

Spiritual Call

A Continuance of "Macedonian Call"

*To be carnally minded is death, but to be
SPIRITUALLY minded is life and peace.
—Romans 8:6*

*Walk worthy of the vocation (calling)
wherewith ye are CALLED.
—Ephesians 4:1*

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Cyclones Make Saints and Hardened Sinners Pray

A FEW DAYS AGO, a cyclone struck Coatesville, and other places, a few miles west of Indianapolis. I have since visited the place, and beheld the ruin. Many houses have nothing left but the foundation; all trees are flat or have only a stripped trunk left; some walls of brick houses are still standing; other houses are in various degrees of demolition. One man said that he had never prayed before, but he did then, and the Lord heard him and spared his life.

That brings us to the point we wish to make. Too many preachers and radio talkers present the idea that people should pray for protection, never making any discrimination as to the condition of the one praying. You remember the account of the men on rafts after their ships were wrecked in time of World War II who said they prayed and God spared their lives. Now here is a question regarding the storm, How about the twenty people killed in that Coatesville cyclone, who probably prayed, too, and yet they were killed? And how about thousands of others in time of the war who had taken to life boats after their ship had gone down, and who prayed and never were saved? How about the many people who pray to be saved from some disease, and they die nevertheless. Is God partial?

In the first place, where does the Bible teach that any old hardened sinner who in time of trouble can pray and have the promise that God will heed his prayer? I have watched many of those people who get so very religious when they think they are going to die, and in nine cases out of ten if they get well they are as bad or worse than they were before. That shows that they were not really converted to Christ, but only frightened. I never had much confidence in death bed repentance. Of course, you mention the thief on the cross, but there is no evidence that he ever had the chance before to learn of Christ, and you have heard of Him all your life, and there is no excuse for you.

Even the saints when they pray for this or that, nearly always some temporal thing, expect God to answer their prayers; and they have it arranged in their minds just how the Lord should answer their prayers; but he may answer them in a better way, or give them something which they need more. Even Jesus prayed for some thing which God did not give him—he prayed that the cup of suffering might pass, but it did not. And he added an expression which so few Christians offer today—he concluded with this: "Not my will but THINE be done." Too many people do not resign themselves into the divine Father's hands. We are only children, even with all our boasted knowledge, and we do not always know what is best for us.

We need not expect God to shower temporal blessings upon us when we do nothing to help along His Cause in the earth—or do so very little.

Right now is the time for us all to pray—"God be merciful to me, a sinner." And if we have not obeyed the gospel, **obey it right now.** And then try to please Him every day, as a faithful child of His. He does not promise to take away all our troubles, just as he did not take away the thorn in the flesh that Paul had; but he does promise to give us grace to overcome. As children, he loves us; and as a loving father corrects his children, so God permits evils to come upon us, to make us think. Many things we think are evils may be blessings in disguise; and many things we think are blessings may turn out to be evils to us. So we must trust in him so that when we see a cyclone or some other great evil coming, though we may be frightened we have at the same time the peace of God which passes all understanding, and may know that all things work together for good to them that LOVE the Lord.

If we refuse to humble ourselves now, the time will come when every knee shall bow, but it will be too late to do us any good, for we shall pray for the rocks and mountains to fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

We Are Failing at Family Worship

A recent poll indicates that in most Christian homes worship is either omitted or poorly planned

If Christian homes are the foundation of society, and if family worship is the cornerstone of Christian homes, we are failing the world, for we are failing at family worship.

This seems evident from a poll conducted recently by Moody Monthly among the 900 students at Moody Bible Institute. "Was there family worship in your home at any time during your childhood?" we asked them. Of those that answered, 156 said Yes, 189 said No. Fifty-five per cent of the 345 who returned the questionnaire had no form of family worship whatever in their homes.

Considering the fact that these students, all of them preparing for Christian service, probably represent better-than-average Christian homes, and considering the further fact that many did not bother to return the questionnaire because they "didn't have family worship, so didn't feel their answer would be wanted," it seems safe to conclude that the great majority of professing

Christian families in America are ignoring altogether this vital function.

Of those who recalled having had family worship, 53 per cent admitted rebelling against it. Their reasons? Some were "just contrary," others "not right with God," but most of them felt it was too mechanical, just an unnecessary duty, or they resented being "preached to" and being compelled to perform an uninteresting duty.

What recommendations would you make? we asked them. After saying the expected things ("Let everyone participate in some way," "Keep at it without fail," "Be regular and punctual every day"), they added, "Make it wanted, not commanded. Explain the reason for family worship to your children. Use variety. Make things understandable. Don't just go through the motions because you think family worship should be held. Study your children. Keep your finger on their spiritual development, and on their interests and desires. Plan family worship so as to create a real expectancy and appetite for the Word of God."

In order to do this, several specific suggestions were made.

Use singing. (Seventy-nine per cent never sang in family worship at home.) Make the most of whatever musical talent there is in the family. Let the children choose the songs. Keep the children's interest at the front.

Stress Scripture memory work. (Seventy-six per cent did no memorizing in their homes.) The neglect of this all-important phase of biblical instruction seems amazing in view of the testimony of Scripture to its supreme value (Ps. 119:11; 1:2; Jer. 15:16), and the clear-cut instructions to fulfill it (Josh. 1:8; Job 22:22; Prov. 7:3; Col. 3:16). The families that stressed memory work used different systems: print special verses on cards for use in memorizing and reviewing, learn one verse a day, learn one a week, learn the key verse of every passage read, learn the Sunday school golden text, or offer rewards for learning.

Have some system of Bible study, and carry it through. Whatever it is, the leader should devote some time to planning the family worship program. It is apparent from the answers to the poll that most families have a routine, matter-of-fact procedure that is never varied or improved.—Moody Monthly.

"A Prayer"

Lord, help us today to live for Thee,
To think to thirst to talk for Thee;
To serve and work with humble hearts,
Unmasking Satan's cunning arts.

Help us to walk with minds so pure
Our destiny will be secure;
Indifferent to fame's deceiving lure,
Building foundations that endure.

Grant that awake, we'll quickly see,
A fellow creature's need of Thee;
His tears or sorrow, pain or hurt,
To these things, God, keep us alert!

Let prayers fly Heavenward from our soul,
In sweet communion to its goal;
And make us worthy, God, to pray
Through Christ, you send to light our way.

—Hazel Severns Yuncker.

New Testament Studies

Dear Students:—Have you ever thought about the Lord's wisdom in providing for the safety and the development of those who are adopted into His family? When we become members of His Church we are "babes in Christ" (I Peter 2:2), but we are expected to grow and develop into useful workers in the kingdom and patience of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This we do by studying God's word and bringing our lives into harmony with what it teaches, and using our influence to induce others to do the same. The apostle Peter says we should "desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby."

We should be very careful to put away from us all wickedness and all guile, not envying one another, not given to speaking evil of one another, but in love serving one another. God requires his children to banish from their lives all sinful practices. He does not want us to go right on living like people who have no regard for the law of the Lord. If we love God we will keep his commandments, and it will afford us much pleasure to search the Scriptures so as to be able to learn how we may please him in all things; and he tells us to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

We must follow very closely the manner of life described in His word for our guidance. He has made a great sacrifice for us, and we should be willing to sacrifice something for him. In writing to Christians at Corinth Paul said, "Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20.) Jesus laid down his life for us, "that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"; and the grace of God has appeared unto us, teaching us to deny ourselves of all ungodliness and worldly lusts; and that we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world. (Titus 2:11, 14.)

God has arranged for his people to be separated from those of the world, in that he called them out, that they might be banded together in one body which is his Church; and the apostle Peter says, "Be ye of sound mind, and be sober unto prayer: above all things being **FERVENT IN YOUR LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES;** for love covereth a multitude of sins: using hospitality one to another without murmuring." (I Peter 4:7, 9.) If we are true Christians we will rejoice in associating together, and learning God's word, and working together to build up the Church, and in keeping constantly before the world the most important theme that has ever claimed the attention of the human family: that is, salvation through Christ; and while thus engaged in this labor of love we grow stronger in the faith and better fitted for more extensive work for the Lord in the Church. Thus we are enabled to "rejoice in the Lord always." (See Philip. 4:1, 4.)—Emily Baker, 1919.

SOWING AND REAPING

Sow a thought and reap an act,
Sow an act and reap a habit,
Sow a habit and reap a character,
Sow a character and reap a destiny.

How important then that we and our children read the right books, go to the right places, associate with the right people. "Evil companionships corrupt good "morals".—Paul.

Why Ancient Nations Went Down

Originally the Pool of Siloam was 75 feet from east to west, and 71 feet from north to south, with a wall through it, separating the place where the men bathed from the place used by the women.

No, they did not have mixed bathing then as is seen in these modern days. It seems to me that at the present time the current of civilization is flowing backward. And in some respects appears to be on a par with that existing in ancient Babylon, India, Greece, Rome and Pompeii. The denominating idea and principle among many of the young people of the present day, and older ones as well, seems to me to be the exaltation of sex, tending to worship the generative principle. If you will take a good encyclopedia and read the phallic rites of Greece, the Dionysian rites, the Elensinian mysteries, the worship of Bel in his temple in Babylon, and the orgies celebrated there, you will see that the world is rapidly approaching the state of indecency, impudicity, lechery, and lubricity that characterized those ancient people and led them to desolation, destruction extinction.

The libidinous, the erotic, the lustful, the carnal, the indecent, the shameless and impure flaunts itself on every hand.

The indecent exposure of the person in scant attire, mingling of the sexes thus arrayed, and utter lack of restraint on the part of parents, and others who should be guardians of the young, all tend to hasten the day when sex in all its naked obscenity and fulsome defilement shall reign rampant in the land.

But the devotees of these modern fashions tell us that the present dress and social practices have no tendencies whatever to excite sexual passion, and that licentious thoughts and desires never enter their minds when mixing and mingling in intimate contact with each other. When healthy young people full of life and vitality make this statement, one of three things must be true: Either they are **more** than human, **less** than human, or they are **liars**.

The foregoing, was written by a preacher who visited Palestine some twenty years ago.

I have received a number of letters from preachers and others, approving and complimenting the tract, Brother D. A. Sommer took the liberty to publish in the S. C. I am rejoiced he did so. One elderly lady writer after reading the S. C. including my tract, says: "It sets me on fire. I have been an Ezra (weeping) for a long time. God gave his work into the hands of men, but women have almost taken things over. Oh how I have to lay awake at nights and weep over my grandchildren and great grandchildren—to see them brought to the house of God half nude. And says, you keep on preaching while I pray. I have a home, a mansion in the sky and I'll soon be on my way there. May the Lord bless you and give you grace and power to preach the whole counsel of God, to reprove, rebuke, with all longsuffering—is my prayer and sincere wishes.—F.E.Y."

I pass this warning of this aged sister on to both young and old but especially to **Preachers**. May the God of love and mercy help us to open our eyes that we may behold our shame.

(We have a few copies left of the S. C. containing his tract. They are free to you.—Pub.)

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Exactly, Why Did the World Hate Jesus?

When we read the gospel records concerning the life and teachings of the Son of God, we wonder that the people then hated him—so many of them; and we ask ourselves, Why? Perhaps there were several reasons, but it seems that the most prominent was his aggressiveness against sin.

Oftentimes at a funeral service, a preacher, or some one else privately, will say, "This man did not have an enemy in the world"; and praise him for his Christian character. But after all, is that a sound eulogy? Of course, if we are talking of his mere moral character, that would be fine; but Paul says, "All that would live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution." Here is something very lacking in this man's Christian character. It is nice to live right, and sit still and say nothing when the devil is running rampant against the Church and God's people. The devil does not hate such people, so much as the ones who fight the good fight of faith.

J. W. McGarvey, a great Bible scholar of this religious movement, presents something in one sentence I recently read which contains an important truth. "Men admire holiness until it becomes aggressive, and then they feel an antagonism against it as great, or intense as their previous admiration." The more you think of that, the more you will see in it. It is those who are **active** in advancing truth whom the devil hates and fights and smears in every way he can.

Jesus himself tells why they hated him so. Speaking to his own brethren, he said, "The world can not hate you; but me it hateth because I testify of it that the works thereof are evil." (John 7:7.) Now Jesus might have gone on and lived the pure life that he did, and they would not probably have persecuted him, but when he told them of **THEIR** sins, and that they were wrong religiously, then they turned on him with a vengeance. He silenced them in their carping criticisms, and he rebuked them for their hypocrisies which they tried to cover with outward fasts and long prayers. Men who do not live right, have no business trying to tell others how to live. Of course, no one is perfect, but every Christian, whether a leader or not, should be always **TRYING** to be perfect, and he should so state to those he would lead.

A few months ago, a preacher and writer said, "Among other things I do not comprehend, there is one, in my long life of fourscore years and nearly sixty as a preacher, that I do not understand and have not learned: Why, when one tries to show people the bad character of a preacher, or elder, people turn against him and fight him as though he were worse than the bad man."

Yes, that is puzzling to many, and perhaps may remain such. But I have an idea, which may be simply a little surmising—the hearer feels that he is being condemned himself somewhat!

So, dear Christian, if you are not suffering any persecution, better wake up and see if you are as aggressive as you should be. Paul says that **ALL** that will live godly, **SHALL** suffer persecution. And Jesus himself says that which should be true of **ALL** his disciples: "**Me the world hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.**"

So it ever has been, so it is **NOW**, and so it ever will be.

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IMPORTANT—If you are receiving this paper, never having subscribed, it has been donated by those interested in making better Christians. If you are not interested would you please hand to those who might be, or send us a card saying you are not interested? If you have friends, and wish them to read such literature, please send their names with addresses—those of the same town or state together. Friends of this journal are making it possible to send several copies to as many names as you send. Jesus came to "SEEK and save the lost"—will you help Him?—Publisher.

"Let No Man Steal Thy Crown"

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." This Paul admonishes the Corinthians in the eleventh chapter of his first letter to them. Paul was an inspired apostle, for he tells us in another place that he received not the gospel from men neither was he taught it by men, and when the time came when he could see the other apostles at Jerusalem, they were unable to add anything to his knowledge of the gospel. Gal. 2:6. And in Gal. 1:1 he says that he is an apostle, not by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father. So from this we can see that he was inspired and that he could rightfully say, Follow me even as I follow Christ.

Jesus said, in giving the great commission, "Teaching them (their converts) to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." From this we can see that whatever Paul says, being an apostle, is of equal force as if Christ had said it.

Throughout his writings Paul issues warnings of the danger of following men instead of Christ. In Acts 20:30, speaking to the elders of the church at Ephesus he says, "Of your own-selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." They would draw away disciples to themselves. In drawing away, those disciples would be separating themselves from Christ and following men, false teachers, and not following Christ. Paul says, "Therefore watch."

Again in Rom. 16:17, 18 Paul warns to mark those who teach contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them, for they serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own interests and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. This is a warning that we also should heed, and not be of the simple ones who are deceived by the fair talk of those who are seeking their own interests and desire to maintain their authority over the church at all costs, but to be wise to that which is good (the New Testament) and follow Christ and not men.

All down through the centuries, there have been those in nearly every generation, who like Diotrophes, love the preeminence, and have gone about setting up their own opinions and draw away followers, who would prefer to follow men rather than Christ, and as a result we have in the world today something over two hundred so-called churches, all because men do not humbly follow Christ; and, as these would-be leaders attained promi-

nence, and received much praise from men, they became conceited and lifted up with pride, and fall into the condemnation of the devil. I Tim. 3:6. Some have taken a single passage from the Bible and stressed it to the exclusion of all else, and have gathered together a following of those who being deceived by their good words and fair speeches, follow these leaders rather than Christ.

Even in the last one hundred years error has been brought into the church by introduction of instrumental music in the worship, many being deceived by the reasoning of its advocates, that what is not forbidden is allowable. Does the result show that they were following Christ or man?

And so on down through the list, Bible Colleges, hobbyists of all kinds, who have found one passage in the Scriptures and have emphasized that, obtained followers, and have endeavored to force their opinions of it on the church, to the extent of causing division. Are such following Christ or man?

The latest doctrine that has arisen is that concerning Heb. 13:17. In that it says, "Obey those who have the rule over you," and without the use of any other Scripture to support it, and disregarding all Scriptures that modify it, the teachers of this doctrine insist that it means implicit obedience to the elders, and then if the elders are wrong it is their responsibility; and, like Diotrophes cast out of the church all those who oppose them, and accuse those who resist them of trying to divide the church. Are they followers of such teachers following Christ or men?

These teachers reason that where the ruling of the elders is not specifically stated the elders are at liberty to use their judgment. Note the similarity to the argument mentioned above in reference to instrumental music, "what is not forbidden is allowed," which argument has been exploded many times by these same teachers. Those who opposed the use of instrumental music were also accused of dividing the church.

At that time this argument was often used, "What splits the log, the wedge, the one who drives the wedge, or the log that resists the wedge?" The same applies here now. It is not the ones who resist false teaching who divide the church, but the ones who introduce it.

Paul in making the statement at the head of this article could truly say, "Follow me" for he was inspired, even then he qualified it by adding "even as I follow Christ". There is no one today who is inspired like Paul or infallible; even though men are selected and appointed to be elders, the highest position in the church, they are still human and subject to all of the weaknesses of the flesh, and their judgment is still liable to be in error. Yet some of them say, "Follow me, do as I say, and if I am wrong, it is my responsibility." And what a responsibility!! Jesus said that it was better that a millstone be hung around one's neck, and be cast into the sea, than to mislead or offend one of his little ones. Do we dare to follow such leaders? Shall we follow man or Christ?

Paul warns us saying, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. II Cor. 5:10.

We must each one answer for what we ourselves do. We will not be held accountable for what false teachers say, but we will be held to account as to whether we follow such teachers or Christ. Let us therefore cast

off our mental laziness and search and study the Scriptures, for Paul says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:16, 17.—Fred D. Weed.

Caricatures of Christian Living

An exaggeration of one or more particulars—as, for instance, the shock of unruly hair and the excessively large teeth in the ever-present smile of Henry Wallace—makes what is known as a caricature. Henry Wallace does have somewhat unruly hair; his teeth are large. Not those details of appearance are false; the undue emphasis placed upon those true characteristics is that which misleads, actually creating at times a real falsehood. Hence caricatures may be effective weapons in the hands of enemies.

The Christian is in Scripture described as a slave (the meaning of the word translated servant). But to emphasize that quality of servitude, serfdom, slavery more than the Scripture does obscures the fact that Christians are under a perfect law of liberty and are all the Lord's free men—an over-emphasis actually creates a caricature of a Christian. Obviously the matter of balance between slavery and freedom is only an example. Many are the points of Christian doctrine and practice on which emphasis has been lavished to the under-emphasis of other equally important matters. It may—indeed it does—frequently happen that mere caricatures of Christians are created by such treatment of Christian characteristics.

Caricatures are powerful weapons. The devil knows how to use them so effectively that even the saints are near-deceived. To "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together" is a highly important duty. It is clearly taught; he who would worship God acceptably must obey. But many are apparently so intent upon that one point that they may forget other equally important commands. Such a caricature of a Christian may serve the devil in two ways: 1. by deluding the Christian into the belief that in obedience to that one command he has discharged his full duty, and 2. by disgusting the world and other Christians (who are in turn deceiving themselves) with the caricature of the Christian who thinks all of the law and the prophets hangs on church attendance. The devil may use this misrepresentation to cause Christians to be satisfied with mere attendance without edification or spirituality. He knows such services will effectually keep away from church ninety-nine per cent of those who are not Christian.

Those caricatures of God's chosen people in Christ's own time—the scribes and the Pharisees—had over-emphasized legalism, or attendance to the letter of the law and of their own traditions. They were severely denounced by the Savior. "Do as they say, but 'except your righteousness exceed' theirs you cannot hope for salvation." Their fault was not one of teaching or of practicing untruths. They tithed mint and rue and all manner of herbs, but that was not wrong: "These things ought ye to have done." They had become caricatures of God's people, not true representations, because they over-emphasized one point to the neglect of others. And so many Christians today become caricatures.—Gospel Tidings.

"Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4.)

"Oh That Mine Adversary Had Written a Book"—Job 31:35

Is it not strange that in what is considered the oldest book in the world, the writer is demanding that his enemy write a book, to make things sure? The book of Job was probably written in Arabia about the time the Jews were in Egyptian bondage. The quotation contains a most important principle which would save us much trouble, if we would heed it.

Job was afflicted of God, and his professed friends came to him and began to accuse him with the charge that the reason God was afflicting him was because he had committed some sin. Job persistently denied this. Scott says in his commentary the following on this passage: "Job challenged his adversary, or accuser, to produce a libel, or WRITTEN indictment against him; he was confident it would produce no disgrace to him, but an honor; as every article would be disproved and the reverse be manifested."

By reading the Bible in general we see the importance of having witnesses to important affairs, and if possible WRITTEN testimony. F. D. Roosevelt made some grave mistakes from which the world is suffering by making some verbal agreements with Stalin, and some written ones which seem obscure.

Our county court-houses have as one main purpose—to record written agreements. Marriage licenses are void unless recorded. Wills amount to little unless recorded in writing with witnesses. Birth records must be there, or else one sometimes gets into trouble. Building contracts are made in blueprints so there can be no misunderstanding. If you loan money even to your best friend, it may be well to receive a note, and then there can never be any quibbling over it.

Oral religious debates are sometimes unsatisfactory, for disputes arise as to what has been said. Even stenographically recorded debates may not be perfect. I once held such a debate; when we learned that the opponent was having a reporter and would publish the debate, we would not trust him, but had also a reporter for ourselves; so both sides had a report, and published it; both speakers talked so rapidly that the reporters did not, much of the time, get the exact words, which often means so much, but only the thought; my reporter used words I never use, and the other reporter did not get too much of the discussion with accuracy.

With figures it has been said, "Figures don't lie;" but the answer has come back, "Yes, figures don't lie, but liars can figure." There is continual trouble about counting votes in an election, because though there is a record, underhand work may be done.

On a matter of great importance to myself or the truth of God, I would absolutely refuse to have an ORAL discussion with a tricky or deceitful man.

On the other hand, I would demand that the discussion be WRITTEN. Then neither disputant could deny his own written words or charges, nor could he twist the other man's words without it being detected by thinking people who read it. This is fair to both.

The man who insists on an ORAL discussion ONLY, with a politico-religious machine to carry him through, leaves a strong impression that he is afraid of the truth.

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19, 20.)

Beloved by God

No trumpets herald their approach when they appear;
Nor do the multitudes proclaim that they are near.
But as the world they daily greet,
They leave behind a fragrance sweet,
Fresh from the Throne of God.

No victor's crown adorns their brow, no scroll of fame
Records their deeds. It is enough they bear Christ's Name.
Calm, and serene, their witness clear,
Their lives show that they hold most dear
The things concerning God.

They seem just ordinary folk as day by day,
Unconscious of their influence, they go their way.
But it is plain to all around,
That they have spent—on holy ground—
Much time alone with God.

Life brings its burdens unto them, heavy to hold;
Temptations fierce beset their path, sorrows untold;
But they lean hard upon their Guide,
And in His secret place abide.
They draw their strength from God.

And when for them that rapturous morn arrives at last,
And they go forth to meet their Lord, all troubles past,
Celestial choirs in triumph sing,
The bells of Heaven a welcome ring,
And loved ones throng to see the King
Bring Home those "dear to God."

—The Alliance Weekly.

"Death Notice"

Miss Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church, on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimonies and scriptural holiness, soon growing into world-wide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous church family.

For the past several years, Sister Prayer Meeting has been in failing health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, inactivity, coldness of heart, and weakness of purpose, and will power. At the last she was but a shadow of her former self. Her last whispered words were inquiries about the strange absence of her loved ones who were busy in the marts of trade and places of worldly amusement. Her older brother, Brother Class Meeting, has been dead for many years.

A post-mortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with a lack of faith and heartfelt religion, shameless desertion, and non-support were contributing causes to her death. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. There were no flowers. Her favorite hymns, "Amazing Grace" and "Rock of Ages" were not sung. Miss Ima Modern rendered "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," but none had any idea where this fancied isle might be. The body rests in the beautiful cemetery of Bygone Glories, awaiting the summons from above.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, save on the third Wednesday of each month, when the Ladies' Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the members of the men's hand-ball team.—The Southern Presbyterian Journal.

About Bringing Up Our Children

Mrs. Lee Thomas of Robstown sends in some good thoughts on the subject:

"Our children are like a beautiful flower planted in a wide open space, and like a flower they must have the necessary care in order to grow into a good and useful maturity. It is up to the parents to provide the spiritual as well as the physical needs.

"We read from the greatest Book, 'Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Prov. 22:6). To do this requires love and devotion. We should be constantly demonstrating our affection, and tell them often that we love them. Some may differ with me, but it is an undeniable truth that 'love begets love.' By thoughtfulness and kindness we may instill love into the hearts of our children, and this, to me, is the surest way through which to lead them to obedience, for obedience is love's reward. Harsh, unthoughtful commands will not teach them the spirit of love. So we should, with all carefulness, see that we 'provoke not our children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.'"

Another sister sends in this touching little poem.

"TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS"

"Tell me the story of Jesus,"
Did you hear your little one say?
Were you so pressed with many cares
That you sent him out to play?

To clothe and feed his little frame,
You left his soul unfed;
The little child which came to you
And asked for sweeter bread.

The years with your many cares sped on,
The story was never told;
Without the warmth and food he craved,
His soul grew starved and cold.

He heard it from others in later years
But it had no charm for him then;
He was warming himself at the fires of chance,
And feasting his soul with sin.

The body for which you so tenderly cared,
Some day shall moulder in dust.
It was only a case for the little gem
That you were to hold in trust;

That soul that must stand at the bar of God
And be judged for eternity:
Guilty or guiltless? The chance was yours—
And what will the answer be?

—Gospel Tidings.

WHAT SOME ARE THINKING

I wish it were possible for every member of the Church of Christ everywhere to read and think on your front page article—"The Word Needs More Tears, of the Right Kind," and they would do something about it.—(We have several copies of this issue left and will send them FREE TO YOU, to pass on.—Editor.) . . . Thanks for the 3 sample copies of March issue. If available please send 8 more copies—one neighbor wants five of them. I'm slow and don't contact many people because I am still a shut-in. But your sincere desire to teach and encourage practical Spiritual Life, is indeed outstanding, especially on such subjects as Humility, Sincerity, Love, and all so valuable. The paper is so clean and nice with good print and easy to

read.—(Here handing a copy to a neighbor resulted in five copies of profitable literature going into the hands of non-members perhaps. You may be able to do far more than this invalid did whom I have known for years.—Editor) . . . There are others which we are omitting this issue because of lack of space. Suffice to say that many have sent for the last issue on "15,000,000 Who Wish to Learn the Truth", meaning children, and we have received many names to whom we have sent hundreds of pieces of literature on home, and home training. Have YOU jotted down the names of ALL the people you know who have children between 3 and 10 years of age (and grown people, too, who seem to be honest). RIGHT NOW is a good time to do it, and send to us and we will send literature which may save a soul. . . . Thanks for the donations which readers have sent, which keep the paper going.

A Sisters Voice

"In all thy getting, get understanding"—is a familiar Bible quotation which if carefully observed would save an enormous amount of time, misunderstanding and useless divisions among the brethren. Can singing, praying and reading the Scripture be correctly interpreted as meaning: to "usurp authority" of any degree whatever? These three methods of worship are commanded of all Christians. In serving the Lord, a sister is admonished against usurping "authority over the man in the church". Intelligent and unbiased thinking clearly indicates that if the English language is understood and properly applied, that no authority or supervision is enacted in simple "singing, reading or praying", from a religious standpoint during such a service. Why then are the sisters permitted to "sing" if their silence is demanded? In rightly dividing the word of truth, the intent is that the sister is to refrain from dictatorial or physical hand performance of church ceremony, in performing any of its acts of distribution or collections of any movable or spoken authority connected therewith. Therefore, who can justly deny any sister the privilege and freedom in praying, singing and reading the Scripture in a regular church service where nothing but worship is intended, as demanded by the written word. To refuse the sister a voice to pray and read the Scripture is entirely erroneous and unscriptural and is not just and charitable.—Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BRIDGE YOU'LL NEVER CROSS

It's what you think that makes the world
Seem dull or bright to you:
Your mind may color all things gray,
Or make them radiant hue.
Be glad today, be true and wise,
Seek truth amid the dross;
Waste neither time nor thought about
The bridge you'll never cross.

There's useful work for you to do
With hand and brain and heart;
There's urgent human service too,
In which to take your part.
Make every opportunity
Worth while, and not a loss;
The best is yours, so do not fear
The bridge you'll never cross.

If life seems drab and difficult,
Just face it with a will;
You do not have to walk alone
Since God is with you still.
Press on with courage toward the goal.
With truth your shield emboss;
Be strong, look up, and just ignore
The bridge you'll never cross.

—Grenville Kleiser.

What Do You Know About The Aleuts?

"Never heard of them"—you say. Well, they are the people who live in the Aleutian Islands, off the coast of Alaska. Not very many of them, but it seems there are some fine people among them.

A sister in Alaska is sending the publisher of the S. C. the Alaska Sportsman, an interesting journal of travel and customs, etc., of the people in Alaska. In the April issue is a picture of an Aleutian family of a respectable looking man and his wife and four children, with the following heading to it: "One cannot generalize about the character of any people. The Mumchucks of Port Graham, shown below, were pure Aleuts, and a fine family of high standards. The chief, though without authority, Mumchuck tried to lead by good example."

The man appears to me to be one of good sense and calm judgment and righteous principles. I thought at once when I saw the picture—what a good elder of the church he would be. He is trying to lead his tribe by good example. Is not that exactly the way Peter commands elders to lead the church—"not as lords but examples to the flock." Daniel Sommer, who had much experience through about seventy years working among the churches, said that when elders begin to talk of their authority then trouble begins. They have lost sight of the example. They are seeking the office, not for the good "work" they can do, but for the glory they can get out of it. **Elders should be headed as long as they are scriptural and teach scriptural things**, but when they teach and practise something else, we are commanded, "Obey God rather than men."

Noblest of All

Young man, look out for mother. You will never again have so true or kind a friend. Should her origin be simple, think not of that; remember she is the noblest work of our God and is your mother. Make her path through life as easy as you possibly can. Do not forget that she bore you, cared for you and tried to satisfy your every childish whim. When you grow to manhood be a manly man to others, but always "my boy" to mother. Do no act that will hasten the formation of streaks of gray, and hurry the tired body to its tomb of clay. Love her with a show of affection in her old age as she loved you when nestling against her dear old heart in infancy.

The mother's hands are hard and worn,
Her fragile frame is bent and weary,
The aching head is scarce up-borne
By the faint heart so sad and dreary,
Unfinished all the housework stands,
Unheeded climb the childish hands
That seek her help and know no other.
From the dull round of daily tasks
Only a respite brief she asks,
Poor, tired mother.
Think gently on her toilsome way,
And, while we can, her burdens lighten;
For some time there may come a day
When we no more her path may brighten
How bitterly we'll then regret
If under thoughtless acts we let
Our kindlier emotions smother
Until she seeks her final rest,
With meek hands folded on her breast,
Poor, tired mother.

—Sel.

Whence Come Fightings Among "Christians"?

The New Testament is a unit. The same spirit of inspiration was in all eight writers, so that there can be no special theories of inspiration, no divisions, no contradictions, no schisms, hence the instruction, Eph. 4:3, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace", and again II Tim. 3:16, 17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

If the things we believe and practice in religion are not clearly set forth therein, we may be sure we are in the wrong, Col. 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus," by his authority. You are invited and urged to investigate our position. Let us be one as the Bible directs. Come now, let us study together.

James 3:13-17, "Who is a **Wise Man** and endowed with **knowledge** among you? let him **show** out of a **good** conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, **glory not**, and **lie not** against the truth." Next verse, "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Question: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" When wars exist among brethren, it is time to see if we have purity, before we march on into battle in confusion. According to James, if we have purity we can enjoy peace. Christians should always be anxious to have the truth presented to them and also anxious to present the truth to others. "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by them that make peace." No partiality, no hypocrisy, no confusion, no secrets, just the truth.—H. L. Carlton.

Overgrown Churches

There is a rather general feeling among us that some of our churches are much too large to be labored with properly by the consistory and the pastor. Family visiting is a real problem in such large congregations. Members complain they are visited only once in from three to five years or even more infrequently; when they do receive a visit annually or biennially, the call is much too short and perfunctory. Near-delinquents receive no attention; in fact, delinquents often escape observation for a long time.

But the worst feature of a large church is that a frightful amount of precious talent among its members goes to waste. No church should be larger than 200 or 225 families. If it reaches that figure and still expands and the consistory has the vision, faith, and courage to put the kingdom of God ahead of its desire for bigness and its financial interests, it will take steps to sponsor the organization of a new congregation. Such churches are real "mothers in Israel."—**The Banner**.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:15, 16.)

"A Closer Walk With God"

O for a closer walk with God

A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Where is the blessedness I knew

When first I saw the Lord,

Where is the soul-refreshing view .

Of Jesus and his Word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!

How sweet their memory still!

But they have left an aching void

The world can never fill.

Blind Bible Knowledge

When we see how well acquainted a man may be with the words and text of the Bible, and yet how far his heart may be from God and from understanding him and the real spirit and import of his word, it is enough to strip us of all boast and presumption and to press us down on our knees before God in earnest heart searchings. Yes, men may be well versed in scripture, and yet strangers to God, without any true conceptions of his will and ways. It is not an argument against Bible study but against false Bible study—a purely intellectual, or professional, or partisan interest in the word, but does not affect the heart and will. The scribes of Jesus' time had an amazing verbal acquaintance with the scriptures. But when the test came, they to a man ranged themselves in opposition against Jesus Christ, who was the living Image of the God they claimed as their own, and the embodiment of that very word they had so assiduously studied; the personal, tangible, fulfillment of the prophets whose writings they knew "by heart." Their utter and guilty blindness became evident when Jesus came among them. They knew him not, understood him not. He was repulsive, antagonistic to, incompatible with, their thoughts and views and spirit. They hated him for this very cause—without a cause. They knew the scriptures. But in another very grave sense they did not know them. "For they that dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him." (Acts 13:27.)

Those doctors of the law, theological professors, rulers, scribes, rabbis, who could repeat verbatim from memory whole books of the Old Testament, did not, after all, know those scriptures! The fact is that true Bible knowledge is never of the head alone—no, nor of the head chiefly, but rather of the heart. There were some foolish people and babes in Christ's day who saw and learned things which were utterly hidden from the wise and prudent. Not that God ever set a premium on ignorance. Far be it. The necessity for close and earnest scripture study is very pressing today, and God forbid that we should encourage the fatal indolence and neglect of the many in this matter. But God places the emphasis where it belongs—not on the intellect, but on the humble, willing heart that seeks God's will that it may do it. The pride of knowledge, the conceit of learning, the prejudice of sect, the spirit of clique and party; selfishness, self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, disobedience of men—these destroy the spiritual sight and make true Bible knowledge impossible. But God dwells with the humble and poor in spirit, and they who are willing to do his will shall know.—R. H. Boll in Word and Work.