

PENCIL POINTS FOR YOUNG PREACHERS.

The following points by Bishop Joseph F. Berry which appeared recently in the Christian Advocate are exceedingly suggestive. Can you find your weak point?

It is easier to acquire a good reputation than to lose a bad one.

It is a lot easier to be popular than useful.

Unless you are superior to your predecessor you are his inferior.

Speak by parables. Christ did. So has every winning preacher since.

Just notice what a hard time a preacher has in hitting people he aims at!

If you are not called to be a pastor you are not called to the ministry at all.

The young man who neglects sermon-writing will run to seed before he is fifty.

Needless noise is a fault of three-fourths of those who speak in the average auditorium.

You will never lift your people if you stand on an intellectual plane lower than they occupy.

My son, preach extemporaneously if possible. But steer clear of extemporaneous sermons.

The type of spirituality in your church will be largely determined by the type of your preaching.

No amount of time is thrown away which is spent in preparing to read the hymns and Scripture lesson.

When a preacher listens with real pleasure to praise of his predecessor, he is an authority on sanctification.

Do not be everlastingly telling about what you saw "when I was in college." If you have a college education your people will readily discover it, and need not be continually reminded of the fact.

The young fellow who studies books in the morning and house numbers in the afternoon is on the right track.

The rolling stone gathers no moss, they say. But it picks up a lot of experience.

The preacher who goes around with a theological ship on his shoulder has had his day. And let all the people say, Amen!

If you put off your pulpit preparation until Friday or Saturday, do not tell anyone. Keep secret the evidence of your egotism and folly.

Some ministers poke fun at those who use illustrations in their sermons. But I noticed that this is usually done by some dry old stick who couldn't tell a story attractively to save his life.

I know a preacher who is like a rooster. He lets his wife do all the work, and he does all the crowing.

SIN'S REIGN.

There is a terrible statement in the 5th Chapter of Romans which reads: "Sin hath reigned unto death."

This word "reign" suggests sovereignty, being ruled by a monarch. That monarch is sin. Men may say all the things possible to minimize sin or to make it appear less real and awful, but the fact remains that sin is a terrible, tyrannical, domineering master who reigns over his subjects with an iron hand.

What an awful condition—to have sin exalted upon the throne of our lives, wear-

ing the crown and swaying the scepter! Yet, this is true in the experiences of tens of thousands of lives. Men are enslaved to a tyrant who reigns unto death—not merely physical death, but eternal death.

"Death," how drear the word! Naturally we shrink from the thought of death, meditating upon it only when the subject is forced upon us and dismissing it as quickly as possible. Yet, sin reigns unto death and unto death only.

There is only one way to escape death and that is by dethroning sin. This man is unable to do, but the victorious Christ stands ready to dethrone sin. The heart of man is a disputed kingdom. Satan rules in it as a usurper. Man elects his king, and all that Christ asks is that man says the word and He stands ready to take over the throne, the scepter and the crown. Sin reigns unto death, but Christ reigns unto life eternal.—Gospel Banner.

EFFICIENCY—FOR WHAT?

A young man of twenty-four stepped into a business office in a large city and walked up to a desk where an elderly man sat examining a bundle of papers.

"Look at that, father!" the young man said with a smile of pride. "I've made nearly one hundred on my efficiency chart! What do you think of that?"

The business man looked up at his son with a smile and a feeling of pride at his appearance, and then his eye fell on the list of questions put by the efficiency bureau that had interested the young man to compete with many others for first place.

1. Are you physically sound and free from all trace of disease?
2. Can you apply yourself to mental labor without great fatigue?
3. Are you an exact mathematician?
4. Do you have any bad habits?
5. Would you be willing to employ yourself in a business that required honesty, quickness of judgment, keen intellect?
6. Are you quick to see and take advantage of a business opportunity?
7. Are you in debt? If so, how did you become so?
8. Do you have extravagant habits of dress, amusements, or social life?
9. Can you secure good letters of recommendation from business men in the city who know you?
10. How much money have you ever earned, and how did you earn it?

The father read the list and then, without a word, reached for a sheet of paper and put down the following:

1. Are you a Christian? Would you follow the teachings of Jesus if to do so should result in the loss of money and position?
2. Do you have some great cause of humanity at heart, and are you ready to give your heart's enthusiasm for it?
3. Are you as active and as useful in some church as you are in your business of money-making?
4. Do you pray and read the Bible daily?
5. Are you planning to do a man's part by sharing in the burden of good citizenship?

The father handed those questions to

his son. The son read them, and his face paled and grew red by turns. He faltered. His father was a distinguished and deeply consecrated man who had lived consistently the life outlined in the questions. The son respected him as he respected no other man.

"Father," he said finally, in a low voice, "that is real efficiency. I am going to try to live up to it; but right now I cannot answer those questions honestly and pass. It will take a long time to qualify?"

"It will take you all your life," his father said gravely.—Youth's Companion.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

The Reformed Baptist Missionary Society of Victoria held their monthly meeting, Feb. 19th.

Opened by singing, "Stepping in the Light."

Scripture reading by President, Mrs. Charles Shaw.

Prayer by Sisters Tilley and Haywood.

Reading of minutes.

Collection of dues.

Chorus—Since I have been redeemed.

Recitation—A Little Girl in China, by Annie Bradley.

Recitation—Only Ten Little Fingers, by Alice Shaw.

Solo—The Tempest is Raging—Mrs. Percy York.

Reading by Mrs. Charles E. Shaw.

Solo and Chorus—Sweeter every moment.

Recitation—The Missionary Echo, by Frankie Boyer.

Duet—Where He leads me I will follow, by Mrs. York and Mrs. Haywood.

Recitation—The Hungry Fed, by Mrs. Henry Elliott.

Solo—Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters by Mrs. Guy Birmingham.

Dialogue—Why we work for Foreign Missions.

Closing Hymn—Rescue the Perishing.

Prayer by Brother Somers.

Receipts of evening \$3.00.

MRS. W. J. HAYWOOD,

Secretary.

WHEN CHRIST COMES FIRST.

Putting Christ in first place never means putting others out of the place they ought to have in our life. Indeed, it means for the first time bringing them into the prominent place they ought to have. We never can love them as we should until we love Christ more than we love them. No husband loves his wife as he ought to until he loves Christ more than he does her. Only those parents love their children as they should who love Christ more than their children. To love Christ most of all is to love others as we never loved them before. In other words, putting Christ in first place never means that He is between us and a loved one as a barrier, but that He is now between us and that loved one as a bond. When, by surrender of faith, we let Christ accomplish in us the miracle of supreme love for Himself, then only can He accomplish in us the miracle of such love for our dear ones as we ought to have,—but never can have until Christ comes first.—Sel.

The cheerful giver is the one the Lord loves.