

The Common Offering.

It is not the deed we do, Though the deed be never so fair, But the love that the dear Lord looketh for, Hidden with holy care In the heart of the deed so fair.

Should the Pastor Be His Own Evangelist?

There are those who contend that the pastor ought always to be his own evangelist, and forever bar the doors against any outside assistance in the work of winning souls to the Lord Jesus.

There are others who contend that the pastor ought never to be his own evangelist, and that whenever any special effort to win souls is to be made he should step aside and bring to his aid one who devotes his time to that particular line of work.

What is a pastor? Can better answer be given than that he is a man of God, called of God to tell of God? If this be a right definition, how it lifts the profession above all thought other than the winning of souls to God and the training of the souls thus won for the service of God.

As pastor of the church, he is responsible, first to God, and next to his church, for what is said or taught in his church. It does not follow, however, that his special strength is in evangelistic work.

When God made many men of many minds he knew that these various men could only be reached by varied methods; and therefore to his followers he gave different gifts that by these very differences all men might be reached with the truth.

One man is so constituted that he must be reached with the thought of the love of Christ, another by the sacrifice of Christ, another by the fear of the penalty for violation of the law; and to few men has God given such a diversity of gifts, or such complete knowledge of human nature, as to be able to present the gospel with equal power to these different minds.

Not only are the hearers differently constituted, but pastors are as much so, and God's work could not be carried on were it otherwise. It is not all of a pastor's work to win souls, — the teaching and training after conversion is of vital importance. Therefore some pastors are gifted in teaching the truth of God's word, to some are given great power in preaching, to some special power in winning souls, and each is owned and honored of God.

Yet, even if this be so, there is a sense in which the pastor is, and always must be, his own evangelist. He is pastor of the church, — God put him there as his special representative (if God didn't put him there, then the sooner he leaves the better for himself and the church), and he is responsible for anybody and everybody that is brought by him to take part in the church work.

He is no right to allow an incompetent man to conduct a service because he is a saint out of a job and needs help, — he has no right to allow an evangelist to come unless he has made careful investigation, and is satisfied that he is the right man for that particular time and place.

If I am building a house for myself and knowingly employ an incompetent workman who is in need, or if, in the kindness of my heart, I choose to pay one man more than another would charge for doing the work equally well, that is my right, and it might be to my credit.

If business methods are right in business matters they are right in spiritual matters, and the souls under a pastor's care are there "in trust." He has no right to be influenced by pleasure, comfort, or even love, in the selection of those whom he brings, or allows to come.

An evangelist is one who makes a business of inducing men and women, boys and girls, to accept a partnership with the Lord Jesus Christ. It does not necessarily mean that he does not devote more or less time to other parts of the Lord's work; he may be, and very often is, a pastor of a church himself, to whom God has given special power in this direction.

But it does mean that when in evangelistic work he makes that his business. — I use the word "business" in its worldly sense, that we may get a better and perhaps new view of what evangelistic work should be.

A successful salesman is one who can rightly and quickly measure his prospective customers, and present his case to him on the customer's level. The salesman is there for a purpose, — to sell something; he concentrates all his power of thought and speech in such presentation of his goods as will secure a sale.

Christian workers, — ministers and laymen alike, — to us is given the power to become the sons of God; and if there is in us filial worship we shall all be evangelists, whose main business in life is the living and telling of the need and power of God's love.

The conquest of the world for Jesus Christ is a military undertaking. It is for this very purpose that the Christian is a soldier and the Church an army. The banner under which his army marches is the Cross, its Commanding General is the Lord Jesus Christ, and all orders issued to it come from headquarters.

A Day of Trouble.

John was in trouble. For twenty years he had lived and transacted business with his father-in-law, Laban and they did not get on well together. Many men do not get on smoothly with their relations. When there are misunderstandings the fault is sometimes with one and sometimes with the other, but more frequently with both.

Laban, his father-in-law, was still more worldly-minded and selfish. He looked with favor on religion in others but did not make much use of it for himself. He was willing to have men associated with himself who were on good terms with the Almighty, but he seems to have had little personal dealing with the supreme Being.

Laban had wronged his son-in-law beyond endurance, even after having profited greatly from his services. Jacob, believing himself to be called of God, made up his mind to terminate a relation which had brought him so much disappointment and pain!

Esau, Jacob's brother, now comes upon the scene to vex the soul of the patriarch. Jacob must now settle an old score. Twenty years before he had wronged his brother, and his sin had banished him from his father's house and his fatherland.

Here was a family quarrel which threatened to result in a bloody tragedy. Great is the pity that ever the stars looked down on a family feud. But since Cain lifted up his hand against his brother Abel it has been thus. Men not only quarrel and fight with strangers and foreigners, but brother lifts up his hand against brother with clouds of vengeance on his brow and cruel murder in his heart.

Jacob owed all his trouble to himself. It was his own sin that banished him from his father's house. It was his own sin that kindled the flames of wrath in the heart of his brother. He had many foes, but his worst foe was himself. It is usually so. A man may be surrounded by enemies. Some of them may be members of his own household. The world, the flesh and the devil may combine to destroy him.

Many Pentecosts.

Bishop Warren, in the Sunday School Times, shows that since Jesus lives and reigns on high, his promise to give the Holy Spirit included many Pentecosts before its final fulfilment:

The progress of the world is not cataclysmic, but epochal, — first the blade, then suddenly the flower, and after due preparation the fruit. Individual lives that have no epochs are apt to be dead levels.

The ugly century-plant blossoms at length into marvelous beauty. The human race blossoms into Pentecost. But one flowering does not exhaust the rose, the race, nor the residue of the Spirit. This one Pentecost does not fulfil the prophecy to pour out the Spirit upon all flesh.

Is Temptation a Gain, or a Loss?

How is it about temptation? In our Lord's Prayer we are taught to pray, "Lead us not into temptation." Again he taught, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

EASING THE CHEST.

It is the cold on the chest that scares people and makes them sick and sore. The cough that accompanies the chest cold is racking. When the cold is a hard one and the cough correspondingly severe every coughing spell strains the whole system.

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SURE REMEDY.

Mr. F. Churchill, Cornell, Ont., writes: "We have used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry in the home and always find it a sure remedy for dysentery."

USED 9 YEARS.

Mrs. Jones, Northwood, Ont., writes: "My baby, eight months old, was very bad with dysentery. We gave her Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry and it saved her life. We have used it in our

family for the last nine years would not be without it."

ACTION WONDERFUL.

Mrs. W. Varner, New Germany, N.S., writes: "I have great confidence in Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for various cases in old and young. My boy had a severe attack of summer complaint and I could get nothing to help him until I gave him Strawberry. The action of this remedy was wonderful and soon had perfectly well."

It should be remembered that Solomon's vivid description of the drunkard's misery and doom was written long before the modern arts of distillation were invented. Methods of rectification have greatly increased the evil results of liquor drinking, and poisonous adulteration has multiplied them a hundredfold.

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