

Not To Be Ministered To

BY MALTBIE D. BARCOCK, D. D. O Lord, I pray That for this day I may not swerve By foot or hand From Thy command, Not to be served, but to serve.

The Most Human of the Twelve.

How singularly do the five writers who tell us of the Apostle Peter agree as to his character. The same qualities of mind and heart, the same ups and downs in his experiences, appear in their different accounts of him.

Indeed Mark and Luke do not portray Peter; they rather let Peter draw his own image for us. He bodies himself forth in words, in actions, in events. You get a reflection of him in the effect which he produced on others.

Though we know Peter so well, better by far than any of the apostles, yet only a spiritual portrait of him is given. The modern novelist describes persons by delineating the form and features, such as the height, color of the eyes and hair.

INTENSELY HUMAN WAS PETER, a stumbling, repenting, loving, aspiring servant as we all are. In him was not the philosophic acumen of Paul nor the exalted love of John.

While John is an ideal, Peter is a pattern for all to follow. He was a practical man, instant in season and out of season. He rebuked his Lord; drew his sword in the Garden; refused at first to be washed at all, then would have his girded Master wash not his feet only, but also his hands.

Such is the halting career of this foremost of the apostles. The Bible shows all sides of a man. In it there is no hero-worship. We cannot tell the story of a distinguished man without magnifying his excellencies and minimizing his faults, perhaps omitting them altogether.

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And such a foremost part did Peter's enthusiasm lead him to take at every critical turn in the history of this new spiritual movement.

His aggressiveness followed naturally. He was the first of the twelve who caught a glimpse of the universality of the new religion, that it was made good for the Gentile no less than for the Jew.

AN EVOLUTION IN HUMAN THOUGHT AND FEELING

beyond our power to conceive. God placed him in "the look-out" when the early church set sail. The progressive unfolding in Peter's character which we find in tracing his life is what we might expect from his enthusiasm and aggressiveness.

It is not necessary to wait till the Church shall come to a better spiritual condition to begin to win souls. Many a man complains that the Church is cold and dead, when he is the cold and dead one himself, and does not know it.

Winning Souls.

Every Christian should study the art of winning souls. It is a great thing to be able to preach well, to expound the Scriptures correctly, and to maintain the doctrines of Christianity against its enemies with sound arguments.

Christian ministers and churches sometimes lose the art of soul-winning. The early Church possessed this power in a high degree, but it gradually departed. The early Methodist Church was noted for its ability to win souls more than for anything else.

Now, however, the announcement of a series of meetings for the promotion of a religious revival does not always attract a crowd. When the meeting is over the report is often made that the members of the church have been greatly quickened, but that no sinners were present in the congregation, and hence there were no conversions.

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While some of them were powerful preachers, they did not spend much time in the study. Some of the great preachers of the past generation could not write sermons. They left no literary heritage. They preached mightily to the consciences of men, but spent little time on the work of polishing sentences and rounding periods.

The Methodist preacher of to-day has many irons in the fire. He must be a good preacher, a good pastor, a good student, a good financier, a good organizer. He must study sociology, science, art, literature, and languages.

Preachers and churches in this day have been misled in many cases by the frantic effort to reach the masses which has characterized our times. A few years ago a great fury was created by certain evangelists about reaching the masses.

These are the questions which make the whole matter clear. No, not in quiet lanes, nor in the bright temple courts, as once he spake, and not from blazing heavens, as men sometimes seem to expect—not so does Christ speak to us.

The Value of One Conversion.

BY THE REV. C. P. DITMARS. The Apostle James says it is great, because "it saves a soul from death and covers a multitude of sins." That is a glorious fact which is true of every one who is turned from the error of his way into God.

What a vacancy there would have been in the band of the Apostles without Peter. How many lessons that just fit many of us to-day does Christ teach us through Peter. How much poorer would the New Testament be without those Epistles which still burn before us with the fervent, mellowed love of this zealous disciple?

Stephon Paxton was for years a great Sunday school missionary. For years he went up and down the Western States, far ahead of the Churches, away out on the frontiers, where many would have soon buried their religion in worldly toil and prosperity, had he not come to them.

world-wide sweep in the Kingdom, and led to thousands and tens of thousands being saved. So it may be, the friend or neighbor, whom we seek for Christ, may be a new force which under the blessing of God may do great things.

That young man or woman for whom you pray, may grow up to be the first of a multitude, an ever increasing ratio of saved ones year after year. Those children gathered about you each Sunday in the Sunday school class are to be the fathers and mothers of another generation, and each one converted means a new household for Christ, a new center of influence for the Church.

It is then a blessed privilege, a glorious responsibility to which God calls us. We may, if we give up ourselves to be used by Him, become the instruments of turning souls from death to life. And we would remember that the most humble but steadfast believer, who quietly lives and prays for the saving of others, may have a crown at last, gleaming with precious stars.

Begin To-Day.

Is there nothing which Christ, as your friend, your Lord, your Saviour, wants you to do that you are leaving undone to-day?

Do you doubt one instant, with his high and deep love for your soul, that he wants you to pray? And do you pray? Do you doubt for one instant that it is his will that you should honor and help and bless all men about you who are his brethren?

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A Sensible Idea.

A converted cowboy once gave this very sensible idea of what religion is: "Lots of folks that would really like to do right, think that serving the Lord means shoutin' theuselves hoarse praisin' His name. Now, I'll tell you how I look at that. I'm workin' here for Jim. Now, if I'd sit around the house here, tellin' what a good fellow Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up in the night to serenade him, I'd be doin' like what lots of Christians do; but I wouldn't suit Jim, and I'd get fixed mighty quick. But when I buckle on my straps, and hustle among the hills and see that Jim's herd is all right, and not sufferin' for water an food, or not been off the ranch and branded by cattle thieves, then I'm servin' Jim as he wants to be served."

IF YOU CATCH COLD.

Many things may happen when you catch cold, but the thing that usually happens first is a cough. An inflammation starts up in the bronchial tubes or in the throat, and the discharge of mucus from the head constantly poisons this. Then the very contraction of the throat muscles in the act of coughing helps to irritate so that the more you cough the more you have to cough.

Great numbers of people disregard cough at first, and pay the penalty of neglect. Cough never did any one any good. It should be dispersed promptly. Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam is a well known remedy, and it is the surest and quickest cough cure known to-day. It does not deceive by drugging the throat. It soothes the irritated parts and heals them, then the cough stops of its own accord.

Helping a Revival.

One may help on a revival of religion by removing the things which stand in the way of it. A man may even pray for it, and yet himself

be a hindrance to it. He who is unreconciled to his brother, who has turned on to his worldly amusements, who will not perfectly surrender himself to the Lord and to God's way of working, is hindering the answer to his prayers and preventing the reviving of his own heart and the hearts of others. If we really want to be made ready for a work of grace in our own souls and in the church to which we belong, we will first get low before God, and seek his grace, and then go out to remove whatever obstacles we may find in ourselves and in others to the copious and general visitation of the Holy Ghost.—Presbyterian.

"I Liked It, But

Praise with a sting in it is not worthy of the name. It is of small comfort to a pastor when a member of his congregation takes pains to praise his sermon, and winds up with that depressing little word "but"—What comes after that word may be only a look, a shrug of the shoulders. The sting is keen, and the attempt at praise falls flat. "I liked it, but"—had better be left unsaid, if praise is intended.—S. S. Times.

WHEN TO TRUST GOD.—It is one thing to feel that God is a helper in times of trial and danger; it is another thing to feel that at all times God is better than all else. He has read God's Word aright who says, "It is well to say, 'What time I am afraid I will trust in thee,' but it is still better to say, 'I will trust, and not be afraid.'"—S. S. Times.

It is sometimes only by the lesser that we can climb up to the greater; it is sometimes by touching only on a little human love that we can rise to the Infinite love; sometimes only by making a little earthly sacrifice that we get a glimpse of the eternal Heavenly Sacrifice.—Rev. R. F. Horton.

A sinner must not only cease to do evil, but he must learn to do good. The Gospel does not contemplate a mere life of negation, it requires the most positive and active forms of right-doing as well as right being.

It is well to be always prompt in the performance of that which is clearly our duty.

CAUTION.—Beware of substitutes for Pain-Killer. There is nothing "just as good." Unequalled for cuts, sprains and bruises. Internally for all bowel disorders. Avoid substitutes there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION regarding the popular internal and external remedy, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil—do not, so far as known, exist. The testimony is positive and concurrent that the article relieves physical pain, cures lameness, checks a cough, is an excellent remedy for pains and rheumatic complaints, and it has no nauseating or other unpleasant effect when taken internally.

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