

ATTENTION TO READING.

In a late issue of the Pentecostal Herald, the editorial by Rev. H. C. Morrison, D.D., on the above heading is most excellent and timely and we commend it to the attention of not only all our ministers but to the laymen as well. It is so needful in these times of doubt that we give the article as follows:

St. Paul in one of his letters to Timothy, says, "Till I come, give attendance to reading." This is wise counsel and should be heeded by all those who would develop robust, spiritual life. Not only that we "give attendance to reading," but we must also give attention to what we read. Life is short at most; there are libraries of books that we can never read, while there is much reading of little or no profit; much that is wasted time, and much that is very hurtful.

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Some time ago the writer was addressing a large company of preachers and speaking on this subject, suggested that it was not healthy to the mind and soul of a preacher to give too much time to reading the doubts of the doubters, the philosophies of those who are out of harmony with the Word of God, or to following those professed truth seekers who have never found the truth, who have never been able to realize that Jesus Christ himself is the fountain and source of all spiritual truth; that to find him is to find rest, assurance, security and contentment; that out from him radiate light and wisdom. At the close of the address one of the best educated and most prominent ministers of the conference, came to me with tears in his eyes, and said, "For twenty years I have been a close student of the destructive critics, the apostles of the "modern mind," and I have crippled my own faith, brought leanness into my soul, quenched the glow of my love, and I have not seen a convert under my ministry in many years. I have lost my unction and spiritual power as a minister of the gospel."

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We believe the minister referred to in the above paragraph was relating the experience of a man whose heart was once aglow with divine love, who preached with unction, power and fruitfulness, but he drifted into reading literature that quenched, instead of kindled, his spiritual fire. He assured himself that he must be intellectual—abreast with the times; that he must keep up with modern thought; as a result, he lost all zealous love for sinful souls and drifted into intellectual pride; he looked upon himself as some sort of superior being, while he looked upon his brethren who were on fire for souls and winning the lost to Jesus, as commonplace, illiterate, and inferior men. He became proud and arrogant; boasted of his scholarship and commenced writing question marks over all the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. He is not sure of anything. I knew a prominent city pastor who said to a friend, "I have read so much from the destructive critics that I am no longer sure that any text I can take is really an inspired statement from God." The time has come when the young minister, the Sunday School

teacher, in fact, any and every one who would have spiritual life and be a devout Christian, must give attention to what they read.

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We will never develop a strong faith by reading the writings of those whose mission it is to create doubt. We will never fatten our souls reading the writings of those who are lean and scrawny in spiritual life. We will never warm our hearts following the pen of those who carry a chunk of ice in their left side. If we would have strong, healthful spiritual life we must cultivate faith; we must grow in humility; we must warm our hearts at the fires of holy truth. If we would be wise in the things of God we must seek the instruction of teachers who love and commune with God, who delight in his law, who revel in his Word, who worship and adore his Son, who know the thrill and witness of the Holy Spirit. There are few things that strengthen the faith, inform the mind, warm the heart, and stimulate the life to consecrated holy action, like the reading of true spiritual literature, communing with good men who have written down their wisest, highest, and purest thought of God, his Word, his Son, his great salvation, his mighty power, and his gracious and protecting providences. Let us be careful of what we read. We must not take the poison of unbelief into our spiritual life, but we must feed and refresh our souls on the truth as it is in Jesus.

INCREASE OF FAITH.

We increase our trust by putting God to a test which He so often challenges us to do in His Word, by inviting us to prove Him. But in putting the Lord to a test we must be sure to do it in the right spirit, which is that of loving obedience. If we attempt to merely experiment with God, and have a reserve in our hearts that if the matter does not turn out just as we plan it, we are going to distrust Him, it simply shows to His loving eye that we are stubborn and petulant. But if we test His promises in humility and utter resignation. He will astonish us by His responses, and thereby confirm all our past faith, and sweetly entice us to venture out on Him more and more.

We can put God to a test in time of trouble, when we are well-nigh overwhelmed with multiplied calamities, by turning our attention to the poor and the sick and doing what we can for their relief. We will find that in relieving the sorrows of others we ourselves will be lifted up by the Holy Spirit, into victorious prayer and deliverance. The Lord challenges us in Psalm 41 to put Him to a test in this manner: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." The Lord also promises to deliver him from his enemies, and make his bed in his sickness.

We can also put God to a test by giving Him one-tenth of all we receive, and see if He will not rebuke those things that devour our temporal welfare, and abundantly bless us, both temporally and spiritually. If any one is disposed to distrust God in these matters he challenges us to

test Him, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing . . . And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes." (Mal. 3:10, 11).

These are only a few instances in which we can put God to a test, just as truly in the supernatural world, as any scientific test in the physical world. In numberless ways, and over and over again in the practical details of life, we can prove God until we grow into the bold, sweet, yet reverential familiarity with Him, which increases our trust into a sort of living atmosphere, and our lives seem constantly bathed with the presence of God.—Wesleyan Methodist.

GOD'S WORD.

Various instances might be produced of persons who, when they approached the close of life, bitterly lamented their neglect of the sacred volume.—the Bible.

And numerous are the examples of persons, in all ages, who have spent much of their time in perusing it.

Moses and the prophets enjoined it upon the Jews. God himself commands Joshua to this duty; and David commends it to all. Christ and His apostles enjoin it on all Christians. Timothy was trained from his childhood in this way. The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily.

The primitive Christians were intimately acquainted with the Bible, and generally carried one about them. Such was their affection for it that many of them have been found buried with the Gospel lying on their breasts. Women wore it hanging at their necks. Children were trained up from their infancy to repeat it by heart, and some of them made surprising proficiency.

It is said of Dr. Marryat, that when a youth he committed to memory the whole books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah and Jeremiah, with all the minor prophets, and every one of the epistles in the New Testament, with the Book of Revelation, and that it was his practice to repeat them once a year.—Amos Binney.

NOT OLD.

A man is not old so long as he takes a lively interest in the on-going of the world about him. If he loves to look at the boys and girls as they come from school; if he is glad for the success and prosperity of his neighbor; if he finds causes which call forth his earnest support; if he is glad for every young man he meets who bears the evidence of high purposes in his conduct, and for every maiden in whose face he reads the promise of a sweet and happy home; if, especially, he enjoys to meet old friends and have them sit at his table; if he is still eyes to the blind and feet to the lame and a father to the poor; and, most of all, if the confidence of an eternal life of joy though his years exceed four score. Of beyond animates him, that man is not old, such an one it can be said, "Though the outer man perish, yet the inner man is renewed day by day."—Exchange.