

The Home

Influence Of A Servant

I have read of a girl who entered an English home to labor. She had been converted and sanctified, and was filled with the presence and power of God; she was just light and sunshine in that home. One day they came to her and said, "Margaret I guess you will have to attend church with us." "Oh, no, I cannot attend church with you. I cannot find the life there that I find in my church, and I must go where God has blessed me, and I must attend church there. They were a little disturbed and said to her, "Well, if you cannot attend church with us, then you will have to go." "Very well, said she, "I can go. They had agreed to give her a weeks notice. The week went on, and she was just as pleasant as ever. By and by the husband said, "Wife, I think we made a rather severe demand of Margaret, that she should attend church with us, "I think so, to, husband; and so they took it back. She thanked them and went on but with that sunshine in her life and beauty in her Christian character, though she moved in the kitchen and in a narrow circle, that they who came into her presence saw and felt the power of that character; They had come into the English Church by being baptized into it in childhood, but were never converted; and though they were very strict in attending church, they came to find out at last that they were unsaved. For one day the wife said to the husband, "There is something in Margarets life that we have not got in our lives, dont you see? "Yes, I see. "Well, I am going over to hear her minister next Sunday. "Go on. She went and heard the minister, and was convicted and converted, and both husband and wife were soon found in the same church where Margaret, the hired girl, was found. It was nothing but the shining of a life that was filled with the life and presence and power of God. It was an influence going out that told for the King and glory of his name.

If our words and acts are pure then our lives and the utterances of our lips will be pure. And if we are thus walking in the light as he is in the light, we shall compel somebody to recognize our Saviour and bow to him.—Times of Refreshing.

Doing Errands For Christ

"Mamma, said a little five year old boy, I wish Jesus lived on earth now. "Why, my darling? "Because I should have liked so much to have done something for him. "But what could such a little bit of a fellow like you have done for the Saviour?

The child hesitated a few moments, then looked up in its mothers face and said, "Why, mother, I could have run errands for him.

"So you could, my child, and so you shall. Here is a glass of jelly and some oranges I was going to send to poor old sick Margaret by the servant, but I will let you take them instead and do an errand for the Saviour; for when upon earth he said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me.

So, remember, children, whenever you do any kind act for anybody because you love Jesus, it is just the same as if the Saviour were now living on earth and you were doing it for him.—Herald of Mercy.

Saved By a Prayer

A life boat went out on a dangerous coast to the relief of a shipwrecked vessel. The waves ran high and threatened to swamp the boat. At last the coxswain said, "Mates, shall we turn back? We are going to certain death. The ship has sunk, and doubtless all hands have gone down with her. There was a moments hesitation and then one man cried out, No, let us go on. As I ran down the beach I passed two ladies on their knees praying for the lives of the men in yonder wreck. I believe God will hear them. I believe we may yet find some alive. His words had such an effect on the crew, that they plucked up courage and rowed on amidst the breakers. They picked up five poor fellows, one by one clinging to wreckage, and otherwise supporting themselves. The prayers of those two ladies had saved those lives.—Bombay Guardian.

The chorus angels of sang above the birthplace of Jesus: "Glory to God in the highest: peace on earth, good will to men.

The sorrowing world was congratulated by the heavenly hosts on their good fortune in the coming of the Son of God to dwell among men. It was appropriate: for Christs coming was directly calculated to bring healing and help and hope to all.

1. It Was Truly a Message of Joy to Children. The ancient Greeks and Romans could chisel a marble statue until it would almost blush into life. They could paint a human form on canvas so lifelike that the painted lips would almost open in eloquence and song. But with all their art and eloquence and culture, never until the Christ child stepped across the threshold of earth at Bethlehem, did they understand the meaning and worth of a child. If a father did not welcome the coming of the little one, and turned away in indifference, it was quietly strangled to death. To this day there are cities in China where the little ones are quietly thrown out into the streets at night to be devoured by hogs and dogs. If you precious children to whom these lines may be read have the tender care of loving parents and the comforts of Christian homes, it is because our Jesus loved little children and taught men to love and care for them, and He himself was once a little child.

2 It was a message of hope to the hopeless. The world has ceased to look for betterment. The idol gods were as helpless as their worshipers. Prayers and sacrifices were unavailing. There was no light shed on their darkness, no comfort for their sorrow. As a historian says, Human society was sick, sick with the incurable disease of sin. Governments were crumbling. The rulers and the rich were cruel, selfish and heartless; the ruled and the oppressed, sullen and hopeless. Despair brooded like a miasma of death over a lost, despondent world.

Jesus came to cheer the disconsolate, to lift up the down-trodden, to befriend the friendless, to bring light and life to those who sit in the region of the shadow of death. What statesmen and scholars and orators and poets and philosophers had failed to do to improve the condition of men, was to be done by that Christ child. Strange that so much hope for a ruined world should be in swaddling bands in a cradle!

3 It Was a Message of Peace.

The world was in continuous war. Every plain was a battle field, and every nation an armed camp. For hundreds of years Rome had never been without war. Whole nations were captured and sold in slavery, until there were sixty millions of slaves in the Roman Empire. But when Jesus was born for the first time, the temple of war was closed. Peace at last brooded over a weary world. It was prophetic of that coming time when, under the reign of the Prince of Peace nations shall learn war no more; swords shall be converted into plow shares and spears into pruning hooks; canons shall be silent; and the sound of trampling, battling hosts shall be heard no more, in the universal kingdom of God. It promised also that some day, "The peace of God which passeth all understanding should keep the minds and hearts of the people of God, through this same Christ Jesus.

4 It Was a Message of Love and Good Will To Men. A great writer has said that when Christ came, human society conceived the awful meaning lying behind such a statement. Marriages only legal contracts! Children unwelcomed! Men banded together only by self interest, and ruled by appetite, passion, ambition lust, and hearts, in general, strangers to Divine love. sad sinning world, groaning and travelling in the bondage of sin. But Jesus coming was an assurance of a Fathers love, and an effort of God to plant His nature in loveless hearts.

5 Jesus Coming Was an Offer of Pardon and Life to All Who Were Dead in Trespasses and Sins. Men were conscience of guilt, and dreaded the future. They anticipated punishment, but saw no possible escape. They knew and felt their impurity as a constant and grievous burpen; but they could not find any relief. Jesus came to make it known. He came to be an atoning Savior, to make the offer of mercy and pardon possible. He came to forgive our sins and take the crushing sense of guilt, and make our conscience clean. His coming was a prophecy of that second,

Pentecostal blessing which would cleanse away the tendency to sin and make us in nature whiter than snow.

That was the meaning of that Christmas message to the world; that is its meaning now. Tell it, ye Christmas angels; tell again the message of joy and hope and peace, of love and pardon and sanctification, to a joyless, hopeless, loveless, Christless, lying world.

Why He Wanted a Christian Wife.

A well known judge in one of the Southern States, speaking of his younger days, says that some fifty years ago he had become skeptical, and that Mr H, a noble, whole-souled man, whom he revered almost as a father, but who was a confirmed deist, though he had a Christian wife, soon found him out and endeavored to instill in his mind his own deistical notions. But he charged me, said the judge, not to let his wife know that he was a deist or that I was skeptical. I asked him why. To which he replied that if he were to marry a hundred times, he would marry only a pious woman.

Because he said, if she is a Christian it makes her a better wife, a better mother, a better mistress and a better neighbor. If she is poor it enables her to bear adversity with patience and fortitude. If she is rich and prosperous, it lessens her desire for mere show. And when she comes to die, if she is in error, she is as well off as you and I; and if we are in error, she is a thousand times better off than we can be. I asked him if he knew of any other error, or system of errors, attended with so many advantages. His reply was evasive. But what he had said led me to examine the subject for myself, and I often look back to that conversation as one of the most important incidents of my life, and to it trace my determination to study the Bible carefully and to examine the subject for myself, the result of which led me to a full and living faith in Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Ruts

Get out of the ruts of prayer. Some of us can only pray in one way, and consequently we get tired of praying. The ruts of prayer are the deepest ruts in the world. Pray sometimes standing up; then pray kneeling; then prayer sitting down then pray lying down on your couch at night. Pray in the morning when the sun first streams in at your window. Pray at noonday when you stand up at the lunch counter in some big city. Pray at night when you go to the place of recreation. Never go to any place where prayer is impossible. Pray as you take the sleeper on the train at night, and the train rolls out of the big station into the darkness unknown. Pray as you sleep in the tent under the groves that were God's first temples. Pray as you sit by the shore in the summer time and listen to the eternal music of the sea. Pray as you wait on the table in the summer hotel. Then it will be easy to pray in church on Sunday morning. Sometimes just throw up a prayer three words long, "Help now, Lord;" and some times write out your prayer on a sheet of paper, word for word, from beginning to end, and read that to God. It will help to fix your mind and your thought. Pray some times alone when nobody hears. Then get some dear friend to kneel down and lead you in prayer, and when your lips are dry and your heart is dull that other friend may lift you up to God. Get out of the formula and out of the routine of prayer and when you make all life a kind of praying then it will be easy to understand the old commandment, "Pray without ceasing."—"The Call to prayer."

HOLINESS OR A MERE SENTIMENT

The religion of Jesus Christ is either a practical manifestation of holiness or it is mere sentiment. The infidel who looks at the ordinary life of the profession church says that it is only a sentiment, for they do not live any different from the world about them. When we talk of having the witness that our sins are forgiven, they say that is only a hallucination. Unless the Christian can show a divine solace in affliction, such as the world has not; unless the Christian can show a spirit toward his enemies of love and forgiveness such as the world has not; unless he can show a gentleness that the world has not; a kindness to all men; a liberality that the world does not possess, the world has a right to say that there is nothing to do it. It is idle sentiment to say we are Christians and saved and our sins are forgiven if we can not show them the fruit of holiness. The worlds standard for the christian is holiness just as the Bible teaches. It is impossible to exhibit the fruit of holiness unless we have holiness. The present standard of religion will never take this world for Christ. How can the church banish sin from among men when it does not believe in being saved from sin!—Ch Witness.

CAUSE THEM TO UNDERSTAND

There was a time when the law was read in the hearing of all Israel and certain men "caused the people to understand the law." The perpetual mission of the ministry is to cause those who hear them to understand God's Word and will. There are schools for almost all kinds of truth, but the pulpit is God's appointed school for His revealed truth. There is a great field for a teaching ministry. If the speaker himself is filled and possessed with the truth, fine oratory is not essential. How people hang on the simple, lucid exposition of the Word, where scripture is made to interpret scripture. Paul knew how to make his great scholarship tributary to the truth of the gospel; "to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified." The highest learning, instead of eclipsing the revealed truth of God, may be made a magnifying glass for it. No one need covet a higher place than to be permitted and enabled to cause the people to understand what God wants them to know.—Christian Standard.

SOME THINGS JESUS WOULD NOT DO IF HE WERE HERE

- He would not go to a horse race.
- He would not sing a love song or speak a comic piece at a church social.
- He would not play "Miller," "Drunken Sailor," or "Killamackankie" at a party.
- He would not enjoy Progressive Euchre.
- He would not loaf.
- He would not use tobacco.
- He would not wear gaudy jewelry.
- He would not go to sleep in meeting.
- He would not read the newspapers on the Lord's day.
- He would not go visiting, socially on the Lord's day.
- He would not talk foolishly.
- He would not gossip.
- He would not whisper during church services.
- If he would not do these things, should you, as his representative do them? How are you representing Jesus? What conception of the Master does your neighbor get from your life? These things are worth thinking about.—Sel.

FOUR BIBLE DEFINITIONS OF SIN

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me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin. In referring to his deliverance from this thing Paul said, The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:2. He teaches plainly that they that are Christs have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. And again he says, Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed. While original sin cannot be pardoned, it may be cleansed and purged away, crucified and destroyed. This does not mean a lifelong struggle with the thing; or the mere repressing and suppressing the evil in our nature, as some teach, but the complete eradication and removal of the same. Now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life. Rom 6: 22. Being pardoned of all the past, and cleansed from all sin in our nature, we are kept by the power of God from sin, ready to be revealed in the last time.—Christian Witness.

RULES FOR KILLING A CHURCH.

1. Don't come. (Psa. xlii, 4.)
2. If you do come, come late. (Psa. lxxxiv. 10)
3. If to wet or too dry, too hot or too cold, don't think of coming. (Psa. cxxii 1)
4. Don't imagine the front seats are intended for you, people might think you conceited.
5. Come bound to find fault. (Psa. C 1)
6. Don't for the world ever think of praying for your minister or the Church. (2Thess iii 1)
7. Dont sing. (I Cor iv 15)
8. Dont attend pray meetings, and if you should, dont take part. (Acts iii 1)
9. Dont encourage the minister but tell his faults to others. (Gal vi 1) If his sermon helps, you dont let him know it, might make him vain.
10. If you see a stranger in the audience dont offer to shake hands or invite, him to come again; people might think you bold. (Heb, xiii 2)

WHY HE SUCCEEDED

- No. 1. He made no special stir with his first discourses, commented on the good things the congregation had done in the past, and expressed a hope that others things might be accomplished in the future.
- No. 2. He was content to go quietly on his way and let the people decide for themselves what was in him, preferring to begin in humility and grow in power rather than to begin with a flourish and fizzle out in a year or two.
- No. 3. He had little to say about domestic matters, but his family was almost ideal in its relations, so that when he did speak he could thunder.
- No. 4. His wife allowed him to be the minister, and was content to be his helper in the work.
- No. 5. Winning friends was, with him a secondary matter; he worked for the Lord, remembering that "when a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- No. 6. For such as opposed him he had nothing but kind words; when opposition made his removal advisable he retired with dignity and grace, casting no reflections on any one and expressing a wish that all might labor on together in unity and love, and this final farewell word gave him the very quintessence of triumph in the minds of all good people and in his own heart.
- No. 7. He loved all his people and insisted on thinking them good people; knowing that his people held him in high esteem and tried to meet the ideal held.—Christian Standard.