

THE PRAYER MEETING.

Can you lead a prayer-meeting? If you can you are a very fortunate man, and if you are a preacher the church you serve is very fortunate in having you for a pastor. Very few can lead a prayer-meeting as it ought to be led, and, therefore, there are so many dull prayer-meetings, and poorly attended prayer-meetings, and stereotyped prayer-meetings, where certain men pray at certain times and say the same prayer at every time, and when the weary hour has dragged itself away, you can with great propriety sing the Doxology when that meeting closes.

The business of a leader is to lead someone, and the leader of a prayer-meeting ought to try to lead everyone to do something or feel something which will increase the interest and spiritual joy of the meeting. The leader who does it all is a failure. It is not to be a talking meeting, but a prayer-meeting. Talk to God in prayer. The great secret of church work is to get everybody to work. People want to work, they are not satisfied unless they have something to do, and the successful leader will give every one something to do, and help him to do it.

It is a greater work to lead a prayer-meeting successfully than it is to preach a big sermon. For people will admire and forget the sermon, but if they will get close to God in personal work, they will have more than they get out of the preacher's work, no matter how well he does it. I believe that a church which studies the Bible and has a lively prayer-meeting and well-attended Sunday-school, and no preacher at all, will do more for Christ and humanity than a church that has an eloquent minister, a dull prayer-meeting and a neglected Sunday-school.

The prayer-meeting should be studied and prepared for, as much so as the sermon. Try to grasp the whole situation. Who will be there? What can they do? How can I get them to do their best? What hymns shall be sung? What variety can be properly introduced? The talk of the leader should be good — very good — containing the germ thoughts of a good sermon; but brief, warm, vivid. The leader should feel I must make this prayer-meeting a delightful success, and it is worth all the thought and prayer and time it costs. A poor general loses the battle and a poor leader loses the prayer-meeting. If the theological seminary could turn out modern preachers who were first-class leaders of all meetings, it would be doing far more for the church than if it turns out first-class preachers who knew nothing else. It is said that when Stonewall Jackson fell, General Lee was deeply moved at the loss of such a grand leader, and said: "Oh, for leaders, for leaders."—*Rev. J. M. Holmes, in Methodist Protestant.*

No person, surely, can have any ground for thinking himself superior to another, except for something he has done. He had nothing to do with choosing the race or the family to which he belongs. If his parents are rich, that is nothing to his credit. Whether he is handsome and strong does not depend on him. If he has won wealth or standing, it is because of the health, opportunities, or mental powers that God has given him. If he has been kept from vice and crime, that is of God's grace. Whatever gives one an advantage over another is due to a gift of God that calls for humility rather than pride.

KILLING TIME.

"Well, Tom, not looking for a job, are you? Thought you were fixed for life in a nice comfortable berth, where you hardest labor was to draw your salary."

"Exactly the case," answered Tom Blaisdell. "The very reason I have given it up. The salary was beyond criticism, the surroundings pleasant and the tenure of office assured, but there was only enough work to keep me busy a third of the time, yet in order to keep the position alive I was told I must make a pretense of being busy the full day."

"And that's why you gave it up! Well, I must say I'd like the chance to fit myself into a job of that kind."

"You are welcome to it, old man, if you like it," replied Tom, "I've left it forever. Had I stayed there much longer my manhood would have shriveled into nothingness. Imagine trying six hours a day and six days in the week to play at the game of work when the world was full of overflowing with real work still undone. Money wages and fat salaries may show up as the biggest thing there is in the dim light of this world, but I'm thinking, old fellow, there's a time coming when the salary end of a job will seem so small it will take a microscope to detect it, and the real value of one's efforts will loom up so large as to obscure everything else. That is the way I figure it out."

It is strangely true that one-half of the world arises each morning to engage in a mad race with the hands upon the dial of the clock in an effort to get the work of the day finished before the night shadows fall; while the other half is spending its time watching what seems the slow pace of those same hands, trying to fill in the long, idle hours with "time consumers."

It was Thoreau who once said, "No man can kill time without injuring eternity." According to the Divine philosophy of life, every hour, every minute and every second of time was intended to be transmuted into eternity by filling them with eternal purposes and motives, by putting into them thoughts, words and deeds which shall have eternal values.

By projecting one's thought seventy years ahead to that period when the boundary line between time and eternity is almost in sight, it is possible to get some idea of what will then seem a profitable investment of the three score years and ten which have past. Several years of time killed—consumed in the doing of trivial, unworthy things, or in sheer idle existence, no matter how great the monetary reward received, or seventy years packed full of eternal living, made eternal by being conformed to eternal principles and plans. What shall it be for you and for me?—*United Presbyterian.*

Fools Use Washes and Snuffs

Thinking perhaps they will cure catarrh—but no one ever heard of a genuine cure following such senseless treatments. There is just one prompt and thorough cure for catarrh, and it is fragrant healing Catarrh-zone, which goes right to the root of the trouble. It destroys the germs, heals the inflamed membranes and cures any case no matter how obstinate or long standing. "I experimented for years with catarrh remedies, but found Catarrh-zone the most rational and satisfactory," writes W. J. MacEachern, of Waterville. "It cured me for all time." For a sure cure use only Catarrh-zone. Complete outfit \$1.00; trial size 25c.

No offering was pure under the law unless God commanded it. The same law holds under the gospel. Jesus said: "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

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LET THE BIBLE GO THROUGH YOU.

A friend remarked that a member of his church, with an air of pride, came to him, and said, "I have been through the Bible five times this year."

His pastor looked at him a little while, and then queried: "How often has the Bible been through you?"

He reads and hears God's Word well who seeks to realize it in his life. More knowledge of God's Word will be gained by a single effort to live one of its commands than by a year of reading with no effort to keep the Word of God. Trusting a promise will enable one to know its sweetness far better than to commit it to memory.

It Lays a Stilling Hand on Pain. — For pains in the joints and limbs, and for rheumatic pains, neuralgia and lumbago, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is without a peer. Well rubbed in, the skin absorbs it, and it quickly and permanently relieves the affected part. Its value lies in its magic property of removing pain from the body, and for that good quality it is prized.

He who gives his heart to God will withhold nothing which God desires, but he who withholds his heart can give nothing which will please him.

They Drove Pimples Away.—A face covered with pimples is unsightly. It tells of internal irregularities which should long since have been corrected. The liver and the kidneys are not performing their functions in the healthy way they should, and these pimples are to let you know that the blood protests. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will drive them all away, and will leave the skin clear and clean. Try them, and there will be another witness to their excellence.

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