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INTRODUCTION

This little publication contains 7 articles by Melvin Shiery from The Missionary
Revivalist, arranged chronologically in the sequence of the publication, dating from 1961 to 1974.

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01 -- GOD'S MINISTERS

From the February, 1961 Missionary Revivalist

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Hebrews 1:7, "And of the angels he saith, who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers
a flame of fire."

In the closing days of this dispensation, we are witnesses to the great falling away. How many times has the faithful saint of God looked about in wonder, as loved ones, friends, neighbors and brethren succumbed to the devil's order of the day: lethargy, unconcern, pressure apostasy and compromise.

For every soul who surrenders to Satanic power, there must be a reason, responsibility lies somewhere, and whether directly or indirectly, each of us as individuals have an influence over someone else's life, and will give an account unto God, in the day of our appearing before Him.

Sad as it may seem, tragic as it is, the ministry must bear the greatest weight of responsibility for those who have fallen, many already being in torments, as well as those who yet will fall.

The only definition God gives of his ministers, is that they are "a flame of fire," all others, no matter who they are, where they come from, what they belong to or associate themselves with, are not God's ministers. To be a flame of fire, one must have the blessing of God in his heart and life. A heart made pure by the cleansing fire of the Holy Ghost; a heart filled with the divine love of God; a heart full of the mercy, tenderness and compassion of the son of God. A soul burning with zeal, vision, and a desire to seek out and win the lost. A life dedicated to God, and surrendered to His perfect will. Lost in Him.

These are the necessary requirements, and the only equipment needed to fulfill the great commission of God. This is the only armor that can withstand every wile of the devil, once God has called and sent us out as a flame of fire. Man can build a place of worship; he may fill it with people; he may put on an enormous program; he may be wise enough to keep the machine in motion; he may build himself a little kingdom on this earth, where he can give vent to his own ideas and emotions, but to be a flame of fire for God, he'll have to get his fuel for the fire from the Holy Ghost. Paul told Timothy: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth: and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." 2 Tim. 2:19-21.

Time has proven, God's word attesting to it, that the vast majority of the ministry has lost its flame. The essay, sermonette, the science lecture, the diversion of the spiritual to the political, have all had a part in putting out the flame.

These we see and are grieved, but God help us of the holiness (true holiness) ranks, to not get caught in the tide. The devil is not bound by any set pattern. He'll take us any way he can get us. If we are to maintain and contend for the "faith once delivered to the saints," we'll have to keep our hearts burning with determination to contend without fear or favor of any man. One of the smoothest devices of the devil, is to get the ministry to be quiet. Don't name sin, don't press against the prevailing appearance of evil, don't preach too much on borderline sins. He's quick to point out; you might offend the best financial asset in the church, the best piano player you've got, the

most influential person in the community, your good friend, or it might be your wife or your children.

Thank God, the devil is a liar. God has always given His seal of approval to an individual or a group who would stand, face the enemy; take any brand the foe wants to place on us; keep the blessing, and "contend for the faith." We are certain to be branded if we contend for all that's holy. If you preach close on carnality, and it's one of, if not the greatest curses in the holiness movement, you are branded as a carnality preacher, and the welcome mat is mighty small in some places. If you preach on standards, and you can't preach holiness long without it, you're branded as a harper on standards. God give more of them. It's all part of the fire.

We dare not be silent on the prevailing sins. Every minister is a watchman. Ezekiel 3:17, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." A watchman is a guard. He must be alert, he must be awake, he is set on watch, to seek out the enemy when he approaches, and to sound the alarm at night, against every uncertain sound. He must challenge the questionable,. Dare we as watchmen, called out by God Himself, dare we do any less.

Men and movements have sacrificed principle, standards, obedience to God, personal and God given convictions, to have popularity, numbers, a name, wealth, and to fulfill human ambitions.

God grant that we may always be "a flame of fire." When the fire goes out in the pulpit; the shout goes out of the pew, and glory goes out of the camp.

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02 -- CONSCIENCE

From the May, 1967 Missionary Revivalist

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Acts 24:16 "And herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men."

This is a tremendous text; and if it is practiced, it is blessed of God and appreciated by man. What volumes it speaks to me in causing me to realize the responsibility that is mine in being a Christian, a minister of the Gospel. What precaution in living in such a manner that my influence be not wasted.

I have thought much along the line of this magnificent call to the ministry. There is no greater calling. No profession on earth has ever, or ever will be, its equal.

I have also thought much in time past of the wondrous call to Holiness -- that marvelous experience of Grace, that unparalleled gift of God to every honest, earnest seeker. What a stupendous combination: a Spirit-filled laity and a God-called ministry.

Now, beloved, that which has just been said is "nothing new under the sun," all who love righteousness can easily and readily agree. Let us put this ministry and this laity under our Scriptural Telescopic Text for examination.

First, let us look at the ministry; and to keep from generalizing, let's say the minister. What carefulness, what caution, yea, what consideration he ought to exercise toward his call: called unto Holiness, called to special service, called to pastor a church. Now, in order to have a conscience void of offense, I must consider a few things.

Am I settled in my experience? One can know, and know without question. To care for the problems, call them what we will, that arise; to counsel the seeker; to effectively instruct people and the community; demands a settled experience. It is demoralizing, to say the least, to see the pastor draped over the altar. Brethren, it need not be so. We do not infer, neither is it intended, that one should stay out if he backslides. Let's keep the text in view.

Am I called to the ministry? Once again, we can know. To be uncertain is answer enough. Stay out of the ministry until we are sure. God the Holy Ghost is faithful. Until it is "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel," then "Wait, I say on the Lord." Many folk are grieved, churches torn, and wives and children disappointed (maybe), over the uncertainty of the call. I am personally convinced that when the call is genuine, God can put us anywhere He desires; and we shall be content. Yes, the Northerners can move to the South and the Southerners can make it in the North. We can die as dead to a section of the country as we can to our loved ones, friends, and the world. In *Singing in the Shadows*, Dr. J. B. Chapman said, "Some men boast that they are internationalists, but the obedient child of God is a cosmopolite; for, being a child of God, he is at home anywhere in God's Universe."

It would appear that some Brethren are "pulled" to certain sections, and pastorates, instead of "called." It's amazing that so many "apron strings" have never been severed. Heart searching conscience not "void of offense" in some cases. It is hard to explain or understand how some can be so definite on the call to a pastorate; and in a matter of weeks or a few months, God suddenly changes His mind and sends the Brother off to parts "well known." And this is usually without consideration of the expense of moving to the church or District he has left and without consideration of the influence on the community and the church. Surely, conscience would caution us not to: blame God for some things. If we are to keep conscience "void of offense," we will be careful where principle and ethics are involved. Some moves are necessary and providential; too many are not.

Am I considerate of the laity? I am not called to lord it over God's heritage; but I am called to be a watchman, a shepherd; and I have a charge to keep. Am I considerate in giving them a well-balanced spiritual diet? Considerate enough to try, although some will think I don't? Do I shy away from preaching on "things" and stuff them with positives, perhaps because of influence from home or elsewhere? "Fear hath torment." A pastor's wife once said, "My husband is not preaching

on 'things.' " I wonder how she knew! I also wonder why he didn't! Could that conscience be "void of offense"?

Now, a few words might be said about the laity. Some things are necessary for the layman to have a conscience "void of offense."

He must have a settled experience. This is just as necessary for the layman as it is for the pastor. It is demoralizing for the pastor to see his laymen draped over the altar and unsettled when they should be established. A desire to be a Godly influence with a consciousness of one's responsibility and a faithful exercising of these virtues will assure one of a conscience "void of offense."

He must be considerate of the pastor. The pastor is a human being. He is not called to do all the work, do all the calling, do all the praying, do all the fasting, do all the hauling; and yet he will if necessary. Then, if he is a young pastor, give him a little time to accomplish in the city what you have failed to do in a lifetime. Give him the privilege of using some of his ability, even though you know yours is best, although it never has worked.

Once in awhile, say Amen when he preaches or sings. It may scare you worse than it does him, but the Lord will bless it if it is in the Spirit. Be as quick to tell him you appreciate him or his message, as you would be to tell the family or the rest of the church you don't.

Could one's conscience be "void of offense" who feels the pastor should make it on depression wages? What could be wrong with one's thinking, who desires the services of a general for a private's pay? Every time you think about a pay raise or how nice it would be to have a little money to give or spend, think of him. How long has it been since you thought about it? If you wait to have it in the treasury, he'll be gone, and a few more, too, before anyone gets a raise. Some have done it by faith, and God honored it.

Yes, many things bear watching in order to keep a clear, clean conscience. To be sure, we have only touched lightly; but from observation and knowledge of the facts, what has been said will affect conscience if ignored. Sadder still is the fact that it affects the cause of Holiness; and whenever the cause is affected, the never-dying soul of man is affected. How much, eternity alone will reveal.

May God help us, and may we help ourselves "To have always (in all ways) a conscience void of offense toward 'God and toward men."

*Rev. Melvin Shiery is District Moderator of the Southwest District Bible Missionary Church and is also presently pastoring the Bethany, Oklahoma Bible Missionary Church.

(Editor's Note: For the past two issues of the Revivalist and we hope, for several months to come, the first article in the paper following the editorial will be written by one of our own men accompanied with their picture. We are doing this for added interest and to better acquaint our people with our preachers and others that may be writing articles.)

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03 -- STRANGE COURTSHIP

From the August, 1968 Missionary Revivalist

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Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil."

These are tremendous days. Scarcely a subject could be mentioned in which great changes are not being made. In the eyes of the world and the church, on the while, it is supposedly for the better. In the eyes of many of the blood-washed, it is not so. Strange things are taking place that cannot be taken too lightly.

If this were a political discourse, much could be said about the strange courtship taking place in our beloved America. Democracy is courting Communism, say what we will. This writer never thought he would live to see the day when multitudes would tear down and defy our flag, refuse to fight and die for our nation, stand before a crowd and belch their venom against her Constitution, and have the highest court in the land protect them. A strange courtship, Democracy and Communism. They make strange bedfellows, indeed. Woe!

If this were a general discourse on the church as a whole, much could be said about the strange courtship between the church and the world. When Jews, Catholics, and Protestants (including the so-called liberal holiness and apostate holiness) can be cast into a common mold, can worship together and overlook the differences in doctrine and standard of religion to do so, it proves there were changes in order for it to be so. Every one of them had to compromise to bring it to pass. It is especially heart-rending to see the one-time true holiness churches embracing the world, and working hand in hand with the same subtle enemy of men's souls who brought about man's fall in the garden. A strange courtship, godless Communism, the church, and the world in an unholy triangle. No longer under cover nor underhanded, but brazenly flaunting itself in breathtaking fury while multitudes are swept by delusion and are calling good evil, and evil good. Proverbs 11:21 "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered."

There is a much stranger courtship taking place among the true holiness folk. Every scriptural holiness crowd has existed as such for a limited time according to history. It was never ordained to be so; it was never in God's plan for it to be so. It has always come about because of strange courtship. No denomination ever fell until individuals within that organization began to incite and court that which was contrary to scriptural holiness. No crowd was ever assembled in which every member was perfectly harmonious in its thinking, its standards, its doctrine, nor its purpose. The Children of Israel left Egypt as a mixed multitude. They were troublesome from beginning to end, no doubt. The early church had those among them who were strange bedfellows, and so with every holiness group from the day of Pentecost. The wonderful part of it all is that in each case from Egypt to this day God has kept and blessed His people as long as they remained equally yoked.

The tragedy is that every group in due process of time has courted the world and those who were not in harmony with His word. In so doing, the Glory has departed, and God has written "Ichabod" across the lintels of their spiritual house. It is there for all to see, whose eyes are not dimmed by sympathetic cataracts.

This brings me to a focal point in this discourse. Where is the apex of our Zion? How far are we from it, and how soon shall we reach it? To be certain, to think of such a thing will cause some to raise their eyebrows and their voices against one who would dare suggest we are moving toward our apex. It has always been so. Be that as it may, some will not be silenced by the screams of, "No harm," "Too strict," "Fanatical," "Legalistic," "Harsh and critical." That has always been the cry and the accusation against the genuine, true holiness few.

There are a few things we need to call to remembrance. First of all, we came out a few years ago as a mixed multitude. Loud, mighty, and genuine were the shouts of victory over our liberation. Who can forget that great day? Or who can forget the cries of opposition? Oh ! the Sanballats and Tobiahs! who knew it was of no good and that it would have no good end. Oh! those who with skeptic's eyes watched and waited for a going concern, an opportune time. Praise the Lord for those who had been praying for, yes, anticipating the day God would call someone to "Come to the kingdom for such an hour as this." Praise God for those who are still coming at His call.

It is one thing to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to win the lost. It is quite another to court the Sanballats and Tobiahs as well as the skeptics. Strange courtship makes strange bedfellows.

May God give us more Joshuas who will stand up to the Achans. May He send us more Nehemiahs who will stand up to the Eliashibs. Nehemiah 13:7-8 "And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber." God give us more John the Baptist's who will face the crowd and show them their transgressions. God send us more men who, in the spirit of Christ, will cleanse the temple.

We have some. We need more. It may mean a little more loneliness, a little less recognition, less popularity, no high place. It may even mean your ecclesiastical head will roll. What makes the difference? "If God be for us, who can be against us." The hour is late, the harvest is white, the laborers are few. Let us glean a few lost souls for the Master.

Strange courtship may increase our numbers and broaden our fellowship, but an old-fashioned revival will do much more and do it better.

Remember good is forever good and evil forever evil. "Woe unto them who call evil good, and good evil."

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04 -- PEACE

From the July, 1969 Missionary Revivalist

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Ps. 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them."

There is no substitute in an individual's life for the peace which God bestows. Once one has found that peace he is at rest in his own soul, and longs to see everyone else the same, and he will do all in his power to keep the peace.

There is in these last days a growing, painful trend to cry for peace and desire it at any cost. However, for the child of God this cannot be. We dare not sue for peace at any cost. For years there has been a gradual breakdown in the individual, the home, the church and our beloved America in this regard.

Parents, rather than accept their parental responsibility which requires the rod, the denial of special privileges, a firm YES or a definite NO, give in to permissiveness, hoping to keep peace in the family. It never works.

Churches which once regarded God's Word as the final authority, now break the Commandments, disregard the law, have grown weary in the battle against sin. The price she has paid for her permissiveness and suing for peace is the loss of her glory. Whenever a church refuses to take a stand FOR all that is right, and AGAINST all that is wrong, based upon God's Word, she will sue for peace at any cost. It never works.

Our nation one day had the respect of much of the world. She had separated from tyranny and gained her freedom through the blood, sweat and tears of those who loved to be free from the yoke of bondage. She maintained the peace for years because she feared God and respected Him and His authority. When her peace was threatened she stood her ground, declared herself, shewed her colors and proved there could be peace. Something has happened. Today we are mocked, threatened, humiliated and disgraced. We are suing for peace at any cost. This so-called peace will end up a millstone if acquired. It never works.

Let us beware. You and I as individuals make up the home, the church and the nation. As individual children of God we desire peace. We have His peace in our hearts. We seek to have peace among the brethren. However, the true child of God does not seek peace at any cost. He will have peace, but not at the cost of compromising God-given convictions. Not at the cost of refusing to stand for the right and opposing wrong.

Peace at any cost may gain the approval of many men, but it will bring down the wrath of God. There is a place in which God's children shine and that is in the center of His Divine Will. Here is found the peace which passeth understanding. Here are found the true peacemakers who have found great peace. "Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." So true unless peace is sought at any cost. It never works,

*NOTE: I felt that at this Independence Month, Brother Shiery's article is timely and well written. I asked for permission to. take it from his district bulletin and reprint it for all our readers.
-- Rev. J. E .Cook

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05 -- FORBIDDEN FRUIT -- Psalms 101:3

From the April, 1971 Missionary Revivalist

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I am a sinner saved by Grace. On the fifth day of June, 1954, after thirty-five years of serving the devil, Jesus Christ came into my life. "Old things passed away, and all things became new." The things that didn't pass away were gotten rid of, including the "Parlor Movie," or what the world and a multitude of Holiness professing people call Television.

Psalms 101:3 says -- "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." This alone should cause every holiness professing TV owner to stop and think.

In the thirty-five years of my life, before Christ saved me, I had seen untold movies, in the theater, and saw things I wouldn't have wanted my children to see, and yet, I and my wife with our children sat in front of that devilish monster, and saw much that was as bad or worse, than anything I had seen in the theater.

You say -- OH! I control mine, NO -- my friend, I had one. If you control it, you don't turn it on, and if you don't turn it on, you have no right having God's money invested in it.

REMEMBER -- We are to be good Stewards.

Jesus said "I will come as a thief in the night."

Will He -- FIND YOU WATCHING:--

1. A cigarette puffing news commentator.
2. Hollywood on parade.
3. Some liquor sponsored sports event.
4. Some be-jeweled -- Hair clipped -- Half naked Jezebel.
5. Some unbelievable-fantastic serial.
6. A shoot-era-up western movie.

OR WILL HE FIND YOU:--

1. Come out from among them. II Corinthians 6:17
2. With old things passed away II Corinthians 5:17
3. Testifying and witnessing for Him. I John 4:14
4. Reading your Bible. II Timothy 2:15
5. Praying without ceasing, I Thessalonians 5:17

"IF THE WORLD EMBRACES IT, HOLINESS PEOPLE OUGHT TO ABHOR IT."

Ours is a much happier home, since we got rid of it. God has blessed us many times. I had told my Mother-in-law I'd give the thing to her, but God checked me here, and I told her I just couldn't do it. If I couldn't look at it, it wouldn't be right to give it to her. This took place within five days after I was saved, and on the fifth day my wife was gloriously saved, as we prayed by our bedside.

We were still praying and seeking God's will as to how we should dispose of the TV, and not lose our influence with my 'wife's mother, as we were concerned with winning her to God. At this time she told us to sell it and give the money to the Church, but we explained that we would still be placing it before someone else.

Praise God for answered prayer! One morning I arose, and told my wife that God had given me a definite plan, to settle the TV question. Thank God I waited on Him, that His will might be done. I wrote out a check for the amount we had paid for it, gave the check to my Mother-in-law, loaded the TV on the back of a truck, hauled it to the city dump, unloaded it, and praised God while the man on the tractor ran over it, and put it in its rightful place.

You may say you don't have that kind of money to throw away. My friend, you threw it away when you bought it. If you want all that God has for you, getting rid of it will be no problem.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 "MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEED ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS."

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FAITHFUL. God rewarded us for being obedient. In December of 1956, my Mother-in-law went home to be with Jesus. As I stood by her bedside in the hospital, and looked into her face, how I thanked God, that we had not compromised.

My friend, where do you stand today? Don't let satan beguile you. BE NOT DECEIVED -GOD IS NOT MOCKED. You may profess Holiness until you're out of breath, but if you are giving space in your home, for the Beer barrons to advertise the tobacco interests to tempt and

entice your children -- the immodest and immoral demons to expose themselves to your family, then you are "AS WELLS WITHOUT WATER," Peter 2:17.

If you are saved and sanctified, you will shun the T.V., as you would putting a cigarette between your lips -- a whiskey bottle in your pocket -- or a deck of cards on the dining room table. To say you just don't have time for it, simply shows a lack of spiritual depth. If you sincerely love God, whether Layman -- Preacher or Evangelist, you just won't have it. Many are compromising today, because of fear of losing friends or position. Men who one day preached against it, testified against it, now have it, look at it or have become so lukewarm, they hardly ever mention the fact it is a means of sending souls to Hell.

If you have been persuaded by the devil, to fall for this 20th Century evil, I pray that you may have the scales lifted from your eyes, see it as the Monster it is, destroy it, and ask God to forgive you.

"IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS."

(Editor's note: The above article can be obtained in tract form by writing to Melvin Shiery, 6708 N. W. 57th, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008)

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06 -- A CLEAN HEART

From the April, 1972 Missionary Revivalist

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Psalms 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Every truly penitent sinner seeks forgiveness because he is sick of sin. He is sorry for his evil deeds and is determined, by the grace of God, to get out of the sin business and stay out. If one has made up his mind, settled it, will confess, forsake, and restore, he will be saved. This is genuine repentance and is brought about by Holy Ghost conviction. A prayer lifted for such forgiveness brings definite results and leaves one with definite victory over sin and a definite testimony, backed up by a life which reveals a Divine transformation.

Such are the individuals who soon feel a deep conviction for a higher state of Grace. Although saved from all the pollution of the sins of the world, they feel a need for something that will rid them of the very nature of sin, of the bent to sin, and of the old man of sin. In simple, understandable, scriptural language, their cry is as David's was, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

One of the saddest blights today is the amount of religious jargon being poured off on the world as Holiness. It is well to remember and take note that men will retain the language and

project a doctrine long after they have departed from the faith. Many are deceived in thinking that sound doctrine embraces no more than two works of grace; namely, justification and sanctification. However, there is a doctrinal standard of living based upon God's word, an inward and outward adorning which measures the depth of one's spirituality.

It is in this basic truth that one proves whether the heart is cleansed and a right spirit renewed within. This writer is convinced that man lives like he loves. There are only two classes in the world in this respect. One loves the world, the flesh, and the devil. The other loves the Lord. A logical scriptural deduction is that man is servant to whom he loves. "Ye cannot serve two masters."

A close examination would soon reveal the condition of one's heart, and the depth of one's spiritual life. Since one does live as he loves, his affections are set upon the one he loves and serves. The scripture clearly admonishes in Colossians 3:2, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."

Let us now look at the life of the individual first spoken of as a seeker, assuming they have sought for and received forgiveness of sins and cleansing for the heart. We will put this individual in the melting pot of those who profess holiness, the mixed multitudes; some who are "stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," and others who, "honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him."

First, for the truly saved, there is no longer any affection for the outward things of the world. Money, the love of which is the root of all evil, is no longer his god. Necessary, yes, to meet the legitimate demands of life and to give to the cause of Christ.

Fashions and dress. There will be a carefulness here to dress as becometh holiness. If a man, he will not care to let his hair or his attire indicate any desire to be classified with the obnoxious, effeminate worldlings of the day. If a lady, she will not destroy her glory, which is her covering, and according to God's word, "Her hair is her covering." I Corinthians 11:15. She will not burn it off, cut it off, or thin it out deliberately, when she has a clean heart and a right spirit. She will be exceedingly careful not to put her body or that of her little girl on display, or on the auction block of lust. Her dresses will be long enough to at least conform to the manual she vowed she would abide by, "well below the knees at all times," on the piano bench, on the platform, in the pew, on the street, and even at home. Too many have a wardrobe for the demand of the occasion. A display at Camp or Conference is not convincing proof of a clean heart and a right spirit. If Hollywood or Paris brings the dresses to calf-length, the short-skirted holiness-professing flips will be the first, perhaps, to bring them down. That is still not proof of a clean heart and a right spirit.

Music. There will be a carefulness here, and one in which we must embrace that which would glorify God. I, for one, do not believe that I could pick your instrument or your music. The music of the world is out. The jazzed-up, off-beat, so-called religious music is not conducive to holiness. Herein I believe we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. The majority of the so-called religious quartets and confabs are nothing more than entertainment, and will do little to inspire one with a clean heart and a right spirit. Records -- thousands of dollars

are wasted here. I know of one lady who got saved and destroyed over \$500 worth. God gave her a new heart and created a right spirit within her.

Sports -- a detrimental, liberal giant today. They will be shunned and avoided by the individual whose affections are set on things above. It is shocking to find those who take a strong stand against attending, yet the same individuals can read the sports section and keep up an interest in the different fields. The thought has often occurred to me, "Would God care any more about my attending than he would about my reading interest?" And I have the answer. One of Israel's problems was her heart being still in Egypt. All we know about Lot's wife is to "remember her." She looked back; her heart was still in Sodom. Not so of the one with a clean heart and a right spirit.

Shows: all of them, whether the comic on the radio, the funny face on TV (or the death of a president -- a candidate -- a religious crusade -- or a moon walk), the county fair, the state fair, or the Hemis fair [hemisphere]. It would be a poor place to be if the Rapture came, and it will and many will be left behind, professing to have a clean heart and a right spirit.

Further, there is no affection for the inward adorning of the devil. Pride -- jealousy -- self pity self-will -- malice -- envy, all have been eradicated in the crucifixion of the old man by the Holy Ghost, and His purifying one's heart by faith.

Carnality loves sympathy, loves to be pampered. At times it enjoys stomping, ranting, and raving. Sometimes boasting, drawing attention to self, pressing its desire to be noticed, to be praised. At other times manifesting self-pity, so easily hurt. These usually carry the chip on the shoulder or feelings on the sleeve. Touch either one and the lid blows off or the fountains of the deep open up and the tears flow like Niagara. Grim evidences of an unclean heart and an unsanctified spirit.

Another clear evidence of a clean heart and a right spirit is a forgiving spirit. My attitude toward those who talk too much, those who have wronged me deliberately or cunningly.
BROTHER, SISTER, LOVE IS MORE THAN LIP SERVICE: IT IS A SPIRIT THAT CAN BE FELT.

Further, there is affection for the things of God -- the love of God constraining us. Our desires, ambitions, and wishes are only to please God. We are well aware of God's love and His desire to do great things for us. We have an affection for the place of prayer; consistent, effectual, fervent prayer. It will not be hit and miss; not demanding, but beseeching; of praising, of thanksgiving, and of interceding.

There will be affection for the Word of God; giving God time to talk to us, and obedience to truth. For too many, the breakdown is not in lack of faith or lack of knowledge, but in failure to obey.

There will be affection for the house of God. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." A fairly sure sign of a clean heart and a right spirit is attendance at prayer meeting, at Sunday school, at Sunday worship, in revival, and on time. We will not run and

overdo all day Saturday and half the night, and then yawn and sleep half the service on Sunday. Sickness and necessary labor in preparation for the Sunday services is a different thing. Those with a clean heart and 'it right spirit will understand.

There will be affection for music with a heavenly ring. Affection for attire that becometh holiness. Affections that respond to the call to sacrifice -- of time, of talent, and of money. An earnest desire to do all things to the glory of God.

These are some evidences of a clean heart and a right spirit. Many today are living far below their privileges. They are living on the borderline, caught on the reefs, never rise except at high tide, blessed only by the overflow of the saints. Many are deceived, many satisfied, many struggling over things they would never encounter if they would launch out into the deep. If they would only die out and cry out with the Psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me," and pray clear through, they could have a "clean heart."

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07 -- THE MIXT MULTITUDE

From the April, 1974 Missionary Revivalist

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Num. 11:4, "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

Ex. 12:38, "And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle."

There is little doubt that many have wondered about this crowd known as the mixt multitude. No given credit for place in the Bible account are they doing anything worthwhile or spiritual, either in Egypt or on Israel's journey toward the Promised Land. On the contrary, they were a hindrance to God's people and left a blight on their record.

Whatever their motive, they desired to and were allowed to leave Egypt, for the Scripture says, "They also went up." It is perhaps questionable to some what they were, or what they stood for before leaving.

There can be little doubt they hated making brick. They did not get blessed over picking up straw and mixing mortar. To serve on board or committees was no doubt much more to their liking.

They were Jewish when it was convenient to be so. When the going became rough, they saw an opportune time to pull out. It was a matter of convenience and not conviction. It was convenient in that it saved their first born. It is a proven fact they did not come out with strong conviction. Before too far in the journey, their influence would be felt. Some were determined to

change some things. Not satisfied with God's plan nor His instruction, they had plans of their own. Perhaps they felt the crowd they came out with was an ignorant lot. A little more sophisticated education might improve that. Perhaps the young were not receiving the physical attention they needed. A new physical-ed unit where they might work out and expend their energy might help. Perhaps a little more freedom, a relaxing of the rules, might dispel the drudgery of the journey. Regardless of what the interpretation of their motives may have been, the Scripture is clear. "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting." It brought distress and contention in the camp.

Little did it matter that what they did was contrary to Jewish law. No matter if it were a stumbling block to others. Certainly little thought nor much concern that it might damn their children and the weaker brethren in their midst. They took advantage in a crucial hour. While Moses was on the mount With God, with much palaver, smooth tongue oratory and persuasive influence, they appealed to Aaron. He fell for the trap, took no stand, and became a party to their compromise. He built them a molten calf.

The sad thing regarding it all is the fact that good people were influenced by their evil and cunning deed. It is never a light thing when Satan takes an advantage to weaken the cause of God. Men may laugh and scorn and scoff, but God's all-seeing eye observes it all. From the top of the mount He heard, He saw, and He spoke to Moses, "Go, get thee down: for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves." It was here that God's wrath waxed hot against the Children of Israel, and except for one man's intercession, would have wiped them out.

Much could be said as to why God allowed the mixt multitude to infiltrate His children in why He allowed them to leave Egypt in the first place. Sufficient perhaps is to say it was the mercy, the longsuffering, the patience of the Heavenly Father. We believe this must be so, for when Moses came down from the mount, he heard the noise, saw the calf, and "his anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands and brake them beneath the mount." From here he spoke to Aaron (the one who had been put in authority and failed), found the cause, and again appealed to God to spare the children and "forgive their sin: and if not, blot me I pray thee, out of the book which thou hast written." It is at this point that God revealed Himself as the Almighty. It was in His authority, His power, His majesty to blot out any He so desired. All could have been destroyed, but He spoke to Moses declaring His justice: "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot Out of my book."

Let the faithful, blood-bought, blood-washed, consecrated, dedicated, old-fashioned holiness crowd take courage. The mixt multitude is with us. They are still sitting down to eat and drink; they are still rising up to play; they are still worshipping the golden calf (the god of self) and causing havoc in the camp. "Let us hold fast our profession of faith without wavering." May God help us not to fall for the pleas of the mixt multitude. God did for us what He did for Israel. He brought us out of Egypt that He might bring us in to the Promised Land. Deut. 6:23

We must be alert to the wiles of the enemy, in using the mixt multitude in his attempt to weaken the cause of radical holiness. I do not use the word radical lightly. Too many are afraid of it today, and are far too eager to classify it as fanatical and legalistic. God knows and His people

know that we are troubled little with either fanaticism or legalism. All would do well to know the definition of the terms. Webster defines legalism as "strictness, or the doctrine of strictness." This being true, then the "thou shalt" and the "thou shalt not" of the Word of God are legalistic, and I am a legalist. Why? I have always been strict with my children. It has paid off! Notwithstanding the many times we have heard across the years that we would lose them, or drive them from the church, and make them sick of holiness. No, the mixt multitude missed it again.

True, according to Mr. Webster, we were legalists in our pastorates. We stood for and strived for strictness in doctrine -- both in experience and in living. Some scoffed, ridiculed, reflected, and talked much. Others listened, prayed and obeyed. Some have passed on to their eternal reward. Others still stand as living proof of the power of God against the mixt multitude. They missed it again.

This crippling crowd is untiring. They work, but their efforts never increase to more spirituality. As in Moses' day, they are forever a drag and a thorn to the flesh of those who have forsaken Egypt (lock, stock, and barrel). They are the easy-way, so-called Christians. Deliverance is fine -- but an easier way. Holiness is fine -- but an easier way. Canaan is fine -- if I can keep my interest in Egypt.

They are strong on faith and love --in word, that is. They are great for mixing. How else could they be the mixt multitude? They are forever looking for an Aaron to build them a calf. After all, what's wrong with a little religious entertainment? As for this man Moses, he is putting us in a straight jacket, and who knows whether he is really right anyway?

Oh! May God have mercy on us. Is there no hope for the mixt multitude? Yes, beloved, there is. The God of all grace!

First, the saints of the most high must not weaken, must not be taken in by subtle words or deeds. Prayer -- earnest, fervent prayer -- is a must. Faith unwavering, unshakable faith in God and His power. Obedience absolute, strict obedience to the known will of God is mandatory. These are the weapons against the mixt multitude.

Second, the saints must stand. Aaron missed it. We dare not. Had he stood for right, the story would have been different. If we fail in this crucial hour, with the rapture so near, many will miss the crossing.

Let us not be stopped by the mixt multitude. Remember the Scripture said, "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, who shall give us flesh to eat?" How sad ! Delivered and saved, free and well on the way to Canaan, but hindered by the mixt multitude. It broke the heart of Moses and brought the wrath of God upon His people. Let us beware!

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THE END