

THE REVIVAL NEEDED.

An Editorial from the Free Methodist. The revival season is here. All over the country among orthodox churches special services are being held. This is well. But much depends upon the character of the revival. If it is of the right kind it will be a blessing to the individual affected, to the home where he dwells, and the influence will be far reaching as to extent and as to time. It will be something permanent, that which will affect the person's whole subsequent life.

But much of the revival work that is being done is a curse instead of a blessing, because it is not thorough. The individual is deceived as to his relation to sin and to salvation. He has not been converted according to the divine standard. He probably has not drunk a single drop from the bitter cup of repentance. His sorrow, if he possesses any, is not of a godly sort. The deep of his soul has not been broken up. He has made no specific confession of wrong-doing to others. Those whom he has slandered or robbed of their reputation or goods are not reimbursed. No effort has been made to secure reconciliation with those to whom he has not spoken for months or perhaps years. He has not broken with his bad habits. He has not even been taught to give up things that the Word of God very plainly forbids. His profession amounts to but little. There has been no vital change in his moral nature or in his outward conduct.

Real conversion changes things. The individual gets out of the sin business at once. The work has begun in his soul. He feels different than the formerly did. He thinks differently. His actions are different. He has become a new creature. Old things have indeed passed away. Instead of being disagreeable and hard to get along with, he is now sweet tempered, reasonable and his words have lost their former harshness and bitterness.

Such an individual seeks the company of the pure and holy and avoids companionship with the unsaved and worldly. He loves the house of prayer and goes no more to the places of amusement and frivolity.

He takes his stand for righteousness regardless of consequences. His refusal to engage in dishonest business methods gets him into trouble and likely ends in his withdrawal or dismissal from connection with the concern with which he has labored for many years. But he fears not, knowing that the Lord has promised to take him through.

His conversion puts him out of fellowship with an ungodly world with its sinful pleasures and carnal amusements, but his companionship with the Lord Jesus and with the pilgrims far exceeds in delight anything he ever enjoyed while in the sinful state. He lives in a new realm and basks in the sunshine of God's presence. He can sing with Charles Wesley:

"Oh, how happy are they
Who their Saviour obey,
And have laid up their treasures above!
Tongues can never express
The sweet comfort and peace
Of a soul in its earliest love.

"That sweet comfort was mine,
When the favor divine
I received through the blood of the Lamb
When my heart first believed,
What a joy I received,
What a heaven in Jesus' name!"

Conversion means much more than resolving to lead a new life, turning over a new leaf the first of the year, going to the altar, signing a card, promising to do better, shaking hands with an evangelist, getting baptized with water, joining the church and mingling with the professed followers of Christ.

It means to have a personal knowledge of sins forgiven, to have the witness of the Holy Spirit in the soul, to have the companionship and communion with the Lord. While religion affects the outer life in every relation, it works from the heart. The outside reformation is caused by the inward regeneration. Without this inner change no amount of profession or endeavour will be of avail to satisfy the soul or please the Lord. We can not find favor with Jehovah by doing something and thus attempt to put Him under obligation to us. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He hath saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

It is a sad thing for a soul to be deceived at the very beginning of the Christian life, and by this deception have a distorted view of the Christian character, and possibly go through life unsatisfied and unvictorious over sin, and probably not only make a lifetime failure but suffer eternal loss. The influence for good that such a person might have exerted will be lost to the cause of Christ and many others may fail to get saved because of the loss of this influence.

We urge our pastors to continue to preach the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, however unpopular they may be, and lift up such a standard before the people that they will not be deceived as to their conception of the character or nature of real salvation. Better get a very few saved on Bible lines a year than have a large number profess religion who have not been converted.

TAKING OUT THE "IF."

Have you learned in all your approaches to a throne of grace to "take out the if?"

The question was asked by one who added the following as the personal testimony of a young girl who was present at a meeting, and really anxious for salvation. The story of the leper was told:—

"One day, a poor leper came to Jesus, and worshipped Him, saying, 'Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.' And Jesus put forth His hand and touched him, saying 'I will; be Thou clean.' And immediately his leprosy was cleaned."

The young girl said, "I noticed that there was an 'if' in what the man said, but there was no 'if,' and knelt down and said, 'Lord Jesus, Thou canst, Thou wilt make me clean; I give myself to Thee'—and He did it!"—Sel.

"PROHIBITION WILL NEVER PROHIBIT."

That was the cry of the anti-prohibits before we got prohibition (but the booze people are getting their eyes open and believe that it will prohibit. Ask two men in Toledo, O., about it. They determined to carry on the liquor business and defy the law. They put in a still and made their booze, but were arrested. One was fined by Federal Judge Killits \$2,000 and sent to the penitentiary for three and one-half years. The other one, \$1,000, and two years in the penitentiary. They are now satisfied that prohibition can and will prohibit. Also, they have learned the fact that is as true as the word of God, "The way of the transgressor is hard."—E. S. D.

What America needs today is six months of hell fire preaching. There would be some respect for law in this country. It is the people that believe in hell that die triumphant deaths. You never heard of a universalist dying shouting did you? I can't see how anyone could believe in the atonement and not believe in hell. Your sins killed the Son of God on the cross, and if your sin did that, it will damn your soul in hell.—Evangelist Bob Jones.

A BIG FISH IN A LITTLE PUDDLE.

When a boy I came across a great flood and freshet. The river had gone over its banks, and had swept some exceedingly large fish over. When the flood subsided it left the big fish in a small place with no outlet into deep water, so the poor thing was a prisoner and went floundering about, while all the time the water in the puddle was drying up. It fell an easy prey to the boys who at once caught the poor thing. I think I saw the counterpart in a clergy experience of a man who wanted a great appointment, but the Bishop and cabinet did not think it wise. So he went to a small station which looked like a drop of—standing in the ranks of the ministry. He was much hurt, made a flounder of it and with the result that his next was still a smaller place, so that he withdrew from the Methodist church, went to another denomination, had only one call and that to a poor country church which he served a year, and tried for other big churches, but none came. He is now an automobile salesman, with never a chance to preach. So it goes, if you do not make the best of the small appointment, can you hope to do better in the big places?—E. S. D. in Christian Witness.

THE TIME IS SHORT!

The time is short!
If thou wouldst work for God, it must be now:
If thou wouldst win eternal garlands for thy brow
Redeem the time.
I sometimes think my thread of life is slender—
That soon, for me, life's labor will be wrought:
Then grows my heart to other hearts more tender
The time is short. —Sel.