

Sunday Reading.

So Tired.

Dear Father, I am very tired, Too tired to night to pray, There was so much to weary me, Throughout this weary day.

And yet Thy wisdom planned for me, This lowly lot to fill, Giving me nothing grand or great, To be, or to fulfil;

And I may make of cares and griefs, Fresh stepping stones to Thee, Until I reach a height from whence, They all look less to me.

Dear Father, I can only look, I am too tired to speak, I know Thou wilt not love me less, Because I am so weak.

EVA J. TRAVERS.

Associational Sermon.

Gospel Fellowship.

PREACHED BEFORE THE N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, AT PUGWASH, ON THE 10TH JULY, 1882.

By REV. M. P. FREEMAN. (Published by request of the Association.)

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.—Phil. 1. 5.

The Church to which this Epistle was addressed was the first that was planted in Europe. Under the divine direction Paul was brought to Philippi.

Philip of Macedon had taken possession of this land, and on the site of the old Thasian colony, built a city which was named Philippi in honor of the conqueror.

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They had been tested and were approved. They were found true in their allegiance to Christ and to his cause.

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP.

I. What is it? The revised version renders it thus: "For your fellowship in respect to the gospel."

thus: "For your fellowship in forwarding the glad tidings."

The word translated fellowship, in another form is rendered communicate in this epistle: "Ye have done well that ye did communicate with my affliction."

1. In Gospel Fellowship there must be oneness of spirit.

There will be diversities in respect to social position and mental attainments, but in spirit there must be unity.

As there are lineaments common to all the children of the same parents, so it is also in respect to those who are born into Christ's kingdom.

Of this fellowship we have a beautiful illustration on and after the day of Pentecost, when all that believed were together, and had all things common.

Men of kindred pursuits in life are drawn together by common interests and sympathies. Even the ungodly join hand in hand in wickedness.

O! for a Paul or a John to move amongst our churches, and with apostolic authority to reprove their jealousies, strifes, and divisions;

2. Gospel Fellowship involves union of sentiment.

Agreement in all things is impossible nor is it to be desired, but there are grand distinguishing truths that must be held without abatement.

We may love those whom we cannot fellowship in the church. Even believers may hold doctrines that tend to the subversion of the faith.

Some would broaden the church and erase the lines that divide it from the

world. For the creeds we do not profess any particular affection. They have perhaps been of service, and still may have their place; but we have less sympathy for him who would deny them all.

There may be fellowship amongst those who do not accept the distinguishing doctrines of the cross, but it is not in the gospel.

Do you ask what doctrines are to be received by all who would enjoy true fellowship? I reply, in the creed Dr. Ryland's three R's must certainly be included.

3. Gospel Fellowship demands union in Christian work.

Believers are called to service. They are to be 'fellow-helpers' and 'workers together with Christ.'

We hear of churches, that live only in name, of churches where a few faithful ones are compelled to bear the burden and heat of the day.

The combination of believers is necessary in order to effective work—and those who refuse to do their share are not in gospel fellowship with their brethren.

Where the majority of the church are in their places on conference occasions, and in the prayer meeting,—(of course we must allow that circumstances will arise to keep some away)—

Are you weary of his yoke? Can you live without him? Can you die without him? Can you endure his frown at the judgment seat?

4. Giving to the cause of God, going forth to work, is necessary to the realization of Gospel Fellowship.

That the word implies this has been already sufficiently indicated.

Every church has its pecuniary obligations to meet. This is a necessity. Meeting houses must be built, and preserved from decay.

But we are required to give for the gospel abroad as well as at home. 'The field is the world.'

There is not only an association of persons to form separate churches, but also an Association of the churches, for the better carrying on of the Lord's work.

Persons may combine together for some wicked purpose, or they may unite for the dissemination of doctrines that are subversive of the truth.

We know sufficiently well the views entertained respecting us throughout the so-called christian world.

Apart from the fact that our rise cannot be traced from any period subsequent to the apostolic age; apart from the testimony given by such historians as Mosheim of the Lutheran Church who affirmed that our origin is hid in the remote depths of antiquity;

heart you will need a spiritual microscope of more than ordinary power to discern it. The christian who will not cheerfully give his substance according to his ability,

This is an age of intense sectarian zeal. Some make their frantic appeals to men in the interests of fraternity and union;

Such are doing what the rest are aiming at, only in a less honorable way—to forward their own denominational work.

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5. An inquiry here arises, Is our church fellowship worth what it costs?

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duty is plain—the continuance of our church organizations is unwise and sinful. But on these points we shall be certain so long as we have the living oracles for our instruction,

If then we can show good reason for our existence as a denomination, we are bound to maintain and defend those truths that distinguish us from others,

We have nothing to say about other religious bodies. They can take care of themselves, without our help. We cannot expect to receive their assistance.

Brethren, you are set for the defence of the gospel. The truth has made you free. It is your daily comfort and joy.

There is I suppose no body of christians, so well agreed in doctrinal belief, as the so called Baptist denominations.

Is our church fellowship worth what it costs? Has it worthy aims? Is it gospel fellowship? This latter is the grand point to be decided.

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The pupils of a certain Greek philosopher were accustomed on a certain day to give him presents.

'I thank my God,' said Paul, Philippians, upon every remembrance of you, making request, 'joy for your

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