

Twelve
— *Religious* —
Shrapnels



BY

REV. RALPH G. FINCH

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Twelve

Religious Shrapnels



By

Rev. Ralph G. Finch



KINGSWOOD, KENTUCKY



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PREFACE

AWAKE! AWAKE!

Awake! Awake! O Church of God!
"Thy light has come," "arise and shine!"
The glory of the Lord is thine,
His arms of love round thee entwine,
Go in His might and stem the tide
Of wickedness so deep and wide;
Thy Lord will be close by thy side—
Awake! Awake! O Church of God!

Awake! Awake! O Church of God!
The days of peril are at hand,
The monster Sin stalks o'er the land,
But in my strength a conquering band
My faithful ones shall ever be,
And full of life and liberty
Shall shine, and shout the victory—
Awake! Awake! O Church of God!

Awake! Awake! O Church of God!
O Zion, get thee up on high!
Lift up thy voice, sound forth the cry!
The Bridegroom's coming draweth nigh,
And only those who're saved from sin
Shall through the portals enter in,
And the eternal victory win—
Awake! Awake! O Church of God!

Awake! Awake! O Church of God!
"Be not dismayed" I died for thee,
That thou a glorious Church should be,
From every spot and wrinkle free.
The conflict now, but soon, the crown!
With cares and burdens all laid down—
Bear now the cross, then wear the crown—
Awake! Awake! O Church of God!

Belle Staples.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. How Easter Affects Me this Year.....	5
II. Is God Able?.....	9
III. Jealousy	15
IV. Flattery	20
V. Embraced or Crucified, Subdued or Dead— Which?	29
VI. Extravagance	35
VII. The Unsparing Justice of God.....	42
VIII. A Letter to Young Ministers.....	48
IX. Locking the Door After the Horse Is Stolen	54
X. "That the Ministry Be Not Blamed".....	58
XI. "Sir, We Would See Jesus".....	65
XII. "Call a Solemn Assembly".....	71

Matt 3:9, Heb 11:19, 7:25

Pro. 6:34, 35

Dan. 11:21

Luk 16:1

2 Cor. 6:3

Luk 12:21

Joel 1:14

I.

HOW EASTER AFFECTS ME THIS YEAR

When I was a child, we children hid eggs for two or three weeks before Easter so as to have plenty on that day to eat. In fact, the egg-hiding and then the feast of fried, boiled and colored eggs on Easter day were our highest goal—our ideal for that great day. Those were wonderful seasons. Father and mother were still living then and, although they tried to keep brakes on so we boys would not hide too many, we could see they too enjoyed the feast of eggs when the day came. The best I can remember, mother always explained that the Easter egg feast was principally to remind us, each time we broke an eggshell, of the bursted tomb as our Lord arose. I want right here to urge parents to tell over and over the wonderful story to children. It must have seemed to mother as if all we grasped, those Easter days forty and more years ago, was her good fried eggs, but she sowed seed in our hearts that never died. In fact, since we have been resurrected from a life of sin the Easter story to us has grown sweeter and sweeter.

This winter especially have we looked and longed for the season now enjoyed by all. From the first warm spring breeze and early Easter flowers we took on renewed life, hope, and faith.

Everything that hath life seems to be praising HIM more this spring than ever. The birds seem so full

of song they hardly have time to build their nests. Robins and the lovely southern mocking birds fill the air with their sweet music. Several plum trees in the yard came out in bloom in a day or two. The rye is a foot high in places and green grass is springing everywhere. Under the cliffs have been adder's tongue and violets for some time—everything declaring resurrection once more after the death-dealing blasts of winter. It has all touched my heart until smiles filled my soul as I watched even the sparrow chirp, flit and rush straws to a knot-hole in the porch. Usually his program would be broken into at once, but not so this glad Easter time.

After living nearly fifty years and gladly walking in all the light one has, with all the joy and pain it brings, there are at least times when the heart is too touched to interfere with even a good-for-nothing sparrow.

Perhaps this great tenderness, seriousness and mingling of joy and sadness are partly caused from reading about the great tribes of Indians in South America, or the bloodshed in China and Russia, or more likely it has come from meditation on all I have above written in connection with the HEATHEN.

For days we have in our mind's eyes seen the heathen as they see just what we do, to a certain degree or point. They see the flowers grow, bud and bloom. They see beauties in some of the tropical climes we know nothing about. They see and hear many of the same birds all winter that we hear only as they migrate back north from their southern home. They

hear the lion roar, and stand in awe as the eagle becomes a speck in the blue sky. Majestic mountains defy their skill and strength to climb—especially in India and South America—while the atmosphere is so transparent that the astronomer migrates to their land to spy out heretofore unknown worlds.

In all these things we Christians see God. We smell His breath in the flowers and hear His music in the song of the birds and the hum of the bees. We think of the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world, as we watch the flocks on the mountain-sides. We bow, as the lion roars, and declare that the Lion of the tribe of Judah is able to break every chain. We take courage and declare **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD**, as we gaze at mountain-peaks flirting with fleecy clouds in the dizzy heights.

This is how all these things affect our hearts who know the Creator—the Savior who burst the tomb that wonderful day long ago. This is how Easter time affects me this year, but in it all I am suffering. My soul aches for the heathen. The heathen man, his wife and children see much and more than many of us—but **NO GOD**.

The lovely song bird means no resurrection from death to him, nor music from Heaven. The sweet odors, no breath of **THE GOD** we love. The lion's roar means fear and terror and death, while the majestic mountains are nothing but giant sentinels watching to swallow them one by one or belch forth fire and destruction on helpless tribes.

Instead of riding to lovely churches with Bibles and

song books in hand they wend their way to shrines of darkness and superstition. I want them saved. My soul suffers for them.

“AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP: THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD SO LOVED THE *WORLD*, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. . . THAT THE *WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.*”—John 3:14-17.

II.

IS GOD ABLE?

(See Matt. 3:9. Heb. 11:19 and 7:25.)

Our morning reading ended with the 13th, chapter of Numbers. It thrilled us as if it were the first time read. The subject of this article came suddenly to our mind as we read the reports of the spies. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." But the men that went up with him said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we." Conflicting reports and messages, from the very beginning until now, keep leaders in distress, and non-discerning lambs and sheep fearful and often lean-souled. The loss of time and life can hardly be estimated in the above case. How different it might have been if God's people had followed the advice of the two instead of the others who saw only the material side! Joshua and Caleb saw, over and above the giants and walled cities, their GOD. They had a vision strengthened by faith.

It is the same today. We make no progress until possessed with a clear vision, hope, faith and courage to press right on in spite of roaring lions, growling bears and howling wolves on every side. I think it was the next day after my first testimony in the old Methodist church that one of these fearful spies in the form of an elderly lady stopped me and with a

pitying smile said, "Now, Ralph, you testified to being saved from all sin, and that you expected to live without sin all your life. Suppose you live fifty years yet. You know it will be impossible to live fifty years without committing a single sin." She came so near flooring me right then that with distress I walked miles across the country to ask the preacher holding the revival about her warning. Oh! the relief when with an assuring Caleb smile he said, "You do not have to live without sin fifty years; all you have to live that way is just this moment, then the next moment, etc. In fact, all you have to live sinless is just moment by moment." That is about all he said, but he surely put me square up on my feet. I saw he was right, so I returned home stepping high and saying in my heart, "How easy! I can live one moment clean and that is all I have to do. The past is under the Blood, and I have not come to the future days yet, so all I need is victory just now. Glory!"

That preacher will not know until sometime in eternity when we meet and greet each other on the streets of gold how he put something in my mind that lovely morning which has helped me wade into more than one army of demons and take away all they possessed.

Most defeats come from wrong conception of progress and gain. Too many look at promotion in Divine things on the same basis as the world.

Whereas it is just about the opposite. The world's success depends on gaining earthly treasures, while the loss of these secures spiritual gain. Matt. 19:21 — "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go

and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me.”

The political world makes friends at any cost. It warms up to friend, relative and foe. Toots its own horn. Brags on its ability. Swells up and makes great promises if once in office. Is supposed to go so far as to purchase votes, friendship and support by promising positions to some and promotions to others. Not so in spiritual promotion. Instead of flattering others and bragging on self, it is SELF-SACRIFICE with no soliciting sympathy or pity. Matt. 19:29—“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, FOR MY NAME’S SAKE, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” If young converts could see this standard and understand its profit, here and hereafter, there would be in a few years an army of workers in His vineyard who would be flames of fire and sharp threshing instruments with no debts hanging over their heads or family, domestic affairs to circumscribe their usefulness. Too many try in the kingdom to practice the world’s standards and thus enter the spiritual life handicapped and never get free. Many a man now tied up and worried constantly by an ungodly family would have just the opposite if he had taken the route ordained by Divinity.

God withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly. Thus, to the self-sacrificing and separating souls who do so for HIS NAME’S SAKE, there will be given in God’s time helpmates and families to their

credit if God sees such is included in the hundred-fold after the humble sacrifice.

A young lady is struggling at the altar in this revival over her call into missionary work. There was no doubt about it until a handsome young man interfered. Now, it is going to be interesting to see what she does. Whether she says yes to God or to him. Whether she denies him or God's first call. If she accepts him it is as the world believes. If she accepts God, it may be years before she meets God's man for her. It may be on some mission field. It may never be, but whichever it is after the self-sacrifice is made, it will be peace, happiness and safety. Otherwise remorse and defeat.

The world, as well as many shallow Christians, lose clear out because they cannot understand such Scripture as Mk. 8:35—"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it." These shallow, visionless and fearful souls stagger at this system of Divine promotion. Look out for number one, is their slogan. A hireling preacher is so fearful of his position he dare not cry aloud and spare not. He must warm up to the church bosses to save his life not knowing this is the very route the world takes and is sure death, spiritually.

A gentleman said to a missionary, "I see what Mk. 8:35 means: You took your children to that far-off mission field, never stopping to confer with flesh and blood, as to education, health, life or death. I stayed here to protect, save, educate and culture mine. Now,

yours pray like the world's on fire and mine are as wicked and unmanageable as can be. You took God's orders and saved your life and your offspring." To save our lives we must plunge into the Divine program like a boy diving into the lake. No reformer or revivalist but has gone headlong into his work against the advice of relatives and religious politicians. Explorers, inventors and investors plunge, and so must the spiritual. The others are rare and often over-cautious, sometimes gaining often losing, but never so with the godly.

See the young man struggling to be first in the law class. His ambition and pride goad him on. He borrows funds to dress with the best. Seeks the society of the elite to gain prestige. Leaves no stone unturned to exalt himself and prove to all his great learning, talents and WORTH. We know a man who refused to do humble work around an institution for fear it would disqualify him for being superintendent. Rest assured he, by so doing, disqualified himself forever, as it was a religious work. Read Mk. 9:35 for the sure route to promotion in the Divine economy. "And he sat down and called the twelve, and said unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all."

Paul is admired by many but followed by too few. His giving up all to win the great prize is a price too great for the majority of the big "I's" to accept. A highly educated young man was asked if he would help raise his passage and support to the field of his choice. Hear his answer, "If after all the time I have spent preparing I am not worth enough to the Board

so they can send me without my having to so do I cannot go." Of course, he did not go. Compare such self-valuation and importance with Paul: "Yea doubtless, and *I count all things but loss* for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom *I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung* (how different from the above) that I may win Christ."

III.

JEALOUSY

Perhaps no grandchild of the devil and child of carnality has caused more suffering than jealousy. There are perhaps two other things as destructive, if not more so, but putting this green-eyed monster third in the long list of carnality's filthy, ruinous brood makes it very near the top, or at the bottom, of trouble.

In Proverbs 6:34,35 we read sweeping and startling facts about this virus of hell, "FOR JEALOUSY IS THE RAGE OF A MAN: THEREFORE HE WILL NOT SPARE IN THE DAY OF VENGEANCE. HE WILL NOT REGARD ANY RANSOM; NEITHER WILL HE REST CONTENT, THOUGH THOU GIVEST MANY GIFTS." This wilting, withering, black-winged fowl of carnal poison makes the possessor suffer untold agony, as well as its victims. A spell of its fever seizes a man and for three days he will sulk, and pout, and be miserable while his poor wife quivers under its blasting but silent rage. She would far rather have him angry and receive blows and have it over at once, instead of the three-day to three-week unbearable fever.

A tired-looking man sat night after night in a recent revival meeting, looking hungrily at the shouting, free saints. He was the victim of a jealous wife who would go into this green-eyed, often silent fever, and for three weeks at the stretch let him come home from

work tired and hungry to get his own meals and dodge her glaring eyes and sometimes withering words. Another broke my heart as with stooped body he would try to prevail for his jealous wife and uncontrolled children.

Jealousy will not receive ransom nor regard gifts. Kind words, tears, and offers to be a love slave will not break this spell of hell. It must run its course regardless of bringing stooped shoulders, wrinkles and grey hair. Merciless child of carnality, and unmanageable grandchild of Satan!

Proverbs 27:4 says, "WRATH IS CRUEL, AND ANGER IS OUTRAGEOUS; BUT WHO IS ABLE TO STAND BEFORE ENVY?" (JEALOUSY).

All have seen bad spells of wrath. It is to be feared, as its work is usually sudden and often deadly. Anger likewise is outrageous and a twin to wrath; in fact, likely carried on with more speed and alarming dispatch; but either and both together do not contain the deadly gasses contained in envy. Have we not all seen the beautiful young wife become pale, and her eyes take on a far-away, hopeless stare? She could stand a spell of anger from her husband once in a while, but this everlasting, accusing, demon-like suspicion. "WHO WAS HERE TODAY? HOW LONG DID THEY STAY? WHAT DID THEY SAY? WOULDN'T COME SO MUCH IF YOU DIDN'T ENCOURAGE IT. I WAS WARNED NOT TO MARRY YOU BEFOREHAND AND NOW I SEE MY MISTAKE. EVERYBODY IS TREATED BETTER THAN ME." Then days of silent sulking while the innocent

party nearly chokes—lumps in the throat, brain and heart crushed, which so destroy joy and natural affection that she recovers more slowly each time the guilty party confesses and prays for forgiveness and restoration.

In Ecclesiastes 4:4, we read, "AGAIN, I CONSIDERED ALL TRAVAIL, AND EVERY RIGHT WORK, THAT FOR THIS A MAN IS ENVIED (JEALOUSY) OF HIS NEIGHBOR." The price of victory in anything from childhood to old age is jealousy in the hearts and lives of the carnal. A clean, neat little girl at school attracts words of praise from the teacher, but the next thing is mud from jealous-hearted and dirty-handed boys or girls, and her suffering begins.

A boy delights in keeping books, writing-pads and desk free from scars or ink spots—then comes commending words from parent and teacher, all to be followed by pencil marks and ink-throwing by the careless and jealous fellow students.

Thus it is through life. No one can rise head and shoulders above his fellow men without receiving the mud and ink thrown from the rank and file who will not pay the price of success, but possess the fiendish disease of jealousy, with all its ability to cause suffering.

Great preachers who do not believe in eradication of the carnal mind, nor the return of Jesus, nor in a hell, are lauded to the skies, while humble men who fast and pray and constantly see souls receive Romans 6:6 experiences are spoken of in a way to cause no one

present to ever ask them for a revival or to be a pastor. Jealousy will enlarge on some little weakness or mistake, real or imaginary, in the radical holiness man until, like his Master, he becomes a marked man. He is envied for his teaching ability, his preaching power, or his devout life of victory. It is the price of victory. He is often delayed in getting into God's place, caused to spend nights in prayer, labor without pay, and in the minds of many go through life misunderstood because of jealousy in the carnal, who, rather than pay the price, play the games of ruthless skeletons behind the door.

But probably the most startling statement regarding this monster is found in Song of Solomon 8:6, "SET ME AS A SEAL UPON THINE HEART, AS A SEAL UPON THINE ARM: FOR LOVE IS STRONG AS DEATH; JEALOUSY IS CRUEL AS THE GRAVE: THE COALS THEREOF ARE COALS OF FIRE, WHICH HATH A MOST VEHEMENT FLAME."

The little coffin lay beside the grave. The heart-stricken mother had held the little corpse all night before. Now she looked up into the preacher's face and said, "Please do not let them put my baby in that hole in the ground. Won't you give my darling back to me, Reverend? I know you keep saying the angels have him and he is happy, but, Reverend, the angels do not know my precious baby and he don't know them like he does his mother. Give him back—give him back; he doesn't know anybody in eternity. O Grave, you cannot have my baby."

But the silent, cold grave, without a tear or a kind word, lay gapping open to swallow her sweet little boy. So has it been since the first murder long ago. If all the sighs, sobs, stabs, agony, and pain were made into a world, while the tears that have been spilt on the grave were an ocean of same, perhaps another universe as large as ours with an ocean to match would exist. And here is a picture of jealousy. Flames of fire burning and destroying like creeping paralysis, leprosy and consumption—slow, deadly, and agony-producing like the grave.

Often this virus springs into action, and what seemed a true friend rushes to enemies, giving away precious secrets, thus knifing a true relative or friend who had so fully trusted them. Then follows repeated reports exaggerated and enlarged. and the grave gaps open wider and more hungry, until by experience humanity learns there are worse graves than even the one swallowing the short coffin.

IV.

FLATTERY

"BUT HE SHALL COME IN PEACEABLY, AND OBTAIN THE KINGDOM BY FLATTERY."—Dan. 11:21.

For a long time pressure has increased on my heart and mind to sound an alarm against the deadly effect of flattery. No one influence is harnessed up and worked more successfully in assisting the ANTI-CHRIST. When not in bloody war the three great forces on earth work flattery to the limit. Watch the commercial, political and ecclesiastical world these closing days of this dispensation. Never were there such smooth-tongued salesmen overcoming rich and poor with their flattering persuasion, until perhaps the greater per cent of the public are oversold and wearing out material which can never be paid for. Every dollar earned, and often money borrowed, is in demand to meet the installment due each month. It sounded so easy when the flattering salesman explained the easy payment system, but when one is caught in the trap, it proves a loadstone around the neck which saps up the currency so closely there is not enough left to keep GOD'S WORK FLOURISHING. In the windows of banks are now placed such advice and warnings as this, "LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS." But a greater than all banks combined commanded, "OWE NO MAN ANYTHING."

When, as a child, I walked by my father's side we met a man who grabbed father's hand and made over us as if he had met his best friends. As we walked on I said, "Why did he act so nice to you, father?" With a wise smile father said, "He is running for assessor and wants my vote." Hear the politician in the town hall brag on your town and use flattery enough to make the proud voter nearly burst. He is equal to the patent medicine man who stands on the sidewalk and brags on his medicine until every bottle is sold to the suffering crowd who through his eloquence are made to believe such will cure about every ill of life.

But it does not stop with the above. When church folks fall from the high calling and standards of God's Word, or even begin losing that dynamic power in the Gospel of truth which alone builds souls for eternity, they fall into this low habit of flattery and apology. Those who are one hundred per cent ready for the Rapture sense the awful falling away and wonder why all, from pulpit to pew, are not crying aloud and sparing not instead of taking so much precious time apologizing for the sins and mistakes of their pets and chums.

All this education and development in flattering is headed up by the Antichrist. He is already working, and through no other plan is gaining such oneness and co-operation as in the three great powers above named. At the same time the whole thing is condemned in the Bible as among the most damaging habits and sins in the catalogue.

Every true minister finds it next to impossible to reach those entrenched behind flattering leaders. Such

become so established in self-righteousness that their blindness is appalling.

Perhaps none today are better qualified to speak on the subject than Job, so hear him. Job 32:21, "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person; neither let me give flattering titles unto man." Also David, "The Lord shall cut off *all* flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things."—Psa. 12:3. Solomon states with no uncertain sound, "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."—Prov. 20:19.

To build a class on brag and flattery means a flock as unstable as water.

When folks are persuaded through brag or flattery they become demanding and pull a load only as their gifts and abilities are lauded to the skies. We have known plenty of such to stop coming to the revival because their posey beds were being dug up. Their self-righteousness was being exposed and at the same time the only thing on earth they were standing on was the flattery and brag their pastor bestowed upon them. "So long as my dear pastor says I am all right I am." And in some cases the preacher is trembling for fear such *will* confess and plow through thus showing they were his converts instead of God's, and were standing alone in his flattery.

"He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him"—Prov. 24:24. Better let the Word of God run, have free course and be glorified in uncovering carnality

now than later have the curse of the people and the anathema of Divinity.

“He that rebuketh a man, *afterwards* shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue.”—Prov. 28:23. Too few live in the future along this very line. It seems to be present favor, praise or gifts only that so many seek. We were told years ago to accept a native worker or another church would get him. My soul loathed the advice, and I answered, “That is not the way we get workers. To take a man to keep some other church from getting him is a low principle. We must take them because God so orders and for no other reason.”

Where flattery is practised, all concerned suffer. “Yes, we know there should be a change but what will be the results?” To know to do good and do it not is sin. Sudden exit might mean some loss for the present, but a cleaned-up church will build stronger though more slowly and not have so much deadwood on hand to spread worms and decay to the good on hand.

It is wicked to do a thing which will sooner or later cause the downfall of a child of God, and if we read the Word right this is the very thing flattery brings to pass. Prov. 29:5, “A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet.”

When Joab wanted to trap King David he sent a woman with flattering words. 2 Sam. 14:17, “The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern

good and bad: therefore the Lord thy God will be with thee."

When the priests and scribes sought to trap Jesus they sent spies who palmed themselves off as just men, and with flattering words tried to draw Him out so their enemies might have something against Him. If degenerated men at the head of the church those days did so, and if Satan himself has appeared as a minister of righteousness ever since, think it no strange thing in the closing days of this dispensation to find all these things increasing and becoming more tense, deceiving and dangerous. Hear their words to Jesus: "We know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly."—Luke 20:21. Hear their flattering words, but see their underhanded and vile purpose. Beware, dear reader, humanity is just as it was then, and without Divinity enthroned inside is just as dangerous.

All this flattery is the powerful working of the spirit of Antichrist in the world, preparing these, exalted and established in self-righteousness and love of the praise of man, for his advent who obtains the kingdom by this very thing. Thus, deceived humanity feasting on flattery will easily fall prey to what has been their god right along. When Antichrist in the form of some great leader begins his flattery it will sound so sweet to those who have become used to feeding on it that they will cry out as they did of Herod when on a set day he sat upon his throne and made a great oration unto them. "And the people gave a shout,

saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.”—Acts 12:22.

However, with pomp, brag, and flattery Antichrist usurps authority and takes charge of the kingdom. Hear the Word of God, “And in his estate shall stand up a *vile* person, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in *peaceably*, and obtain the kingdom by *flatteries*.”—Dan. 11:21. Beware of those crying, Peace, peace, when there is none.

Overestimating and bragging on the good that is in a thing so as to cover the evil therein is not God’s plan. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather *reprove* them.”—Eph. 5:11. One may mix, boil and serve with brown gravy the delicious hamburger steak, but that does not remove the teaspoonful of rat poison therein. The yellow powder loses its identity in the process so well carried out but let the rats eat, and the deadly poison still does its work. When inventions bring division between the godly, there is poison some place. and all the excusing, bragging and flattery only increases the alarm bells in the open-eyed saint. Things which need so much explaining and justifying and arguing are sooner or later sure to show a horn or a hoof.

“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”—1 Tim. 5:20.

Cover-up and brag may do for the world’s standard but are not in harmony with God’s standard. Covered sins stop spiritual progress. Confessing and forsaking bring mercy.

Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Washington were great men.

But God says, "Preach the *Word*; (not men) be instant in season, out of season; *reprove, rebuke, exhort* with all long suffering and doctrine."—2 Tim. 4:2. "Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."—Tit. 1:13, 14. This takes backbone like steel, as there seem to be far more man-fearing than God-honoring Bible PREACHERS. Such men have often to walk alone and blaze a path through the gathering fog of judgment, misunderstood by many who are caught by Antichrist's system of progressing by flattery, prestige and abilities.

We trust none will misunderstand us in this article. There is a difference between encouragement and brag and flattery. In the Old Testament there are a few cases where encouragement was advised, but such were where serious battles were to be fought or great dangers to be met. In the New Testament but little is said along this line. We are to *comfort* the feeble minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men, but when it comes to flattery it is a deadly evil. It develops pride; in fact, waters and fertilizes the garden of carnality with all its brood. Flattery weakens faith, draws attention to humanity and away from Divinity. Let's see what the righteous and wise Bible characters say about it:

"Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness; and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head; for yet my prayer also shall be their calamities."—Psa. 141:5.

"A fool despiseth his father's instruction; but he that regardeth reproof is prudent."—Prov. 15:5.

“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.”—Ecc. 7:5. (Whether at social functions or over the air.)

Not only does rebuke and correction of faithful leaders and friends help us, but God Himself chastens those He loves. “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him.”—Heb. 12:5.

What is so alarming these closing days of this dispensation is to see folks who are supposed to be established in God, and pillars in the Church, turn up their noses and despise reproof. It surely takes but little flattery to get humanity where it despises either the Great Shepherd’s rebuke, or correction and instruction from under shepherds.

“But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof.”—Prov. 1:25.

“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.”—Prov. 12:1. Divinity here classes despisers of truth with beasts.

But look further into the Scripture and take warning! If dodging the truth and escaping the revival where sin is exposed and carnality dragged out were the end it might be different; but “He, that being often reprovèd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”—Prov. 29:1.

Sudden destruction and no remedies here or hereafter. The papers are full of sudden deaths: gangsters increasing and killing each other; accidents and heart

failure taking their toll. How many of them are fulfillment of the above Scripture?

Jesus declared, in Jno. 7:7, "The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." But after He ascended, the disciples tarried at Pentecost until endued with power. After His prayer in Jno. 17 was answered and they were made one, after His glory was given to them, they were hated just as He was. They had no more fellowship with the world than He did. They were separated unto Him and became His channel through which to save the lost. It was such a transformation, regeneration, sanctification and filling, there was no more time for palaver or flattery. They were so filled with Himself—so satisfied with Him, His peace and glory—that humanity's flattery would have been nauseating.

Their conversation was in the heavenlies. They lived in the Spirit and fed on Divinity. They had meat to eat the world knew nothing about.

When flattery is needed to hold church folks steady it is all humanity and no Divinity. Such will be fodder for the Antichrist.

Still praying for a Romans 6:6 revival.

V.

EMBRACED OR CRUCIFIED, SUBDUED OR DEAD—WHICH?

Most of us can tell the faults of others. Great speeches are made exposing the shortcomings of individuals, congregations and society in general. In fact, this is the easy part in the great human drama of life. Mistakes and sins, as a rule, are glaring, bold and defiant enough so that a wayfaring man though a fool need not err in judging the same, at least in the majority of cases. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

However, it is not of these plain sins and mistakes that we wish to speak directly in this article. Rather we wish to emphasize the Remedy for the canker that is eating away the spiritual life of the church. Some declare that the church, and society in general, are getting better; and that they will continue getting better until the coming of the "King of kings." Not having space to contradict this false belief, we shall pass it by presuming that most of our readers are pre-millennialists and believe from prophecy that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" and "iniquity shall abound and the love of many shall wax cold."

Therefore, we ask: Why this cooling off, this waxing cold in love? Why is it that many run to and fro spending consecrated (?) funds in idleness and frolic,

instead of settling down to hard work so as to make all they can to help spread the Gospel to the ends of the world? Why this slump in Missionary work? Why is it such a struggle to keep even holiness churches fervent in spirit, happy in devotion and in manifesting love that *never* faileth? Do we not have as good preaching now as in former days? Are we not having more revivals each year? Are not great crowds gathering at the camp meetings where the shouting and singing make the woods ring? YES, a thousand times yes! All this is coming to pass more and more. New churches are being organized and missions opened; tracts are being scattered and holiness papers are carried in almost every mail-bag, taking the message of truth throughout the world. Then what is wrong? Something, surely something, must be radically wrong. If not, why is it that the true saints are feeling alarmed, and why the great burden of prayer upon the real prevailers?

Here, we feel, is the answer in a nutshell: All this cooling off is, to a very great extent, caused by so many present-day workers having never been crucified, having never died. The multitudes in the pulpits (and the pews as well) who have EMBRACED the doctrine of holiness without the CRUCIFIED EXPERIENCE are the ones who, from the beginning, started the holiness churches backwards. Few believe it, but it is true that TRAINED WORKERS ARE MORE PLENTIFUL THAN WHOLLY SANCTIFIED ONES. Those trained in the work and language of Canaan, without having the last and least remains of carnality

eradicated, can and do preach great holiness sermons; and so far as doctrine goes they are as straight as a gun barrel, but all too often their seekers are just like them. Such leaders know nothing about the death route and thus cannot discern the route nor lead others into Canaan. All they can do is to urge their seekers to do as they themselves have done: EMBRACE THE WHOLE THING, BELIEVE IT, PRACTICE HOLINESS, ETC. Then, too, there are many, many leaders who once enjoyed the experience of entire sanctification but who have EASED UP to keep down family "tilts," church splits, etc. which would have naturally resulted had these leaders been true messengers and held steadfastly to the death of the "old man" instead of a superficial work of just embracing the doctrine of holiness. A fight is always on when the old carnal nature gets cornered, when he is pressed to the cross. The first nail driven makes him yell with anger or sob for pity; and right here is where the applying of the anesthetic begins, for these workers fail to keep a stiff backbone and hold the seeker to the death route until the old man dies and is buried.

Such leaders as these often pity the wholly-sanctified, power-filled exhorter who comes in sweeping victory, overthrowing all their supposed-to-be constructive work. Then how often the trained holiness leader, minus the Romans 6:6 experience, is chagrined, confused, tried, provoked and disgusted when some unlearned but Spirit-filled soul swings out into the "Glory-world" with a fire-baptized testimony and puts his followers under conviction. Oh, the leaders who have

all the "form of godliness" but who are minus the power to make souls hungry for full salvation! How often they are without the shine and glow, the humility and Divine aroma which bring hunger to the well-saved for holiness, and which finally bring them to such desperation that they plunge in to stay and to pray until dead.

We are having a fine lot of special singing, special features of attraction to draw crowds, and great doctrinal sermons. All may fill a place and most of them do good; but if ever we develop a people who will stand and after having done all still stand, and if we have leaders in the next generation who fear God, hate sin and fight everything having the appearance of evil, *we must pray down a revival that goes deeper than does the average one today.*

It is one thing to have a nice meeting and quite another to be in a real battle where someone or something gets killed. The enemy of humanity is carnality. Carnality is the son of the devil; it is in every un-sanctified heart and intends to stay there. It will coddle down, be nice, be religious and whine and do anything but enter the fight where the result may be death.

Right here, we contend, is the cure for all the ills of the Church. Carnality is the Church's enemy; it "is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Such is the cause of our backsliding, whether individual or church. It must be destroyed, it must die, for it cannot be educated, cultured or refined. To try to subdue it is

dangerous, for it will appear just when the soul wants anything but the evidence of horns and hoofs.

Great sermons are fine but we want and must have "blood and fire soldiers" who will drag the thing out in the open and fight to a finish. The weapons for this drag-out, sin-exposing preaching are spiritual and mighty and sure to win in the fight if used and not abused. It is much nicer, we admit, to take the easier route of building up a society, a great singing choir and a picnicing crowd. In great reunions and in pleasant social functions carnal folk are not disturbed, but what about Heb. 12:14 and the Scripture that declares "to be carnally minded is death"? The fact is there are plenty of churches already perfected in this easier and nicer line.

It just about staggers us to hear some *fear-too-much-fire* or *let's-be-careful-of-fanaticism* leader get up and put on the soft pedal in half apologizing tones and words *after* a man of God preaches a real *going-to-the-bottom* sermon.

We need very few soft-pedal folks now. Where we have one leader verging on getting too radical we have a hundred, if not a thousand, who are not only verging on, but ALREADY TOO COLD.

Why not use as much energy going after the frozen-up folks as some of us do in going after the fellow we fear is getting too radical? The person who is getting people really sanctified wholly has enough brakes put on him now by the devil, demons and carnality. He surely does not need the *take-it-easy crowd* on his back too.

The cure for our church ills is to **TURN THE BLOOD AND FIRE SOLDIERS LOOSE AND ENCOURAGE THEM.** If the majority of us are too lazy to pray and fight demons enough to get rid of carnality in our own lives then should we not get out of the way of those who will! Some must "fight the good fight of faith." Souls must be freed from sin. **THE CARNAL MIND WITH ITS COMPROMISING AND BACKSLIDING MUST BE CRUCIFIED!**

VI.

EXTRAVAGANCE

“—And the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.”—Luke 16:1.

It is a serious thing to be a steward in the Divine program. To make everything count one hundred per cent takes more brains than most of us have, as well as humility, as described by Dr. Godbey. He said, “Stay on the bottom of humility, then there is no place to fall.” In the parable of seed-sowing it is noticeable that three-fourths failed altogether and only one-third of the remnant brought forth one hundredfold. The reason for so much waste and failure is imaginary needs, extravagant demands, presumption instead of faith, and straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. Most of us holiness preachers and missionaries have brought pressure to bear along the line of nice rugs, upholstered furniture, automobiles and homes, and no doubt thousands have been spent for these when God was not in it. On the other hand when many cases are looked into it is found the furniture was given by wealthy friends or bought second-handed, while rugs, automobiles and even homes were gifts or were inherited. When it comes to the necessities of life it is difficult to find the legitimate line between extravagance and shortage. What is denial for some is normal for others. A native saint of South Amer-

ican jungles would feel all out of place transferred from her grass-covered, mud-walled hut to a modest, modern American bungalow, and the American saint would feel quite the same if suddenly placed in the South American hut. At the same time each one enjoys the same degree of humility, sacrifice and holiness.

The man reared in a modern home in a modern city, with his own bedroom next to a bath tub with hot and cold water and plenty of towels gets reward in Heaven for sacrificing when leaving such for a one-room cabin among the mountaineers. But this is no sacrifice for the mountaineer. He is at home and happy in the lonesome cabin.

Too often, we fear, some of us expose what we think is extravagance when under acid test we would be classed in Prov. 18:9, ourselves. "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." What right has he who sits around whittling sticks, and is too trifling to clean up his yard and raise a good garden, or work with his hands at what he can find to do—what right has he to say a word about him who works and thinks nearly day and night, making every hour and dime count, until able to give to God's cause ten times what the sluggard does, while prosperity is stamped on everything his hands touch?

For some years we have realized that the most dangerous enemy to our holiness is not along the line of a few things we purchase for domestic uses. There is no doubt more spent for the comforts of life in many cases than is necessary, and such should be curtailed.

But, as damaging as such may be, there are more subtle leaks in the Movement, leaks that make lean the soul as well as starve the church finances. Wasting God's time or funds, or damaging the temple of the Holy Spirit and setting a precedent which weakens the young—these are serious leaks.

Here is a home struggling to make ends meet and at the same time feeding on two or three newspapers daily. We heard a state speaker at a Farmers' Institute tell the reporters they had better leave the room if they did not want their feelings hurt, for she expected to open her mouth and say something.

Then she declared to those farmers that but few, if any, newspapers were fit for their children to read and look through: A whole page given to the picture of a pretty woman nude to the waist line, smoking a cigaret. Movie after movie advertised. Front page—principia head-lines—the bloody murder cases or ruined young womanhood. Funny pages with suggestive scenes and jokes with double meaning. Holiness (?) folk buying the Sunday paper on Monday to get the funny pages to feast on. The one-tenth profitable (?) matter can never out-balance the other. in the minds of the youth especially. To what have we degenerated when we look forward to the daily paper more than to the Bible reading, prayer hour and services? One man said to me that he read all he could get on the Chicago gangsters and crime so he could tell the down-and-outs in slumdom in his city the results of sin. If I am any judge at all these down-and-outs sleep off more knowledge of the underworld each

night than that man ever knew. What he needs to tell them is the story of Jesus. They already know the result of sin. What they now need is the *cure*, and it is found nowhere outside the blessed Book. If there are one hundred thousand holiness homes in America spending one cent a day for newspapers it amounts to \$365,000 a year. If it were necessary it would be different. We need stoves, chairs, holiness papers, books and Bibles, but not a thing which brings sin into our minds and homes. If five thousand holiness homes spend \$20,000 for questionable fiction and papers yearly, no wonder the missionary work suffers.

I am aware we are called "extremist" by a few who give out the impression we preach newspapers, movies and radios all the time. We have mentioned such in our ministry, but no doubt touch them too little according to the damage they are doing. But it seems what little we have said has gotten on the toes of those who are astride the fence until in trying to justify their condemned consciences *they* are saying a lot, most of which is to those who already are captured *too*, and by so doing the guilty seek comfort and sympathy from the guilty. It is usually that way.

The movie corporations are among the most powerful in the land. They promised the people of a certain town to operate only Sunday afternoons if they would vote them in. But the first Sunday they broke their promise and played at night. To counteract their success in getting crowds, one of the largest churches

has now put the movie in on Sunday nights and now brags on *their* crowds.

There may be a few so-called holiness folks who favor the movie, but the most of us discern it to be one of the most degenerating institutions in the land. Our young folks who attend same are eased into the necking and petting until we who are evangelists sob in our souls at the awful confessions of sex tragedies.

Then for any one to argue that the radio is just fine—educational, refining, and such good things received daily—makes us wonder if the whole Movement is to be captured in the fog-and-smoke-incensed scheme of the enemy.

What can a pastor do in a few moments on Sunday morning warning the old folks against the movie? (The young too seldom stay for preaching any more.) What can an evangelist do in ten days out of the year with one hour a day if the radio is softly singing and announcing in the home daily the latest movies and in what theater they will play? How can a few sufferers over this modern tragedy stop this most powerful advertisement of the age, when half the ministers encourage same?

Within ten years from now, thousands who are now blind to this latter day evil, tapping, tapping, tapping at the heart of the home and the church—yes, in less than ten years it will have so sown its seed in the minds of the children that there will be no place to stop its flood tide.

Knowing that lawlessness is increasing, and that much of it is begun from scenes in the movies, why allow

a voice constantly advertising same in our homes? Realizing that lack of revivals is alarming, why not do something desperate to bring on Holy Ghost revivals? The church is the only institution that can turn the tide, and to do so must herself take the extreme opposite side in every position where even a questionable issue is at stake.

Every one who has voice or pen, and who realizes the danger of this modern age of jazz and loose sex relations, should cry aloud against the low-down fiction, the movie, and the radio which advertises the movie. Old folk may escape the smoothvoiced advertiser and announcer, but the plastic mind of that little boy and girl is going to be educated to look for that house of marvels and wonderland talked over the air.

Let us hope good comes by broadcasting, by those who feel it right, but that does not mean we should all get a radio. They may reach a few cases, but the radio in Christians' homes will do far more damage and increase sin far faster than the small per cent of truth coming over the air will sanctify. It is an invention which pours into the home far more sin producing thoughts than holy ones. It is in the hands of the world, and will so remain until the end of the age.

When has such an enthronement been known as took place recently when the Pope of Rome was placed on the Throne of the radio world? This was the most sweeping victory Rome ever made, and one which was impossible without the radio. No power in the politi-

cal world, outside wealthy Rome, could have put over such a stupendous deed. Perhaps we had all better get out Dr. Godbey's book on Revelation and review a bit. It looks as though the faithful old war horse was not so far off after all.

Watch Antichrist speed up from that memorable day while compromising and at-ease-in-Zion folk get ground into the dust under her mighty onward-marching forces.

No one but those overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, are safe these closing days of this dispensation.

Jesus said unto them, "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is *highly esteemed among men* is an abomination in the sight of God." What is more highly esteemed than things we have herein discussed? At the same time God looketh on sin with no allowance, and who but must admit there is poison of the most dangerous kind in them all.

Wake up, dear ones, and sound the alarm as one man, so that we can clasp hands a thousand years from now, knowing we opposed on earth everything tainted with sin, Satan or Antichrist.

VII.

THE UNSPARING JUSTICE OF GOD

A cultured but very worldly lady asked us one time the following—"Do you not believe God too good to send a soul to hell?" Others rest at ease in Zion, believing their self-righteousness and carnal security looks so good to God that He will be compelled to pass them safely through.

But all the presuming on the goodness of God or the goodness of mankind will avail nothing in that dreadful day when the naked soul stands before the Judgment seat of Divinity. Certainly, God is a God of Love. But there is as much difference between the soft, sentimental petting and flattering standards named above and God's brilliant, golden noontday love, as between Heaven and hell. God can not be "Jewed down." He can not be bought or reduced by tears, sobs, self-pity, flattery or gold.

Divinity has established a standard for humanity in this very life on earth and paved a highway over which to travel toward the Celestial City. Isaiah declares it to be a *way, a highway of holiness over which no unclean thing can travel*. Luke declares that "*he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*" John declares in his revelation, "*If any man shall take away from the words of the*

book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life." God's saints must hold the standards where He has them fixed. Nothing is gained by compromise. In every revival we have seen for years some have tried to bluff and bully their case over and past the faithful workers around the altar. When this failed, self-pity, tears, and sympathy-seeking followed. None who thus shied past the cross have stood. Only those who have manfully faced their wickedness, confessed, made restitution, and separated from the world one hundred per cent, made good and stand to this day. Grace and law, love and justice, go hand in hand and will so do until the bridehood saints are prepared for the Rapture. The crown is for only those who are faithful to the end. Meanwhile it is "take up the cross daily" and in sacrifice and self-denial follow *Him*.

To those who seem to see and know God only as an indulgent Father who looks over all and every sin of His children—paying for what they steal, apologizing for their ill manners, irreverence and profligate lives,—I say, we want to call the attention of these to the following:

First, God's attitude toward the angels that sinned. 2 Peter 2:4—"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." There does not appear to be anything "wishy-washy" about this, does there?

One wonders if some of our altar-nurses had been there if they would have pled for these angels like

they do for rebellious students and hard-boiled holiness-fighters. In less than a week after two unmanageable students were expelled from a certain school over twenty got right with God. At the same time there are those who argue, plead, and pull for what they think is mercy on these rebels. If such would spend as much time and prayer on those who *will* obey God and walk in the light instead of always getting on the wrong side of the fence of God's justice, our homes, schools and churches would have more fire and glory.

Second, God's attitude toward the antediluvians. 2 Peter 2:5—"*And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.*"

Was the *God of Love* too severe in His unsparing justice here? We have known the soft-pedal folk to declare some faithful disciplinarian hard, angry or mad. Neither have we known of these blind leaders of the blind apologizing afterward even though the smile of God followed the judgment of those they crossed and scores were saved and sanctified after the house-cleaning. God saw the only way to save anything at this time was to get rid of the bad and so it is in many cases today.

Third, if time and space would permit we would herein insert 2 Peter 2:6 and write at length regarding God's justice in dealing with Sodom and Gomorrah. The last clause is warning enough of *His unsparing justice, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly*. God keeps His Word, and here are facts fixed which make it unsafe for a single soul to

live an ungodly life. Judgment could fall any moment and be in harmony with the Word.

If some could have their way, rules, law, and punishment would be modified until but a joke. What do you think of the unsparing justice of God when in one night the first-born of every family among the Egyptians were slain? Not only among the animals but in every family. No escape whatever. *At midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt.* Not a little punishment, but cruel death. Death regardless of culture, age, religion or cast.

What about the Canaanites, Deut. 7:23, and the Amalekites, 1 Sam. 15:18. *“Destroy them. . .until they be destroyed. Utterly destroy the sinners. . .until they be consumed.”*

What about the natural branches (the Jews), Romans 11:21. *“For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.”* Who has not read or heard somewhat of the wandering, suffering, murdered, despised, and marked Jew? Where is the people who have suffered such deadness and blindness in spiritual things as well as physical and mental? If God’s unsparing justice did this and His Word plainly declares *“Take heed lest He also spare not thee”*, is it not time we wake up, line up, pay up, get up, and get ready to go up?

More than all the above *He spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

Oh! the advantage taken of this last Scripture. Deceived, worldly-minded church folks who want to es-

cape hell but still live a life of pleasure and frivolity. Such hide behind *His goodness*. They declare Jesus suffered for them, thus all they need to do is embrace the doctrine, join the church and pay the preacher. Perhaps no greater insult could be hurled at the sacrificial death, suffering, and tragedy of the Cross. This class want to escape the repentance, confession, restitution, daily denial and taking up the cross, humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God, conversion and sanctification. Such evade that first work of grace which causes old things to pass away and all things to become new. Such disapprove the Romans 6:6 route which takes out the old man, carnality, and all its brood. These would get in by some other door than the door Jesus.

To such we would refer Heb. 2:1-4, "*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation.*" How shall we escape the tortures following such neglect in this life and the one to come? No crime so serious or blasphemous as neglecting this salvation. No world or worlds so great. Nothing or all things combined cost the only true God such a price. No verse, word or mark has been left out from Genesis to Revelation in explaining, warning, and reasoning by Divinity through priest or prophet, to reach the mind and heart with this great salvation. Thus, for any one to neglect, evade, or try to reach eternal safety by any other route except the rugged road laid down herein is sure damnation.

The unsparing justice of God was, is, and always will be, for He is unchangeable. There is only one

road to Heaven and that is by getting right with God and our fellow man one hundred per cent. One per cent neglected leaves enough virus of sin to leaven in time the whole spirit, soul and body. God's salvation is a full salvation. It was properly finished when Jesus died on the cross, was buried, kicked the bottom out of the tomb and rose again, and He now sits at the right hand of God interceding for His purified, loving Bride on earth. A few more battles and He will come and catch away His waiting Bride—those who have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

Through the ether He will lead them and amid singing angels and shouts of the redeemed He will present them to His Father without spot or wrinkle and blameless. Glory to God! I believe the table is already spread in the Glory World. It seems I can see through my happy tears my scar-browed Savior with apron already on, ready to serve His Bride. They mean so much to Him, He insists on serving them Himself in the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Glory to God!

Oh! for such a renewed respect and godly fear for the unsparing justice of the only true God that revivals will break out until men will fall by the roadside, in stores, homes, hotels and everywhere, repenting of their sins and crying for mercy and salvation, as in the Evan Roberts' revival in Wales.

VIII.

A LETTER TO YOUNG MINISTERS

Dear young preachers: God's blessings are upon your lives and ministry! As we read your good letters telling of the prayer meetings, the increasing crowds, and the interest in the Sunday School our hearts rejoice.

We have seen more than one young couple start out humble, careful, prayerful and blessed of God as you are now. But, I am sorry to say, we have seen many fail who bade fair at first. No doubt, some of the little foxes have spoiled the vine. In this letter which I am writing I feel I must warn you about one of these little foxes, which is debt-making.

Perhaps as many young ministers have circumscribed their usefulness by making debts as through any other one way. Two or three things almost always happen whenever we borrow money, especially when we borrow of our members. First, too much time is generally spent in thinking and worrying about the debt and, as a result, we are pulled, more or less, into unavoidable business. Again, whenever we preach and are led to quote, "Owe no man anything", our liberty wanes as our eyes fall upon our creditor; and, further, he or our people can not look up to us as they did when we could testify freely that on that line, having proved the promise. "My God shall supply all your need."

Oh, the ministers who owe for cars, furniture and homes that will never be paid for! They were cited

to other good men who did likewise and pulled through. But, while possibly a few did have faith and others had business ability enough to get through, I fear in most cases the making of debts is a very presumptuous practice. VERY FEW WHO FAIL TO PRAY IN THE FUNDS BEFORE MAKING THE PURCHASE ARE ABLE TO BELIEVE FOR IT AFTERWARDS. If all who are thus trapped, weakened, sidetracked and embarrassed by debts not of God, would confess, there would be thousands saying, "Oh, if I had just minded THE CHECKS OF THE SPIRIT I would not now have to sell my car and lose a couple of hundred dollars"; or, "I knew I should not buy that new suit of clothes", etc.

I know of no one thing which has weakened our ministry in the eyes of the laity as has debts. It pulls down the man in the pulpit to the level of all who owe bills. It licenses weak members to borrow and go in debt for things they want, but could do without, should do without and *would* if their shepherd had not let down the bars.

I am ashamed of this deadly trap in which so many are caught in these latter times. It is alarming how few even of our young ministers can declare they "Owe no man anything, but to love one another."

Young preachers, do not purchase anything just because it is cheap. Buy nothing you do not need, and not that unless you can pay cash. After all, many debts are made just because of a lack in training, discipline, and of hard and honest work.

Young preachers, do not go in debt. God can and will perfect faith in your heart for your needs before you go in debt easier than afterwards. Most debts are from a lack of patience, over-anxiety and a failure in holding ourselves to the perseverance of prayer which leads to every need being supplied.

God hates not only sin, dirt and the devil, but also DEBTS, DOUBTS AND THE DEVIL. Fight doubts, for DEBTS FOLLOW DOUBTS. They are opposite to faith. I entreat every young preacher who is in debt, to get out and *stay out*. It ruins more often, a thousand times more often, than it helps. It hinders faith, for IT IS EASIER TO BORROW THAN TO PRAY.

Debt is a disgrace and a glaring earmark of unbelief and lack of faith.

Too much of what we boast of as faith is either hope or presumption. Have some of us not boldly declared we believed God wanted us to purchase a tent for meetings or an auto for a religious campaign? Now, if it was God's leading would He not have put into our hearts faith for the price of the same so no debts would have hung over our heads for years? How many autos today carry around passengers who are on top one day, and all wilted the next, because the car was bought presuming God would help get it paid for, simply because it was gotten for a good work? Why, there are people who have bought Bibles, mottoes and tracts on time and in what they thought was *good faith*. Said articles have been sold long ago, but the debt still stands unpaid. We have a friend, a store-

keeper, and his wife who are getting old and feeble. The last time we saw him he was digging a ditch to earn his daily bread while thousands of dollars are owed him, and that by people who thought they had faith to soon pay the debts they made.

One does not have to drive a thousand miles to pass more than one church basement covered with a cheap roof, and the flock worshipping therein. Get the history and, as a rule, you will find some preacher or some lay member got the idea a fifty-thousand-dollar church was needed; and he never ceased agitation until the financial strength of the flock was exhausted, and all pulled from the sinners that they would give, but the funds all told built only the foundation of the great church. The one who started the project declared that God wanted such and he had prayed through, etc. But he has long since disappeared leaving a dazed, debt-laden flock worshipping in an unfinished building. *Presumption, simple presumption!* Other places have sold the old buildings and loaded up with lovely buildings and STAGGERING DEBTS, until even the funds that were being given by the Sunday Schools to support foreign missions were turned from the hungry millions to paying the debts on the extravagant buildings. Again, presumption. *Preachers, beware!* One splendid pastor recently told us the following: "I am ashamed. The church I pastor became restless for a great building and got it. But to my sorrow I find we are so in debt for the same that we will not be able to do a thing for foreign missions for fifteen years." During the coming fifteen years, while this

church is thus tied, 547,500,000 souls, most of them heathen, will die. A debt, AN UNNECESSARY DEBT, will keep this flock from reaching their share of 547,500,000 souls.

Almost every department in the church is suffering because of debts loaded on the same by hasty and unwise business counsels, or presumption, or hope-it-is-right. When such conditions exist along the debt line, the worldly look on and wonder where our faith is that we so boldly declare, DEBTS ARE WRONG AND MOST OF US KNOW IT; that is why we speak so often of Mr. Muller and his orphanage faith work in England.

We must all stop riding on hope or presumption. We must have a revival of faith. It is all right to hope for what is right, but unless we are able to receive "the substance of things hoped for," which is faith, we must continue on our knees.

In closing, let me say that the regrets of my life are that I ever made a debt. When my wife and I were young, for many a week we lived on bread and potatoes rather than owe for even a pound of butter. Those were great days. We never ate a meal without our Savior's presence. He had a place in our home. Later in life, through our zeal and through the advice of people, even good ones, we bought something on time. Then came the *regrets*. I am in this letter trying to save our young ministers from suffering these regrets. God forgave and with humbled spirits we praise Him that, at last, we owe no man anything but love.

Oh, for a young ministry who will never take the first downward step in debt-making; who will stem the tide of pitying relatives, face a world of smooth business men, live by faith, pay as they go and keep clear before God and man so as to have a good report from those within and those without the church. (1 Tim. 3:7.)

IX.

LOCKING THE DOOR AFTER THE HORSE IS STOLEN

Sad, but so! Not only in regard to the stolen horse but about every other realm, whether political, commercial, or ecclesiastical. It seems the depth of sin is usually reached before reformation begins. When such becomes the case those who stand in the gap become the targets of the vile as well as of those who should have held standards which would have saved such degeneration of society. It is always hard for the compromising churches to admit that their program is a failure. They make nicely-worded excuses for their failure and at the same time seldom lift as much as a finger to help the real reformer and God-anointed messenger.

One can hardly conceive how God's people, Israel, could so soon forget His works after their mighty deliverance through the Red Sea. Not only did they fail to wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness and tempted God in the desert until they became so lean in their souls that all restraint was lifted and they sacrificed their sons and daughters to devils, shedding innocent blood until the land was polluted with blood, and ended in going a whoring with their own inventions. (Psa. 106).

We shudder at this condition but how much better is it today? All our ministerial life we have cried

out against things which half the preachers as well as laymen winked at and never rebuked. One of these is the low-down fiction, so commonly read in these days. Now that it has reached a place where it is unmanageable and dangerous beyond description or imagination, "S. O. S." calls are rending the air. Thinkers in the political as well as the ecclesiastical world are alarmed, and the door which was left unlocked is about clear off the hinges. Walk through any depot and see even high school children boldly reading magazines unfit for aged men and women to see. Look at the average newsstand where books filled with nude pictures are for sale. If some of these magazines with such pictures had been found on the persons of school children some few years ago the children would have been expelled from public school or punished in a severe manner. The bold sex reading found in the same, flames the youth as well as older persons until danger lurks at every dark corner, where what is learned from this low-down reading may be carried out willingly or by force.

The whole blame falls on the backsliding churches who themselves indulged enough in such literature to at least gag their mouths and silence their pens until it seems to us we are in just about the same condition as Israel when they went a whoring with their own inventions, until, as the next verse in this Psalm declares. "Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance."

In a drug store recently, a young minister drew my attention to the newsrack and a certain magazine. Up to then I would not have believed such could be publicly sold. Not looking for these things they had slipped my notice. I took one from the rack and went to the druggist asking him if no one in that town objected to such being sold to young and old. He replied with an assuring smile that the printers *look after that*. He said such are sent to them by express; so I presume what I was told before is true, that is, that Uncle Sam will not allow such obscene matter to travel through the mail. Good for Uncle Sam, if this is true; but what about the Church of Jesus Christ on this subject? Is she so dead, or at least so infected with this virus of Hell that her rebuke of the same is silenced? Are there actually so few who dare "cry aloud and spare not" against this glaring evil that it will increase and become even more vile at the same rate it has spread the last few years!

Where is the crowd who declare the world is getting better? Some one better inform them of this deadly malady honeycombing the reading, before it becomes legitimate for one and all to become walking models for kodak fiends. Already near-nudity is popular around summer resorts until on roads and sidewalks hikers by the score, in about as near nothing as can be held on, are commonly seen. All of this may have become popular from the pictures and reading in the magazines flooding the land.

No doubt it will be about as impossible for the compromising Christians to break away from their pet

reading, and seeing, along these lines as it has been to break the past generation from the oath-bound and secret societies; but break away we must or be swept into sin, disgrace, and hell by this flood tide of vile-ness in picture and word through modern journalism.

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.” (Prov. 8:13). And in Acts 19:20 we read, “*Many of them also which used curious arts brought their BOOKS together and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*” Two things brought about this great annihilation of conjuring books. First, “*so mightily grew the Word of God.*” Second “*and prevailed.*” We hear a lot of the *Word* today but not enough of it is backed up by messengers free from such compromise, who themselves are flames of fire and filled with dynamic power from God which causes the *Word of God to prevail.*

Come on, army of the Living God! Buckle on the whole armor of truth and let's down this vile literature by spreading *God's Word with flaming sword!*

X.

“THAT THE MINISTRY BE NOT BLAMED”

(2 Cor. 6:3.)

It is impossible to improve on God's plan, His system or His order regarding the ministry.

According to God's pattern, His church is to be sinless, but the ministry, blameless. In Matt. 1:21 we read, “She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” And in Luke 1:74-75 we read, “That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies (i. e. the brood of carnality) might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.” Of course the ministry is included in the church; so they are delivered from carnality with its brood, and serve God with a pure soul and a clean mind in holiness and rightness all their days.

But God gives further orders for the ministry. He gives a pattern that is so plain and clear that the way-faring man though a fool need not err therein. None need plead ignorance regarding the qualifications God demands for the ministry, those who are our spiritual leaders or bishops. Therefore, no man or woman God-called and qualified Scripturally need bring blame on the ministry. They may have plenty of opposition, persecution and suffering, just as Jesus

and the early disciples had, but there need be no blame on them. Everything can be turned to God's glory in edifying the saints, in making believers hungry for holiness and in convicting sinners. For, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are *the* called according to his purpose." —Rom. 8:28.

Perhaps in no one place in the Good Book are these qualifications for a blameless ministry more clearly described than in 1 Tim. 3:1-7. And as we said before, not being able to improve on God's standard it is useless for us to do much but copy therefrom. Now, the first statement in this portion of Scripture declares they "must be blameless." Half-baked, soft-pedal, suave, modernistic compromisers with their smooth words and manners weaken almost everything that God does and orders. They, of course, at once begin to modify this word "blameless" so as to include in it almost anything that can get a following or lead a song service or testimony meeting. God, knowing the weakness of humanity and the deceit, cunning and cruelty of carnality, did not leave it to us to guess what His standard was for blameless ministers, or spiritual leaders. He goes on and declares that a blameless minister is to be "the husband of one wife." He knew two thousand years ago that free-loveism would spring up in this dispensation, so He clinched that matter. Familiarity between the sexes has brought about as much blame on the ministry as almost any other thing in the catalogue. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" is God's stand-

ard for justified persons, let alone the ministry, for such was stated by Paul in 1 Thess. 5:22 as necessary for justified folks before being candidates for sanctification. When ministers fall from this standard they either never were saved, or are now backslidden from their first love.

Further, "that the ministry be not blamed" they must be "SOBER"—not drunk on either rum or jesting. We have been embarrassed to the blushing point by foolish stories, giggling and guffawing, until, God being our helper, we shall never again be caught lingering where such disregard of soberness and good behavior is indulged.

"Given to hospitality." Not many Kentuckians are lacking in this. Perhaps no state surpasses us therein. But what do we teach those we entertain? A father and son traveling in a strange and wild country were sent to the garret to sleep. The father said to his boy, "I will watch the first part of the night and you sleep, then we will change at midnight." About that time he looked down through a crack in the floor and saw the owner of the cabin reading a big Bible. He pulled off his clothes and lay down, saying to his boy, "No need for either of us to watch tonight. We are safe and our baggage too, for they are reading the Bible downstairs." So it is, friends, by our every action we are teaching our guests good or bad; we are leading them upward or downward. We make them feel safe and happy or we make them feel that the doors must be barred against our spirits.

"No striker"—no strike back or get-even spirit.

“Not greedy of fithy lucre”—not where the best salary is paid, but “where He leads me I will follow,” for we have joy in acknowledging Him in all our ways and in letting Him direct our paths.

“PATIENT”—handling the crying baby case, as well as the giggling love-makers, so as to attract as little attention to them as possible; so in the end the tired mother will appreciate the minister’s consideration and the flirts will be convicted.

“Not a brawler.” It is impossible for us to believe that mouth-brawlers who loaf around blacksmith shops and garages or straddle the fence whittling sticks, and run off at the mouth like a cow with hoof and mouth disease, are ever called into the ministry. They may have had the desire and through politics and human manipulation worked their way into office, but we cannot believe such to be Christians, let alone ministers of God’s calling and of His standards.

Children when handled according to the Good Book are a real blessing. If not they become agents in the enemy’s hand to minister in sin. Knowing this better than all humanity put together, God declares with no uncertain sound that His minister must be one who **“RULETH WELL HIS OWN HOUSE, HAVING HIS CHILDREN IN SUBJECTION WITH ALL GRAVITY.”**

A gentleman gave us a lovely dinner and then showed us his perfectly trained bird dogs. These dogs were fenced in when at home and obeyed their master when on the field. But this same man bewailed that he could do nothing with his one child,

a girl thirteen years old, with her dresses above the knees and with a wild spirit that had never been subdued. Dogs with no sense at all compared to her were controlled, trained and happy while this daughter was wild, restless, flirting, saucy and impudent, all of which completely proved her father's disqualified condition for the ministry. He won no souls and looked dazed, bewildered and in the fog as we waded through a camp meeting preaching folks under conviction and praying them through at the altar. He could talk well and sing, and was a handsome man and a fine "salesman," but he allowed the order to be changed until he was subjected under his daughter instead of it being God's way.

"Not a novice." Oh! the fine young folks who have been pushed into the ministry too young—pressed by non-discerning leaders or by those who wanted to count them as "their fruit." Then, too, many old mothers and fathers have often bragged on the good speaking young minister who was not seasoned well enough to stand and fear flattery, and as a result he was lifted up with pride and fell into condemnation of the devil. Thousands of young folks have been pressed into the ministry, past the hard drudgery needed to develop them, by indulgent parents and leaders. "Poor things, we do not want them to suffer what we did," say the soft-pedal crowd and, consequently, the young folks are ruined for life.

The most dangerous and subtle form of modernistic carnality is right now endangering our whole church. Leaders are getting hold of the Holiness

Movement who have been reared and trained in the Movement until they are straight as a gun barrel in doctrine; but they have adopted the child rearing and training standards of the modern schools which put the children on their merit with no whips, dunce caps or missing meals. Their plan is to love the child to rightness and kindness, etc. If one were to listen long to these pity, pity folks he would soon become a Universalist—God is too good to let a soul go to hell, etc. If they were producing a single minister who was a flame of fire the rest of us would take our hands off. But, instead, these sly modernistic fire extinguishers keep down emotional meetings, and never stay with the all-night pray-ers, unless for policy's sake. They seem to have no fellowship with deeply spiritual people but do plenty of talking with the carnal church folks to help them evade or throw off messages from God's anointed. They constantly migrate to the unsaved and mingle with and have fellowship with the social function crowd. Such, who use the modern methods of discipline, are responsible for the rebellion among the children today.

Lastly, the blameless ministry "must have a good report" from those outside the flock of God. Some time ago we wrote a message to young ministers about debts. It is pitiful how the older ministry has let down and even sanctioned debt-making, until even young men everywhere are galling under this yoke of the devil. To find young ministers so free from debts that those "which are without" report well of their business transactions is indeed rare.

No church ever backslid because of the laity. **BACKSLIDING ALWAYS BEGINS WITH THE MINISTRY.** A church organization will be what its leaders are; so we cannot blame farmers, factory men or laborers for our condition. Are we "blameless" if we lay the blame on others?

Brothers and sisters, there are hungry hearts about us everywhere! All that humanity waits for is **TRUE MESSENGERS**—those who qualify according to the Word of God. God is looking for true worshipers, and hungry souls are groping in the dark for Him. The only way these will get together is through a blameless ministry—through preachers who do not count their lives dear to themselves, through men and women **WHO FORSAKE ALL FOR HIM AND LOST SOULS**, through leaders who pray day and night **UNTIL DIVINE THINGS COME TO PASS** in their midst.

XI.

“SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS”

(St. John 12:21)

Not only did certain Greeks come up to worship at the feast those wonderful days but, like them, there are hundreds of thousands just as hungry to do likewise today. Back of much that is rough and seemingly indifferent there is in the deep recesses of the heart a longing for Jesus and His Love. Just how to get into that oft-hidden room in the heart is the question. Therefore, in this article we desire to show some of the ways we see Jesus and how He is appealing through all creation and humanity for our worship.

First, and perhaps least we see Jesus through the Animal Kingdom. With our vision keen we can hardly look without seeing Him in the frisking lambs on yonder hillside. As we smile at their innocent play we see John, of long ago, suddenly stop the baptizing and, with raised hand and radiant face, declare, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!”

As Jesus appeared on the bank of the stream John knew Him and His power to deliver humanity from carnality. No suppression, subduing, cultivation or training, but He “taketh away” the sin of the world.

See the frightened rabbits, deer and other animals flee in every direction through the jungle as the lion

with mouth to the earth roars until the air vibrates. Who can hear such without thinking of the "Lion of the tribe of Judah which breaketh every chain?" No need to fear deliverance from the tobacco habit or any other habit when just one look at Jesus mingled with faith the size of a mustard seed will deliver forever. Big, little and all kinds of sins and bad habits snap and flee every direction when this "Lion of the tribe of Judah" takes things in hand.

Second, the Bird Kingdom. Look into the steady, unashamed, innocent and moist eyes of the dove. No wonder the Bride, singing of her Bridegroom, cries out, "His eyes like the eyes of a dove fitly set." No one feels like even using slang talk while watching doves. Somehow there is kindness born in the mind and heart, and heavenly thoughts. Further still, wade into the jungles of South America and see the bleeding heart pigeon with its gray wings and snow-white breast. Get close enough and it looks as if a sharp instrument had been thrust into the breast just to the left of the bone, causing blood to flow and congeal on the snow-white feathers. Who can see this touching scene without being reminded of the cross and Christ? Who is to blame that most of the forty millions of South America see these lovely birds with their bleeding hearts but know not what they resemble?

Third, the Flower Kingdom. An infidel refuses to have a song or a sermon at his wife's funeral declaring that he wants no Christ in his home. But who can help seeing Jesus and thinking of Him as they see the rose and the lily in the hand cold in death.

We have walked along beside the old moss-covered walls of some lonely island in the moonlit night when a sudden soft breeze moved the silent roses bending over the wall. At once we thought of the "Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the valley." In fact, it seems God has been extravagant in displaying Himself through flowers, especially in the damp jungle, the lonesome lake and the prairie where a lonesome traveler has time to see, and hear Him.

Fourth, the Stars. What boy has not lain on his back and watched the stars? Where is the saint who does not think of the "Bright and morning star" or remember that "we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses," as millions of the stars pierce the darkness, blinking like living things. or as one suddenly darts across the sky, leaving a train of light behind? If God spoke or revealed Himself in no other way it seems that a scene such as described above is enough to enrapture and cause the human family to fall in love with Him.

But there are still other ways in which God reveals Himself, which are more convincing and attractive than these. The first one we want to mention is through Christians. There is something about a real Christian which causes others to glorify God. Jesus in His sermon on the mount said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Too many otherwise good folks have allowed their light to be dimmed until those seeing them glorify about everything but God. Paul told Timothy to be an example. John said, "Walk

as he walked." According to Acts 1:8 every one possessing the Holy Spirit power will also bear witness to something, and Acts 5:31-33 declares it will be to exalt Jesus as a Prince, Savior and forgiver of sins until people will be cut to the heart. Christians cause a stir. Their prayers at family reunions, and Thanksgiving Day dinners will put in Divine bombs which will both convict the hungry and provoke the rebellious. Christians reveal Christ, for they are Christlike.

Jesus is also seen in Suffering Saints. A rich lady is brought to her knees and to God, as she looks into the face of a saintly invalid. As the sufferer points heavenward and declares she is happy and endures her lonesomeness and pain because "it is better farther up," the rich woman cries out, "I see Jesus!" Another looks into the twisted and decaying faces of converted lepers and is humbled until through her tears she declares that she sees God in these physically ruined sufferers. Hid behind their decaying bodies is so much of God it sounds out in their songs and shows through their dried skin until a lost, wealthy woman sees Jesus. When Jesus reigns in the heart nothing can hide Him.

Jesus is seen in Death. John Wesley said, "The Methodists die well." This might mean they lived out their lives and died without sickness, but it more likely means that they died happy, saved, in their right minds and well in their souls. A sanctified brother in the first island we worked knew his end was near. He said, "Brother Finch, at noon, when the big clock tolls twelve, Jesus is coming for me." I held my

watch and, at exactly twelve when that big bell tolled the noon hour, his spirit took its flight. I had the satisfaction of seeing that Scripture fulfilled which says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." The tropical noonday was so bright one needed colored glasses outside, but in that humble hut there was a radiance, a glow and a heavenliness surpassing the brilliancy of the noonday sun. Those who have missed seeing radiant faces and hearing victorious testimonies of dying saints have missed seeing Jesus in one of the most conspicuous forms.

The undertaker was roughly folding the arms of an old saint when an old lady standing by said, "Please, Mr. Undertaker, handle that body gently." Said he, "He is dead; it won't hurt him now." "I know," said she, "but he was the temple of the Holy Spirit for more than fifty years." The undertaker stepped back and meditated.

Last, but not least, we see Jesus in the Resurrection. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.—1 Cor. 15:20. He is the only religious leader of whom this can be said. It took a God to lay down His life and to rise again. No other place do we find better proof of His Divinity than in His resurrection. No place claims so many tears as the grave. At the same time those who have a clear vision of HIM in resurrection, as the firstfruits, also see every loved one burst the coffin and the grave, and rise with the living saints, in some sweet tomorrow, to meet Him in the air and to ever be with Him. A little boy hopelessly asked of all he saw, "If a man die

shall he live again?" All turned him away as too small for such a serious question, until one day when he was sitting on his father's grave, a lady came up and took his anemic little body in her arms and said, "You have a loved one there, and I have one over in that short grave." His hope rose again, and he begged that she would answer him and not say he was too young for such a serious question. When she assured him, his little heart bounded with joy and anticipation. Then carefully she quoted or read to him Jno. 5:28, 29: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Upon learning from this hungry-hearted little boy that his father was a good man, she assured him that he would see his father again. With a tired little head and long perplexed mind he rested on her breast and declared he didn't care if it was a thousand years, just so he knew he would see his daddy again.

Oh! broken and bleeding humanity, open your eyes and give God a chance and He will help you see Jesus in a thousand ways! He will heal your wounds and bind up your broken heart. He will forgive sins and purify the whole man. He is already risen, sitting at God's right hand waiting for that last soul to be made ready so He can come quickly, catch away His waiting Bride and present her to His Father without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Glory to God and the Lamb forever!

XII.

“CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY”

(Joel 1:14)

Strange it is that God's people so often have to get into great trouble before they seek Him in PREVAILING AND TRAVAILING PRAYER.

A threefold trouble was sweeping them at the time this “solemn assembly” was called, any one of these was serious, let alone the three so close together.

First, The plague of locusts—1:4-9.

Second, The severe drought—1:10-20.

Third, The invasion of enemies—2:1-10.

We have not the locust plague as they had, but what harm could a little-winged locust do compared to modern plagues which are sapping our very spiritual life away?

Good folks cannot be caught by glaring sins. They hate sin, but lambs and sheep are easy prey to wolves in sheep's clothing, or the enemy coming as an angel of light.

I have before me the open Bible in which stand out these words, “FOR IT IS A SHAME EVEN TO SPEAK OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE DONE OF THEM IN SECRET.” It further states that fornication, covetousness and all uncleanness are not even to be named among saints. Saints are to be so far past these low and vile habits that they are for-

saken and forgotten. Further and just as deadly—“NEITHER FILTHINESS, NOR FOOLISH TALKING, NOR JESTING, which are not convenient.” Oh! the hearts that are cut by joking and jesting! “I was just joking,” says the speaker, but his joking spirit was used too often to get even, get back, or expose another. According to the Word of God, it is classed with filthiness and placed in a verse between those referring to fornication, whoremongering and idolatry.

The business world can well afford to pay radio comedians fifty thousand dollars or more yearly to fill the air (in which the prince of darkness reigns) with their foolishness, joking and jesting. Perhaps these radio stars create in the lives of the American youth more desire for the movie shows than any other advertisers living. Is it a fact that forty per cent of the business of the Western Union ceases when they are on the air and traffic in New York city practically stops at the same time? Under the heading of “Worst Features of the Radio” in the “Pathfinder” recently, one was “THE TRUE STORY HOUR.” “True Story” is one of the most sexual magazines printed today, and are such stories now coming over the air? If so, the end is not yet.

I read in my Bible too, “HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS, BUT RATHER REPROVE THEM”, and God being my helper I shall warn saints every where of these plagues in the land which are so much more subtle and deadly that there is no comparison between them and the plagues of locusts and drought.

Under the third plague, which demanded a solemn assembly back in Joel's day, was the invasion of enemies.

Why preach against church socials, secret societies and movies, and then allow the home to be surcharged with jazz, foolishness, and worldliness produced by practically the same crowd? Beloved, we are invaded with the most subtle army of enemies ever hatched in carnal minds.

A non-discerning laity and a powerless, sleepy, astride-the-fence ministry never keep up with the rapid-fire schemes of the enemy. He has always swept them into fog and a circumscribed condition through his agents acting as angels of light.

No one scheme, in the form of an angel of light, ever struck the Holiness Movement which is doing more damage than the modernistic spirit. It is always clothed in lovely personalities who can put their spell over young and old in such hypnotic power that one fears to interfere although distressed. Often these serpentine leaders are straight as a gun-barrel in doctrine, but in time put out all holy fire and godly demonstration. They create desire in the young for the world's stamp ahead of God's approval.

This subtle, deadly poison has so permeated the young of the Holiness Movement that it is no longer their aim and determination to first get a Christian education and degrees too, if possible, but GET DEGREES REGARDLESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. The question is not asked first regarding the BIBLE training, it is first, degrees.

God's order is to study to show thyself approved unto GOD, degrees or no degrees from the world. It is a matter of satisfying God, not State Boards. If both can be satisfied, very well, but if not, GOD FIRST.

These modernistic workers are everywhere. At altars they nurse souls past Romans 6:6. In schools they pet carnal students away from radical ministers of truth. They are enemies invading our ranks. They go to Sunday School but too often swing young minds to hikes, picnics, parties, and match-making instead of holding young and old to the grind which makes Wesleys, Catherine Booths, etc.

The financial lords of the land swept into our midst with their smooth-tongued salesmen and caught too many of us in their financial system called THE INSTALLMENT SYSTEM or easy payment plan. Nothing has hurt us more. This system has caused folks to live above their means; to go in debt until the monthly payment is a loadstone around the neck—a whip constantly cracked over our backs. It has made us slaves and subjects to the rich until we have but little currency for God's work. It takes all we can rake and scrape up to meet our monthly installments on new furniture, cars, radios, etc., when it would be much better to eat off boxes and live like the Methodists and Quakers of old and be free from such bondage. Trouble is written on too many faces. A strained condition exists instead of that liberty given by our Lord to those who have the JOY OF THE LORD CONSTANTLY.

The standard Jesus established is this, "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLO-RIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." We hear men say, "He is a good story teller," or, "She is a joke", or, "Too light"; again, "Not much to him". "Pride sticking out all over her", "She shows a jealous spirit", "Stingy", "Broad-minded", "Narrow-minded"; but now and then someone says, "He's got it," or "After all is said, she is right", or "He's pure gold", or "Nothing worldly about her," or "God help me to line up like her." "She always reminds me of Jesus", etc.

The standard of Jesus is that in all we do, we will attract to GOD and away from self. Cause folks to pray; not giggle and joke. His standard for us who follow Him is that we find excuses for prayer and not to escape same. Hunt work, not evade it.

Our heart aches for so many we find who make excuses for hikes, auto trips, boat rides, picnic days, social functions. and to buy almost anything the natural man wants. At the same time, we have nothing much for good books, holiness papers, tracts, church extension, home and foreign missions. We are in danger. We are invaded with armies of the most deadly enemies. Suppose we take God's Word at par regarding all who make excuses. One moment they jump and shout until the floor trembles. This is good, and it should be so, but to hear such declare that their Father is rich, and they are rich because they are children of the King, and two and a half hours later in a

missionary meeting they look dejected and forsaken and plead poverty. These things don't harmonize.

We are not retrenching missionaries because top-heavy in said department—we are retrenching because armies of enemies have invaded our ranks. Too much money spent for that which is not bread. Too many have seared the conscience until almost anything can be done without condemnation—but, the lean souls; souls so lean we hear and see little of the SPIRIT-LED experiences and demonstrations in their lives which always bring conviction.

We feel so burdened regarding the invasion of demoralizing armies in our midst that we want to ask all pastors to call for an assembly similar to the one herein mentioned. We are in the last days, and if we are not careful, we will find ourselves with lamps empty and going out when the Bridegroom comes.

AWAKE, OH, AWAKE, THOU WHO ART ASLEEP IN ZION! INSTEAD OF FINDING EXCUSES TO SATISFY THE HUMAN, BEGIN HUNTING EXCUSES TO GLORIFY THE DIVINE. IF WE DO NOT TURN FROM EXALTING HUMANITY TO GLORIFYING DIVINITY, OUR FAITH WILL WITHER. OUR CHILDREN WILL BE LOST AND OUR FOLLOWERS DRIFT INTO FORMALITY AND KNOW NO REVELATION OF TRUTH.

“GIRD YOURSELVES, AND LAMENT, YE PRIESTS; HOWL, YE MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR; COME, LIE ALL NIGHT IN SACKCLOTH, YE MINISTERS OF MY GOD; (WHY) FOR THE MEAT OFFERING AND DRINK OFFERING IS

WITHHOLDEN FROM THE HOUSE OF YOUR GOD. SANCTIFY YE A FAST, CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY; GATHER THE ELDERS AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND CRY UNTO THE LORD."—Joel 1:13-14.

WEEP—WAIL—MOURN

It is our conviction that God wants to use the Holiness Movement in a wonderful way to spread Holiness over the earth, but we cannot even retain this experience ourselves without humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God just as those of old. Therefore we call for a night (or nights) of prayer and fasting throughout the Holiness Church, and all other saints who will join us.

Prayer for His leadings and HIS orders and HIS protection in this, the evening time of the age.

End

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