

## IS YOUR AUTOMOBILE CONVERTED?

When a man decides to abandon sin and yield himself to the Lord Jesus Christ, there are a few things which we naturally expect of him. We expect to see him interested in helping others in every possible way, and, of course, we expect to see him cease every activity which has been in any sense a menace to others. These signs we expect to follow them that believe. And we have it in mind to urge that the same thing should apply to automobiles owned by Christian men. The activities of every such automobile should be distinctively Christian, and this is why we headed this article with the query, "Is your automobile converted?"

From not a few quarters have come complaints that the multiplication of automobiles has had the effect of decreasing the attendance at church, and has resulted in making Sunday a day of joy-riding and selfish pleasure rather than one of spiritual upbuilding and unselfish service. That there is a legitimate use of automobiles upon Sunday will be admitted by all, but the claim is made that this use has in many cases given way to a use which is neither helpful to the owner nor to the Church, and a detriment to the neighborhood. We would not exaggerate this damage, but at the same time we cannot afford to neglect it, and it would seem advisable that every user of an automobile should seriously consider whether what ought to be a blessing is by any chance in danger of becoming a curse.

If a man's auto "gets religion," it will assuredly develop a regard for the rights of others. Not so long ago an auto, driven by a good Christian man who is a member in good standing of a sister church, was about to pass a young lady who had stepped into the roadway to await a street car. The autoist sounded the horn for her to get out of the way, but she did not move. This exasperated the man so that he deliberately ran his auto past the woman within about a foot of her. His son turned to him and said, "Why, father, if that woman's dress had caught the wheel she might have been killed." "Well," answered the father, "she should have moved out of the way;" and the father could say nothing. We suppose that if the woman had been killed the jury would have called it an accident and acquitted the man, but we wondered if in the high court of heaven it would not have been written down "deliberate murder!" And yet he was a Christian man of unspotted reputation.

No doubt autoists have their own trials; no doubt many people on foot are very provoking; no doubt even the autoist who has the best intentions will blunder at times; but we fear that it cannot be denied that sometimes the knowledge that he can trespass upon the rights of others without incurring any danger to himself makes the autoist do things for which there can be no possible excuse. The auto which forgets to respect the rights of others is assuredly not a "converted" auto. "We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" is a motto which might not for a moment forget the rights of "the other fellow."

Again, if a man be a Christian for his

own sake and for the sake of others it is very desirable that he get "the church habit." It may be possible for him to serve the Lord alone, but is certainly not advisable, and when the auto is used to take the owner and his family off on Sunday for some pleasant picnic in the woods, where they can worship God in His great out-of-doors, we meet the same objection. It may be possible for this little auto load to serve the Lord alone, forty or fifty miles away from the home church, but they can only do it by robbing the home church of their countenance and help. And, despite all protestation to the contrary, we fear that this worshipping the Lord at the roadside weakens more than men realize the man's attachment to and his interest in his own church. It may be as legitimate to use an auto as to use one's legs in the endeavor to get a little fresh air upon Sunday, but that does not necessitate the forsaking of our church and Sunday School. The "converted" auto will not forsake the church.

But the plea is made that in some cases Sunday is the only day on which the autoist is free, and, as a matter of health, he really should spend Sunday in the open. If poor men made this plea it would be stronger, but when it is made by men who could, if they wished, take a half-holiday every week, but who instead of doing so keep adding to the business responsibility they have assumed, it looks as though there was an attempt being made to crowd the week-days so as to burden the man to the verge of breakdown. If this were necessary to the State it might be pardoned, but when it comes solely from the desire to get rich quickly it is hard to excuse it. Men have no right to break the Sabbath by overtaxing themselves the other six days.

We are glad to notice, however, that there are a number of autos which, judging by their actions, have been "soundly converted" These autos go about doing good. They are used to give the poor, the sickly, the crippled and children a little of God's out-of-doors that they would not otherwise see. They take the aged to church; they do errands for poorer neighbors; they are "Good Samaritan" autos, and men arise to call them blessed. They are only inanimate machines, but they preach continually the gospel of human brotherhood and Christian kindness. May their tribe increase more and more! Is your auto numbered with these elect ones? If not, better enroll it at once.—The Christian Guardian.

The goal invariably set before the racer in Scripture is a sinless state. And those whose talk about progressive sanctification without such definite goal talk nonsense. It is like shooting into vacancy and then prowling around through the weeds for the game.—Dr. Lowrey.

We are wholly unable to destroy or do away with the body of sin by any resolution or will power of our own. Sin will not go dead at our bidding, nor can we become dead to sin by wishing or striving to be so.—Dr. Dougan Clark.

"Humility and patience are the surest proofs of the increase of love. In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is a continual prayer."—John Wesley.

## OTHERS MAY! YOU CANNOT!

If God has called you to be really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience, that He will not allow you to follow other Christians, and in many other ways He will seem to let other good people do things he will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag on themselves, on their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making money, or having a legacy left to them, or in having luxuries, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, and that is a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord will let others be honored, and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.

He will let others do a great work for Him, and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes. The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. He will take you at your word; and if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say. Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not deal with others. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.—Selected.

How ashamed some of you will be who have made the mere Paris-born frivolities of society stand in the way of your sanctification.—Mrs. Booth.