

## FIRE

is a chosen symbol of God's

1. **Presence**, as in the pillar of fire by night, giving light to His people in their journeys.
2. **Pleasure**, consuming the sacrifice's acceptable to Him from off the altars of Abraham, of Aaron, of Solomon, and of Elijah.
3. **Purity**, as in the burning bush which Moses saw, the live coal which touches Isaiah's lips, the refiner and purifier of silver of which Malachi spoke: and the cloven tongues of flame which sat upon their heads at Pentecost.
4. **Punishment** of sin. As evidenced in the burnings at Sinai; the eternal fire that destroyed Sodom, the destruction twice of "fifty and their leader" by fire at the word of Elijah. And the everlasting fire sentences are symbols of His wrath to come.

Hence, we may conclude that "Our God is a consuming fire" in that (1) The fiery burning of His love consumes sin from the heart of a trusting believer who is committed to Him for that purpose as the precious metal committed to the refiner to be purified. (2) The flaming fire, of His wrath consumes the wicked with the brightness of His coming. (3) The eternal heat of His displeasure at the sin and unbelief of those who perish is to them as a fire that is never quenched.—J. H. S.

## THE ABSURDITIES OF MODERNISM.

Modern, so-called scholarship is demanding that we discard the Bible account of man's origin and adopt the speculations and guesses of modern scientists.

We had an amusing illustration of the absurdity of natural scholarship about forty years ago. The pulpits in some cities were ringing the changes on the origin of life, on a then recent discovery. There was found at the bottom of the sea a slimy substance, which the scientists called "Protoplasm, and Bioplasm." Anything to rid us of the Bible creation of human life. After a time scientists found that protoplasm and bioplasm was only a "sulphate of lime."

In spite of all this absurd contradiction of modern claims of philosophers and scientists we are asked to lay aside the Bible fundamentals and adopt the vagaries of modern destructive critics.

The only permanent satisfaction is found in holding to the old time-tested fundamentals, which our Fathers held, and which were the foundation of all Christian civilization:

God, and his Holy character. His creation of all material things. The Eden life of Adam and Eve. Their fall through disobedience and its descent through all posterity. Jesus, God's Son, through Virgin Birth. His Godhood, his gospel and death as the remedy for man's recovery from sin, both inherited and committed. Holiness of heart and life, the Father's gift to all disciples of Jesus.

"My friends, never look back when you're on a good errand."

"The best book to review in the pulpit is the Bible."

## LINKING UP THE FORCES.

The following portrayal of conditions as they are today, by Rev. Bob Shuler, taken from Shuler's Magazine we will do well to ponder over. It ought to be the incentive for serious prayer that these conditions may be changed.

"Any nation that dares dethrone God and spit contempt in the face of Jesus Christ can look for disaster without any considerable amount of delay. Europe is today reaping the whirlwinds of her infidelity and rationalism. America is pointed that way, having taken the Bible from before the eyes of her school children, having thrown the Sabbath open for festivity and gain, and having virtually deserted the idealism of the Christian home. The world has drifted from God, and the crash of the wreckage has startled the ears of men. America has not yet gone upon the reefs, but her directions are appalling. She is undoubtedly drifting. The anchor no longer holds the rock.

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America now heads for the breakers, with the thunders of a gathering typhoon to right and left. Are you searching for the cause? Go find it in the fact that the nation has forgotten God.

Public school education has been successfully paganized. Christian idealism must not be longer taught. The Holy Bible is not a fit book for the school room. Prayer as a part of the school program is this day impossible. Little wonder that our juvenile courts are crowded to the limits with high school girls and boys. Indeed, it would be a thing surprising if such a departure from American educational ideas and standards, as they were set up in the early hours of our public schools by the fathers, did not sire cigarette smoking, swearing and even sex-appealing girls to be the future mothers of the nation. **Wehn a high school principle in a great American city declares that 90 per cent of the girls of his school swear profanely, I am not at all astonished.** Such friutage has ever come from the character of planting that is now going on in our educational processes.

Nor is the public school alone to blame. Our church schools have compromised until disaster alone is possible. We are teaching our children rationalism as deadly as the Hun ever fostered in his pre-war universities and are doing it in the name of the church. Can we hope for grapes from such thistles? When the Bible is cut to pieces before the eyes of our sons and the creative power of God belittled until it is a campus joke, can you expect those same sons to come back to us strong men of Christian faith and idealism? When dancing and theatre-going and every other form of worldly and even soul-debasing amusements are encouraged in our so-called Christian schools, there is little wonder that our children come back from them, finished "flips" and flossy "flappers" rather than men and women whom God can own and the nation depend upon. I tell you that even Christian education (so-called) has about come to the place where the devil is delighted with both its process and its results. We are leaving God. We are departing from His standards. We are

forgetting His truth! And the end is destruction.

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The pulpit is reeking with the most damning liberalism. \* \* \* \* \* From the mouths of so-called prophets proceed the demand that the Holy Bible be scrapped, re-written, abbreviated, cut to pieces. And in the midst of such an hour, we foolishly ask questions as to why the very nation is sick unto death. In God's name, the wonder is that it has survived at all!" —Bob Shuler.

The incoming of the Holy Spirit gives people beauty. You cannot get more of the Holy Spirit, for He is a person; you have Him, or you don't. The Holy Spirit is a teacher—not of science and philosophy, but of the way to get to God. We get the Holy Spirit only when we can't go without Him any longer."

## RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATION.

Religious demonstration is not religion but true religion is accompanied by demonstrations. A religion without demonstration is not the religion of Jesus Christ. His religion has to do with such tremendous eternal issues, that no man can obtain it and realize its importance and experience and be cold and passive. As Robert Hall, the great Baptist divine, says, "That the objects which interest the heart in religion are infinitely more durable and important than all others will not be disputed; and why should it be deemed to be irrational to be affected by them in a degree somewhat suited to their value."

An emotionless religion is no credit or glory to God. For men to be enthusiastic about everything else and passive and unaffected by their religion argues that they do not consider it of so much value as other things. There is such a thing as making the religion of Christ so dull and insipid that it appears to be a thing endured rather than enjoyed.

A religion without demonstration does not appear to the world about us. The real joy of the Lord is intended by its demonstrations to put the world under conviction. A real shout that is inspired by the Holy Spirit will convict more keenly the unsaved than thousands of dry, dead sermons. A heart broken world all about us is looking for something that will cure their sorrows or give ease of heart under burdens and trials of life and unless we can show them that we have something to be found nowhere else they will go some where else to get relief.

We have put the brakes onto our religion so much lets there be wild fire that we have extinguished the real fire. We have tied weights on the safety valve and then dampened the fires lest we have an explosion. This writer is no friend of fanaticism but when we see the lack of zeal in religion all about us, we say better have wild fire than no fire at all. The old Indian said, "It is better to have the pot boil over than not boil at all."

David danced before the ark and God reproved severely his critic. His religious joy could not contain itself. We notice in Scripture that those who were filled with the Spirit spoke out with a loud voice.—Selected.