We read that on one occasion here that "Ishmael went forth weeping. "He put on a Weeping Show." God takes note of genuine tears, but He abominates crocodile tears. Some folk can turn on the tears, when they will deceive, just like turning on the water spigot. Lord give us wisdom to differentiate between the real and the spurious tears. Many are thus deceived. Several times in our little ministry we have exposed some deceivers in order to save souls from destruction and Hell. There are some who think this evil speaking but we do not think so.

Now a final word: It seems that Ishmael and Johanan, at the beginning of Gedaliah's work, were true leaders. But soon we notice the treachery of Ishmael, probably the leading man, one on whom Gedaliah relied. Then after the death of Gedaliah, and the prophet Jeremiah was directing affairs, some, and among them Johanan, felt it was better to go to Egypt. To this, faithful Jeremiah protested, but in spite of all his warnings they went and perhaps carried Jeremiah bodily. Here Johanan became a traitor. You never can tell. The two leaders of this new setup turned traitors. We have known this in a denomination and-also in congregations. Those upon whom you rely most become traitors. Not only do they become bitter, but do not leave a stone unturned and many, in their simplicity, not knowing anything, will go with them. When Arnold betrayed Washington, in that trying hour, Washington said, "Whom can we trust now?"

Then the saddest of all is to find vacillation among the people: They said in substance, "When we were back in the old days and burned incense to the Queen of heaven (The Sun to them was the King and the Moon the Queen), when we worshipped the moon, we had plenty but now since we have come out and ceased to do this we have been in great distress." Vacillation. They remembered the onions, the leeks, the cucumbers and the garlic. "Then Jeremiah rebuked them for the very thought of going back into idolatry, but carnality is dangerous. May the Good Lord give us grace and countenance to evil speaking, but at the same time, sufficient discernment to accept true warnings in order to save ourselves and others from destruction and maybe damnation."

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From the January, 1971 Missionary Revivalist

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Webster says to rob is "to pillage; to deprive unjustly, to defraud." Surely it is wicked to rob man, but it is more criminal to rob God; and yet this is possible. We read in God's Word, "Will a man rob God ? Yet ye have robbed me . . . In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8).

Here we have the fact that man robs God, and also the nature of this diabolical robbery -- in tithes and offerings The person who refuses to pay his tithe is robbing God.

But as we have thought upon this subject, we believe there is another side to it which is generally overlooked. There are two classes who may be tithe robbers; they are the tithe-payer and the tithe-distributor. We will not now deal with the first, for most folks are clear on that, but notice a few thoughts relative to the tithe dispenser.

We repeat, "The tithe . . is the Lord's; it is holy" (Lev. 27:30). Yet, the tithe is sacred; it is sacred before it is put into the "storehouse" of the Lord and, if possible, more so after having been deposited there. To distribute this; is a very sacred business. To do so selfishly or carelessly is dangerously criminal, robbery of the most heinous form. For church officials, board members, pastors, or any who distribute this sacred tithe to act selfishly is to incur the withering wrath of God! This holy money has been placed in the storehouse to be used for the glory of God, and not for the selfish gratification of the distributors. Some it is almost blood money; it was placed there by the poor. We have known of those who have paid their tithe and gone hungry; many a poor widow has done this.

But too often it is expressed, either by word or action, "Oh, never mind; the church is paying the bill." Sad! "Never mind about expense in traveling and eating at restaurants, for the church is paying for it." "Turn the furnace on and let it roar all day without any thought -- the church takes care of the utilities!" This matter of the utilities is getting dangerous. "Never mind about the light bill -don't bother about writing Uncle John and Aunt Jane, and talk as long as you like over the phone. What's the difference. The church pays the bill."

But there is this difference: to be careful and act as though it were your responsibility would be honest -- to act otherwise is downright dishonest, and robbing God! Fraudulently taking that holy thing from the treasury of God to satisfy our own dishonest acts!

The Lord help us to be faithful in putting one-tenth of all into the treasury of the Lord, and at the same time may He help those who distribute the tithes so to act that they will not appear before the Lord -- in that day when all shall be known, and the day shall declare it by fire -- as robbers of God!

*W. M. Tidwell is now deceased He being dead, yet speaketh! The above article was written January 31, 1949.

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06 -- A SOLEMN MANIFESTATION

From the April, 1971 Missionary Revivalist

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Mr. Webster says, "To manifest is to reveal or make plain to sight." In I Corinthians we read, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire." We are saved by grace alone, but we are to be rewarded according to our works and sacrifice. Paul and the penitent thief were both saved by grace but Paul will have a much greater reward.

Paul declared if any man's works abide he shall receive a reward and if any man's works shall be burned he shall suffer loss. Yes, an interesting day is ahead of us. A solemn manifestation it will be when all shall appear as an open book before God, angels and men. Every man's works shall be made manifest. All will then be clear. No mistakes. An unerring hand has kept the record. All shall see and know.

The distribution of rewards will take place at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. If there could be shame in the heavenly world we fear some of us might be abashed. Is it possible for our labors to be actuated by selfish or impure motives? Why do we seek to increase the attendance in our Sunday school and increase our class? What are my motives for seeking to raise and, if possible, overpay the budgets? (And God pity us if we do not.) Why do I seek to have a revival and reach a large number of lost souls? What are my motives for all this? Do I do it because I feel that divine urge for souls and is my heart breaking for the lost? Do I do it all for His glory or are my motives mixed? Do I have in mind, possibly primarily, the praise of men? Do I have in mind the thought that I wish to do this in order to ingratiate myself into the good will of the brethren and thus secure for myself a place and possibly a promotion.

All this will be manifest in that day. Do I preach sacrifice and not practice it myself very much? Do I plead eloquently and passionately present the need of a lost world until poor widows, of their poverty, give till they suffer, and then do I use part of this myself for elaborate and unnecessary things? These questions, and a hundred more of similar nature, stand before us constantly. One thing is sure, they will all be correctly answered in the white light of eternity. Solemn and interesting manifestation that will be. Embarrassing situation, if such can be, for the minister when an assembled universe shall see that he has not practiced just what he so earnestly preached. We must meet our messages and one day face the congregations to whom we have ministered again!

We long to so live that when this solemn manifestation shall take place, that it will be seen and known that we have, at least, been what people thought we were. May we be genuine and true so that we may stand before those to whom we have ministered and not be ashamed. May our motives be so pure that our works shall stand the fiery test of that day and may we receive an abundant reward that will last forever.

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07 -- HOLINESS

From the May, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

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Holiness is not a side issue. It is the central theme of the Bible. The various types of the Old Testament were intended to convey the idea of holiness to the people. But the question might be asked, "What is meant by the term 'holiness'?" We would answer, Holiness means soundness, soul cleanness, moral wholeness. Holiness and sin exist only in connection with personality. Where there is no personality there is no sin or holiness. True, certain things and places in the Old Testament were spoken of as holy, but they were only ceremonially holy. We will now consider briefly the relation holiness sustains to the following:

1. Holiness and Man. As we study God's Word we are convinced God's original design for man was holiness. The first man was a holy man. Man through the fall lost his holiness in lost the divine image. Someone has said, "When man fell he fell on a promise." God could justly have annihilated the race. The angels that fell, as far as we know, were never offered mercy. But God through His amazing love has undertaken the redemption of fallen man. The one purpose of the redemptive scheme is to bring men back to the state of holiness from which he fell. "Jesus died to make men holy, so let us holy be." "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jno. 3:8). But someone might ask, "What is the work of the Devil?" We would respond, The saloon, dance hall, picture show, etc., is it not the primary work of the Devil? They certainly are the works of the Devil, and very effective works for wrecking lives and damning souls. But the primary work of the Devil is sin in the heart -- the carnal mind. Just here the question arises, What is God's method of dealing with the "carnal mind"? Now, there are many well meaning people who tell us that God does not really cleanse the heart, but imputes to us the righteousness of Christ, and while the soul is polluted by sin God does not take account of it, because of the imputed righteousness of Christ. This is the essence of anti-holiness doctrine, The Bible teaches not only imputed righteousness, but imparted righteousness. "From all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you" (Ezek. 36:25). Again we read, "The fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Rev. 19:8). Not the righteousness of Christ. They were actually cleansed. They were not white washed but washed white. David prayed, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psa. 51:7). Someone has said, "There is just one thing in the world whiter than snow and that is a heart fully cleansed by the blood of Jesus." So if God commands holiness we are sure He has made provisions for it. We can do or be what God commands us to do or he. It is related that John and Charles Wesley were conversing one day and John said to his brother, "Charles, if God were to tell you to fly, what would you do?" To which Charles replied, "If God should command me to fly I should trust Him to give me Some wings and then I would fly." Then Charles said, "John, if God should command you to fly, what would you do?" To which John answered, "If God should command me to fly I would fly, wings or no wings."

2. Holiness and Maturity of Character. Many people seem to fail to differentiate between purity of heart and maturity of character. A clean heart is obtained instantaneously, by faith in Jesus, but the perfecting of the character is a process, and may require years. The Christian, hungering for Holiness, comes to God and makes a complete, and eternal devotement of himself to God, and trusts God for the gift of the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying power, and instantly the heart is cleansed from the pollution of sin. The disciples were sanctified, or received clean hearts, on the day of Pentecost, when they received the gift of the Holy Ghost, some false theories to the contrary (Acts 15:8, 9).

But, while the heart is instantaneously cleansed, there remain many inherited or acquired weaknesses or infirmities which are not sinful, but nevertheless they are unlike Jesus. God designs that these shall be gotten rid of. The Bible speaks of "perfecting holiness" (2 Cor. 7:1), and also of "being made conformable unto his (Christ's) death" (Phil. 3:10). We fear many good people truly sanctified people have failed to note the difference between infirmities and carnality, and as a result they have gotten discouraged. The Devil suggested to them that they did not "get the blessing," and sad to say, at times some well meaning people have encouraged his suggestions. The facts are, many times, the discouraged one is a holy man or woman, but God sees things in their lives that are not in perfect accord with His meek, gentle, patient, and suffering Son, and He wishes them to be entirely conformed to His image, so He permits them to pass through the "furnace of affliction." Many times we are content to settle down on the banks of the Jordan. When we cross the Jordan and enter the Canaan of perfect love we are then prepared for growth and development hitherto unknown.

3. Holiness and the Will. There seems to be some misunderstanding as to whether or not a sanctified person has a will. Often we hear the expression. "I have no will." This is a mistake. Every rational being in the universe has a will. God the Father has a will. God the Son has a will. Jesus said, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (Jno. 6:38). The angels in glory have a will and the most saintly person on earth has a will. But, while the holy person has a will, it has been brought into subjection to the will of God. It may mean a great deal, at times, to say, "Thy will be done." It did for Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Hear Him as He prays, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me! nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). Again we read. "And he left them, and went away again and prayed the third time, saying the same words" (Matt. 26:44). So while the holy person has a will, and at times it may not be easy, yet like his Master, whether by life or death, he always, everywhere, and at any cost says, "Not my will but thine be done," knowing that the will of God is best for him both in time and eternity.

4. Holiness and Temper. Sometimes we hear a statement something like the following: "The Lord sanctified me and took away my temper." This is a mistake. Just as God, the angels, and holy people have a will, so they have a temper. Temper usually means "disposition." There are many different kinds of temper. Sometimes we hear the expression, "He has a quick temper," or an "even temper," or a "sweet temper." The truth is: When God sanctifies wholly He does not destroy the temper, but simply that "gunpowder," or "explosive element" in temper. So we find that holiness does not destroy the temper, but simply the objectionable element.

5. Holiness and Heaven. Holiness is very closely related to heaven. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:3). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord ? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and pure heart" (Psa. 14:3. 4). Man was originally in perfect harmony with God. Mr. Riddell says, "Two musical instruments keyed alike will each receive the vibrations from the other, and react in overtones and undertones: but, if keyed differently will not register sound waves. Now, since sin has rendered man inharmonious with God, holiness restores this harmony, "puts man in tune with the Infinite." Heaven would be hell to an unholy person. It is said a wicked man was dying and in agony cried, "If hell will hide me from God let me go there." Ole Bull was making his way through a great forest when he came upon a hut in which lived a hermit. The hermit had left the city, because of disappointment, and had dwelt in his solitary home for years, his only companion being his violin. After supper the hermit took down his violin and played the simple pieces he had learned. When he had finished the master musician asked him if he thought he could play. The hermit replied. "I hardly think so, but you might try." The great violinist took the instrument and drew the bow across the strings and the hut was instantly filled with harmony. He played "Home Sweet Home" and various other beautiful pieces, until the old hermit wept like a child. Our lives have been blighted by sin, but Jesus is the great soul restorer. May we give ourselves unreservedly and eternally into His hands. If we will He will cleanse and fashion us according to His own design, and finally receive us to Himself in the glory world where the music of heaven can be played upon our souls and we will be "in tune with the Infinite" for ever.

(Editor's note: This article by Brother W. M. Tidwell first appeared in print in the Herald of Holiness, April 4, 1917, Volume V, Number 52, pages 8 and 9).

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08 -- THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

From the November, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

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"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." I Chron. 16:29

There is much misunderstanding relative to the term "holiness." We were in an Alabama city some years ago in a revival meeting. We were stopping at a boarding house. We soon discovered that the landlady was not at all in sympathy with the doctrine of holiness. We readily saw that she was not informed as to the true teaching on the subject, and made inquiry as to why she was not in sympathy with it. She stated that there was a man who professed holiness who boarded with her for some time, and finally left rather unceremoniously without paying his board. She seemed to have gotten the idea that holiness meant to beat your board bill.

The term holiness may be repulsive to some who are misinformed as to the true meaning of it, and to others who prefer sin and love unrighteousness; but to all who are correctly instructed as to what it really means, and who love God and are endeavoring to walk in the light that is given,

holiness is sublimely beautiful. God says it is beautiful: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

So by holiness we do not mean refusing to pay our board, handling snakes, carrying fire, drinking carbolic acid, or any other foolish or presumptuous thing; but we do mean heart purity, soul cleanness, moral wholeness, perfect love, etc. By holiness, or possibly more correctly speaking, sanctification as an act, we mean, through faith, the heart of the believer is instantaneously cleansed (Acts 15:8, 9).

But holiness is not only beautiful -- it beautifies. It helps the looks of folks. It is far more effective than any other preparation of which we know. These external preparations do fairly well in cool weather, but utterly fail during the hot summer months when perspiration flows freely! Thank the Lord, holiness is not affected by the weather. It is internal. It is wrought in the heart. We have seen people who are not naturally beautiful, but were filled with God, and there was a light not seen "on land or sea" that beamed from their countenances and rendered them beautiful indeed. We have seen an old woman with stooped form, wrinkled face, wearing a black sunbonnet, who was admired by all; not because she was naturally attractive, but because her soul was on fire with God's holiness. There are a great many things in the world which are beautiful which suggest holiness to us. We mention the following:

1. Holiness is cleanliness. We heard a person state in a testimony service one time that when the Lord sanctified them they felt like they had a bath inside. We considered this a scriptural testimony, for we read in Ezekiel 36:25, where God said, "From all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you." There is something about cleanliness which we admire. We like clean clothes, clean houses, a clean city, pure water, etc. But sad to say, too little attention is given to obtaining and retaining a clean heart. The soul can not be beautiful as long as it is, in any way, contaminated by sin. Sin is an unsightly thing. Holiness is cleanliness, and cleanliness is beautiful. "The king's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold." (Psalm 45:13).

2. Holiness is life. Life is beautiful; death is repulsive. Everything that suggests life is beautiful. The stagnant pool of water, with its miasmal vapor, is repulsive because it is a striking emblem of death; while the leaping sparkling mountain stream is admired by all because it is so suggestive of life. The soul does not possess divine, spiritual life by nature. If so, the principle of life possessed naturally could be simply developed and therefore the new birth would not be necessary. But Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). In regeneration divine life is imparted to the soul (Eph. 2:1, 2). Thus we find when God justifies He simultaneously quickens the soul into newness of life; whereas when He imparts the gift of the Holy Spirit to the regenerated heart the "more abundant" life is obtained. What is more glorious than a soul filled to overflowing with the very life of God?

3. Holiness is love. Love is the most beautiful thing in earth or heaven. Love is like God, for "God is love." All love has its source in God. "Love is of God" (1 John 4:7). Love is the most wonderful thing in all the world. It is stronger than law or life. It is the one thing that never fails. It renders heavy burdens light; it shortens the long and lonely way. It is said a little girl was seen carrying her baby brother, almost as heavy as she, and as she cheerfully bore her sacred burden along the way, someone said to her, "Is he not heavy?" To which she replied, "Why, no; he is my

brother !" Did you ever notice how quickly you become tired of caring for those for whom you have no special love; but when you have the privilege of assisting 'in some way those for whom your heart goes out in tender affection you never seem to grow weary. A mother can sit by the bedside of her sick child for hours without growing weary. Love inspires.

We heard of a little boy who sat quietly in a seat of the day coach of a train, running between two of our western cities. It was a hot dusty day, very uncomfortable for traveling. But the little fellow sat patiently watching the fields and fences hurrying by, until a motherly old lady, leaning forward, asked kindly, "Aren't you tired of the long ride, dear, and the dust and the heat?" The lad looked up cheerfully and replied, "Yes, ma'am, a little; but I don't mind it much, for my father is going to meet me at the end of it." Love is indeed beautiful and inspiring. Holiness is love -- perfect love. In regeneration God imparts love to the soul. In entire sanctification, perfect love, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).

For this blessed experience of cleanliness, life, and love we believe every truly saved soul longs. Sometimes it is expressed in prayer or song.

"Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to dwell in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast out every foe,
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Charles Wesley voiced the cry of the heart hungering for holiness and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit when he wrote the following:

"Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that second rest."

May the dear Lord so intensify the hunger in the hearts of his saved but unsanctified children until they shall lay all on the altar and plunge into the fountain and be made whiter than snow.

(Editor's note: The above article appeared in the "Herald of Holiness," August 22, 1917.)

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09 -- REVIVALS

From the August, 1975 Missionary Revivalist

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Mr. Webster says to revive is "To bring to life again; re-animate, resuscitate, refresh." When we think of revivals one of the first thoughts to present itself to us is, "Who needs reviving?" In revivals our hearts, and correctly so, turn to the unsaved. In a sense it would be incorrect to speak of "reviving" the sinner as he is dead in sin and is by nature a child of wrath (Eph. 2:1-5). However, when Adam, the head of the race, fell he forfeited his relation to God and died a spiritual death and his entire posterity are void of spiritual life. So in that sense it is not scripturally incorrect to speak of the revival of the sinner.

It is enough to stir hearts to the depths when we think of the dire condition of the unsaved. If some of our loved ones were lost on the mountains, amid devouring wild animals, or were condemned to the electric chair, or if they were at this very moment lying in our home lifeless, cold and dead, our hearts would be torn, but just now all who have come to the years of accountability and have not been redeemed by the blood are lost, dead in sin and condemned to eternal night. "He that believeth not is condemned already." Surely the lost need to get to God.

Then there is the backslider. The old-time Methodist sang of him in the following pathetic strain, "Brethren, here are poor backsliders, who were once near heaven's door, but they have denied their Savior and are worse than e'er before." God declares it is a bitter thing to forsake the Lord. It is a pitiful sight to see a poor, wretched, miserable backslider, who was once happy in the Lord, going back to the fleshpots of Egypt seeking satisfaction, and of course being woefully disappointed. The light, the joy, the peace and all that made him happy are gone. He often does not wish to live and is afraid to die. Surely he needs reviving, and there is a vast army of such today.

Then the most saintly in the church need a refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We may have been gloriously saved and beautifully sanctified, for many years, as to that matter, but a "fresh touch of fire" is a blessed thing along the way. The Bible is clear that there is just one baptism with the Spirit, if one will keep true, for the child of God, but there should be many refreshings or refillings. In Acts 4:31 we see, while they had received the sanctifying baptism with the Holy Ghost, when they were passing through great trial and persecution and went to God in earnest prayer, "The place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." We have seen the corn under the scorching rays of the sun all wilted, and a cool, refreshing shower would come and it seemed to take on new life. So it is under the scorching heat of the devil's fiery trials. We may be depressed and God sends a copious shower of divine grace, and one feels like "running through a troop and leaping over a wall." And not only do we as individuals need these anointings, but the entire church, as such, needs them. The river runs continuously, but an occasional freshet is extremely beneficial. A freshet is a sudden flood or inundation. These freshets will clear the channel of accumulated rubbish, such as chunks, brush and logs that hinder the flow of the river. So it is with the church. An occasional downpour of grace, just a regular "gulley washer," is extremely beneficial. Without it there is danger of the channel of blessing and glory becoming clogged and the work of the Spirit hindered. Yes, the entire congregation needs a revival often. Not only the perennial blessing of the Lord, but an occasional "extra spread."

Then in the next place we learn that revivals are not accidental. We sing of the "mercy drops" that are falling round us, pray for showers of divine glory but rain is not accidental. Rain is condensed vapor in the atmosphere falling in drops upon the earth. But there must be a certain

atmospheric condition that causes this vapor to condense. When this atmosphere exists the condensation takes place and rain is the result. So it is with revivals or showers of divine grace. When can we have a revival? Certainly when we have a revival atmosphere. An atmosphere conducive to spirituality. And we are all atmosphere producers. What kind of atmosphere do we produce? Warming, exhilarating or chilling and deadening? We know God is a Sovereign and moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform, and can, if He sees fit, miraculously send rain, without the usual conditions existing. Also, independent of any human condition or agency He could send a revival, but we do not recall where He has done such a thing. In the Old Testament times when God's people humbled themselves and prayed and sought God the blessing came. At Pentecost, after days of waiting upon God, the Spirit came and the revival was truly on. When Knox, Luther, Wesley, Finney and a host of others importunately sought "God the revival broke out. When Zion travails sons and daughters will be born.

One of the saddest Bible pictures we have is described in Isaiah 37:3: "This is a day of trouble and of rebuke, and of blasphemy; for the children are come to the birth and there is not strength to bring forth." This is God's picture of a sickly, impotent church. Children to be born and no strength or vitality to bring forth. We see this all about us. "Protracted efforts" but all in vain. Instead of a Holy Ghost revival, with its attendant joy and blessing, it is a "day of trouble, rebuke and blasphemy." The helpless church is troubled and rebuked for its inability to bring forth, while the enemies of God laugh us to scorn and blasphemy.

Truly if we are to have Holy Ghost revivals Holy Ghost conditions must be met. We must be right with God and there must be a burden for the lost. A good man, who recently went to heaven, just before passing away, said, "It is crime to pass through this old world and carry no burden for it." Paul declared he was willing to be accursed from Christ for his brethren in the flesh (Rom. 9:1-3).

Surely as the age closes, and the shadows deepen, and hell is more determined to damn, we need to besiege heaven that the Holy Ghost may mightily work. Conditions that brought the revival last year are not sufficient this year. If we rely upon them we are doomed to failure. We might resort to psychological tricks and have a great report, but the church will be hindered rather than helped. May the Lord enable us to pay the price and be willing to meet conditions that will enable us to have God-given revivals. Revivals that will produce deep, pungent conviction. Revivals that will make people hungry for God and holiness. Revivals that will save from worldliness and sin of all kinds. Revivals that not only bring salvation to the lost but sanctification to the believer. Any revival that stops short of this is not according to the plan of God. On the day of Pentecost Peter made it clear that this is the plan of God for the entire Church age. Today iniquity abounds and the love of many is waxing cold. Violence and crime of all kinds fill the land, but God is still on His throne and will still give revivals that will rejoice heaven and shake the foundations of sin if we will pay the price.

"When Pentecost had fully come and fire from heaven did fall,
Like a mighty wind the Holy Ghost baptized them one and all,
Three thousand were converted, and were soldiers right away,
And the God that lived at Pentecost is just the same today."

*The above article by W. M. Tidwell, now deceased, appeared in the December 29, 1934 issue of "The Herald of Holiness."

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10 -- GOD'S AND MAN'S TITANIC

From the November, 1981 Missionary Revivalist

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We get the word "TITANIC" from the word "Titan" which means one or anything of great size or strength. Gigantic. Thus the Titanic was of vast size and strength.

The Titanic was almost 900 feet long, about one six of a mile. One hundred seventy-five feet high or about 11 stories. She weighed 46,328 tons. Twenty-eight huge boilers and seven decks, she was UNSINKABLE. She was truly "TITANIC."

She left Southhampton, England, in April bound for New York. Her human cargo, passengers and crew, were 2,207. Thomas Andrews was her designer and her captain was the great E. J. Smith.

She was the world's largest luxury liner. The White Star Line built her at a cost of about \$10,000,000.00. She was a floating paradise. Everything for the pampering of the flesh was there. State rooms, bar rooms, dance halls. This was her first and last voyage. Only one partial voyage. She had many American and English dignitaries; such men as John Astor, worth 150 million dollars and Isador Straus, worth 100 million and a host of others worth millions were on board.

The sea was smooth and calm. She was plowing her way across the mighty deep, while many drank, gambled, danced and reveled. It was Sunday night, the day set apart for worship of God, but God was forgotten. Vulgarity, hilarity were the order. From 5 p.m. that Sunday evening, they had been warned of the danger of icebergs. The Titanic was unsinkable. If she should contact one, she would crush the iceberg and plow on her merry way. So no heed to the warnings.

But something happened. It could not, but it DID. A huge iceberg was sighted just ahead. In spite of all that could be done "Man's Titanic and God's Titanic" collided. Such a collision. It was 11:40 p.m. Almost midnight. The iceberg was about 100 feet above the water. That meant about 300 feet below. About one-third always visible. A frightful gash about 300 feet long tipped her below the water line. God's Titanic cut the deadly gash in man's Titanic. The heavy plates of British steel were ripped like a butcher knife would cut a paper sack. Man's Titanic was built in a few months, but God's Titanic had been scores of years and maybe centuries in forming. She had been constructed in the cold Artic regions and drifted southward. She was harder than the hardest flint rock and easily cut this ugly, death-dealing gash 300 feet long. Tons of icy water began pouring into the ship. It is all tight for the ship to be in the sea, but tragic when the sea gets in the ship. It is all tight for the Church to be in the world, but bad when the world gets in the Church as it is today.

All felt the shock, but many did not take it seriously. They consoled each other that no matter what--it was immaterial, for they were on the unsinkable Titanic. Some thought whatever it was, it could be easily repaired. Some think today that Christendom, the professed Church, which the world has entered, can be reformed or repaired, but they are mistaken. All this Postmillennialism and pseudo Pre-millennialism are false. Christendom, where Satan has taken his seat and now dwells, which God designates as the "Synagogue of Satan," will be "spewed out" and thrown down like a mighty millstone. Just one hope and that is the personal Pre-millennial coming of Jesus.

Designer Andrews made a quick inspection and he said to Captain Smith, "She has a very short time to live." From the time of the collision 'till her fatal plunge was about two and one-half hours. Captain Smith ordered all on deck with life belts on. No time to lose. Only a few life boats. Why bother with life boats when on the unsinkable Titanic?

The S.O.S. calls were sent out. S.O.S. What does that mean? "Suspend Other Services." "Save O. Save." Pathetic. The ship "California" was only ten miles away, but failed to heed the call. She did not take the call seriously. It is said they saw the distress lights and rockets, but did not heed. Tragic. The good ship, "Carpathia," 56 miles away, heard the S.O.S. call and reversed her course and at top speed made for her distressed sister ship. Thank the Lord for the good ship, "Carpathia." The Titanic had sunk when she reached the place, but she picked up many of the distressed lifeboats and individuals about to perish in the sea. Around 1,500 perished in the disaster.

No one will ever know what took place in the hearts and minds of that desperate throng those last minutes as the Titanic was listing, before she took the final plunge stem first. She almost stood on end just before the plunge. All was changed on the Titanic. Gambling, drinking, dancing--fun ceased. It was like Belshazzar's impious feast. In Daniel 5, we are told as they drank and reveled, there appeared the fingers of a man's hand and wrote on the wall, spelling out the doom of the wicked monarch. Here it is said, as he saw that strange writing, "The king's countenance was changed and his thoughts troubled him so that the joints of his loins were loosed and his knees smote one against another." This was about the situation that midnight scene on the cold Atlantic. The dance band ceased their jazz and played "Nearer My God To Thee."

Men fought and fabulous prices were offered for a place in the lifeboats, but many things money will not buy. The unsinkable Titanic took her plunge to her watery grave. She lies there today unless she has been devoured by the rust from the waters of the briny deep. She was never raised, but all of this refers to the material side of the catastrophe. The bodies of those celebrities are there now unless wasted away. But where are their souls? That is the most important.

Where are the souls of these rich, wicked worldlings? Death is the separation of spirit and body. Paul said, "The body without the spirit is dead." These bodies died when their spirits left their bodies. Doubtless long before the Titanic and her fateful cargo of dead bodies landed on the bottom of the mighty Atlantic in their watery grave, the spirits left their bodies, but where did they go and where are they now?

The Bible is clear that hell is in the center of the earth. So, of course, these disembodied spirits did not stop on the bottom of the ' ocean, but plunged on into that lost and damned world, hell. This aspect of the tragedy has been overlooked, but it is to us by far the worst of all. We hope some might have been real Christians, but we know that drinking, gambling, dancing and blasphemous throng were not. They met in hell ere the Titanic reached the bottom of the ocean. The most glorious aspect of heaven is its eternity. Never passes. The most doleful aspect of hell is its eternity. Never ends.

This final word: These are perilous times. Dangers lurking on every hand. God's S.O.S. is being sounded, but few heed the warning. Man is relying on many unsinkable Titanics. Treacherous icebergs on every hand. If one seeks to warn, he is called a "calamity howler," "joy killer." God says if we are reprov'd and harden our hearts, it is sudden destruction.

Better not be too sure of manmade Titanics. Only one safe place and this is on the unsinkable Old Ship of Zion. Get on her and REMAIN on and we will be safe.

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11 -- CAN THE CHURCH DO ANYTHING TO HASTEN THE RETURN OF CHRIST?

From the January, 1982 Missionary Revivalist

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In Second Samuel 19:10, we have a statement concerning David, the exiled king, as follows: "Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?" There seemed to be criminal neglect concerning King David. There seems to be, far too often, criminal indifference concerning the return of the "King of Kings."

The question is: Is there anything the Church can do that would hasten the return of the Lord? Many would hastily answer, "Certainly not, for the time is fixed and settled in the mind of the Father, and nothing that man can do would make any change." But we must not forget that often the actions of God are contingent upon the acts and attitudes of man. For example, we read: "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:10).

In this brief article we have not time to mention the part the foreknowledge of God might have to do with this important matter, but will say that we believe the Bible mentions at least five things that might encourage or hasten the return of our Lord. And, just here, we believe that devout people everywhere are seeing more and more that the one and only hope of permanent world peace is the coming of the "Prince of Peace." We will mention the five points we have in mind.

I. We should believe the promises concerning His return. Jesus said, "If I go... I will come again" (John 14:3). The angels said, "This same Jesus... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Peter said, "There shall come in the last days scoffers, . .

saying, Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:3, 4). Sad to say, these scoffers are not confined to the avowed skeptics, but often are found among professors of religion; often in the pulpit. All this must be very grievous to Him who has promised to come again. We believe we can encourage Him to return by believing the promises concerning His return.

II. We can hasten His return by giving the gospel to a heathen world. We read, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the word for a witness (not that all will be saved first) unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). Some have charged, and we believe falsely, that premillennialism hinders evangelism. That is, if Christ is soon coming, why make any effort? This borders on blasphemy. This is contrary to experience and the Word of God. Multitudes of the most ardent and successful soul winners have been able exponents of this blessed doctrine of the return of our Lord. The facts are, this "blessed hope" is an incentive to all that is good. John spoke of His second coming and then said, "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3). Some think there must be a certain number to compose the Bride, and when that number is complete, He will return. Be that as it may, we know that He will return when the gospel is given for a witness to the world; therefore every missionary sent hastens the return of our Lord.

III. He desires that His people shall have faith in His imminent coming. It seems that faith will be scarce when He returns; for Jesus said, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). It seems that He desires faith but there will be little. Enoch had faith that he would be translated, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death" (Heb. 11:5). Enoch had faith to believe that he would not die, but be translated. We believe the Lord desires, and that the Holy Spirit is inspiring God's people to believe, that He is coming soon, and this will prepare the way. This is what Jesus is looking for.

IV. The Church can watch and look for His coming. In Titus 2:13 we read, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." Then in Heb. 9:28, we read, "Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." And, over and over we are told to watch for His return.

V. Last of all, we are to love His appearing. Paul said, "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness... not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8). What is our attitude toward His coming? The true bride is anxious for the return of her lover. The unfaithful bride is filled with dread. The husband and father was away from home and sent gifts and money continuously. Finally the wife and children sent a message, saying, "Do not send any more presents and money; we want you."

May we be faithful and do all possible to hasten His return. Above all, may we be ready. It would be sad to believe in His coming, and be interested in it, and then not be ready. The "foolish virgins" were interested in the coming of the bridegroom, but they were not ready. They were Christians, for the virgin in the Bible always represents the Christian; but we read, "The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit. It was a difference of oil; and these foolish virgins knew of the oil, for they were associated with the wise. We read, "They that were ready went in with him to the marriage."

It would seem that we are in the shadows of the oncoming Tribulation. Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28). May we do everything possible to hasten His return, and above all may we be ready. Sin's reign has been long, cruel and dark. It will end some day. God grant that it may be soon. Let us pray that God may end it in His time and way. Whatever He does is right. -- Herald of Holiness, August 7, 1942

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12 -- A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MOSES TIDWELL

In the January, 1971 Missionary Revivalist

William Moses Tidwell was born in Dickson County, near Dickson, Tennessee. October 22nd, 1879. and passed to his heavenly home. November 30. 1970. He was 91 years. 1 month, and 8 days old.

Brother Tidwell. as he was affectionately known, was the founder of the First Church of the Nazarene of Chattanooga, Tenn., and pastored the church for 42 consecutive years. He was also founder of the First Bible Missionary Church, and pastored it for 8 years.

Rev. Tidwell was a great preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He had an insight into the deep truths of the Word of God that made his messages interesting to the thousands who heard him preach.

Tent meetings, street meetings, jail services, house to house visitation were his life's work.

In the course of his more than 60 years' labor in Chattanooga, 14 second blessing holiness churches were established in this area, and 5 church buildings were constructed on foreign mission fields with money that passed through Bro. Tidwell's hands. One half to three quarters of a million dollars went into the general treasury and the work of the General Church of the Nazarene. Ten thousand dollars was given toward the cost of constructing "Tidwell Hall" on the campus of the Bible Missionary Institute at Rock Island, Illinois. The 18 acres, near Jasper, Alabama, was paid for by Brother Tidwell, and given to the South East District of the Bible Missionary Church for a holiness campground.

He married hundreds of couples, officiated at more than 5,000 funerals, and led untold numbers to a genuine experience of salvation from sin.

Thousands of copies of his books, booklets and tracts have gone into the 50 states of the nation and many foreign nations.

An impressive funeral service was held in the First Bible Missionary Church. Wednesday, December 3, 1970. Three of Brother Tidwell's favorite songs were sung by Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Cameron and the male quartet from the First Church of the Nazarene. Rev. John Andrus, pastor of

First Nazarene Church and Rev. J. E. Cook, General Moderator of the Bible Missionary Church assisted the pastor in the service.

Brother Tidwell was all the Lord's. He lived for God and souls. We will miss our good spiritual father and leader. It will be a sad day when all the reproofing preachers, of the old school, are gone to their sure reward. Let us purpose in our hearts, by the grace of God. to obey Him, be true and meet each other just inside the Eastern Gate. -- M. E. Perkins, Pastor First Bible Missionary Church

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THE END