

Sept 15 '25
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Nov 15 '25

truths of God's word, and more deeply in love with the pure doctrines of our own church.

We are now picking up the threads of the work here and getting under the burden of it, and expect that God will lead us on to victory if we find out His will and follow the lead of His Spirit.

Yours in the King's service,
HANDLEY C. MULLEN.
Seal Cove, N. B., Sept. 9th.

CRITICISM.

S. B. Charlton.

I once heard a preacher say in a sermon "A church could make or break a preacher"; that by holding him up before God in prayer and by personal encouragement they could add to his usefulness, while on the other hand, by criticism and coolness could hamper and hinder his work. This is surely a startling declaration, and some might question as to its literal truth, but there is truth enough in it to make us realize, if we stop to think, that we, the laity, have a great responsibility resting upon us.

Now none of us are free from making mistakes or doing and saying things that might better not be said or done, and it might be no preacher who might be called to the pastorate of a church would be willing to guarantee that he would never make any mistakes or do or say anything that he might afterward regret.

So, whoever our pastor might be, our duty is to pray much for him and if we have been neglectful along this line, to resolve from now on to be more faithful to this duty; and if in his sermons there might be occasion to criticize, just take the meat that would be food for our souls and pass over that which, to us, might appear to be out of place.

Now the thought I have in mind relative to criticism and faultfinding applies equally to our relation one with the other as to that of pastor and people.

How ready we are to show off our superior wisdom by criticizing another's words and acts.

We profess much, our faith in prayer, and we say, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose," and may not the mistakes we make in honest endeavor in the Master's service be counted among the "all things." So, if we would put in practice what we claim in theory, instead of criticizing what seems, to our way of thinking, unwise, to say the least, would it not be better to take the matter to God in prayer, and if it is nothing that can be changed or remedied, just forget it and pray more that any possible evil because of what has happened, may be averted.

Let us stop and consider how serious a matter this may become if persisted in. For example: Someone has done something or spoken in a way that does not just meet with our approval, and the first person that we have opportunity to talk to we voice our criticism, perhaps in none too kindly a manner; later on, this one who has made this trespass, as we thought, while in prayer before God is brought to see wherein he was unwise and asks God to overlook it, and He does, cannot we see the position we have put ourselves in before God.

Or, a brother may have treated us unkindly and we feel much hurt, perhaps justly so, and we tell it to our friends, hoping, perhaps, to get sympathy, and mayhap they repeat it. Later this erring one comes around and says, "Brother, I have been thinking of the manner in which I have treated you and realize I was wrong, won't you forgive me?" Don't we see the job we have got on our hands to fix this all up with the folk we have talked to of it, and search

out the ones they repeated it to, and explain to them. What do you suppose that God thinks of us by this time.

God help us to see the awful hideousness of this monster Criticism!

Or, if it was a matter worthy of our thought or comment, would it not have been better for us to have got down on our knees and ask God to show them wherein they had acted unwisely or been unkind, and if we really believe as much in prayer as we claim to, God would hear and answer.

Anything that is not important enough to pray about is not worth talking about, so just keep still and forget it.

James truly said, "the tongue is an unruly member."

One of the greatest blessings God has bestowed on the human family is the gift of speech and the faculty of expression, but how often we allow this blessing to become a curse

S. B. CHARLTON.

25 Russell Street,
West Somerville, Mas

HOLINESS MINISTRY LEAGUE.

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us of having fulfilled our ministries by successes or applause of achievement which stop short of soul saving, spiritual results.

Church history is studded with notable instances of men who have wrenched themselves out of monotony, out of formality, out of bondage to a free and a full and a forceful spiritual ministry. Nor have these been always (in fact they have been very rarely) what we call "Come outers" or "Iconoclasts." Yet they have been heroes, courageous enough to be different from the rank and file of the ministry of their day and of their church.

No one, indeed, may hope to become, no, nor hope to remain a Spiritual minister of the Lord Jesus, without some special sacrifice to that end. And their sacrifice from what we have seen will be for the most part ecclesiastical sacrifice. His just rights and property and recognition will often be overlooked and sometimes oppressed and denied. He must pass at a discount of those whose rating of men is from viewpoints of expediency with men rather than of experience in the things of God. He will be not only depreciated, but often stigmatized by that class—come now largely into power—which elevate scholars above saints, and exalt education above revelation. He will be consigned to fields where his so-charged "reactionary tendencies" may be supposed to do the least harm to that "progression" which has led the church on to such spiritual disappointment and degeneration. But his God will be with him! The God of Daniel; the God of Shadrach; Meshack and Abednego; the God of Paul in prison and John in exile, yea the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ will be with him. And He will make true unto him the promise that "they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever."

"The man who perceives a superiority, or a capacity in a subordinate, and neither confesses nor assists it, is not merely the withholder of kindness, but the committer of an injury."

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

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sciously in our midst, anointing his servants, blessing his people, and also, we believe, speaking to hearts.

We would like to suggest that each church in this district take up a special offering for the purpose of sending at least one delegate to the Quarterly Meetings in the future.

M. ELLA SLIPP,
Secretary.

THE WELCOME GIRL

The welcome guest is the girl who, knowing the hour of breakfast, appears at the table at the proper time, does not keep others waiting, and does not get in the way of being down half an hour before the hostess appears. The welcome guest is the girl who, if there are not many servants in the house, has sufficient energy to take care of her own room while she is visiting, and if there are people whose duty it is, she makes that duty as light as possible for them by putting away her own belongings, and so necessitating no extra work. She is the one who knows how to be pleasant to every member of the family, and yet who has tact to retire from a room when some especial affair is under discussion. She is the one who does not find children disagreeable, or the various pets of the household things to be dreaded. She is the one who, when her hostess is busy, can entertain herself with a book, a bit of sewing, or the writing of a letter. She is the one who, when her friends come to see her, does not disarrange the household in which she is staying that she may entertain them. She is the one who, having broken the bread and eaten the salt of her friend, has set before her lips a seal of silence, so that, when she goes from the house, she repeats nothing but the agreeable things she has seen. This is the welcome guest—the one of whom we say good-bye with regret, and to whom we call out welcome with the lips and from the heart.—Selected.

"This is my blood shed for many for the remission of sins." Dare we deny this statement? Dare we set this statement aside as so much foolishness? Never, Never! The Blood, the Blood is all my, and your plea. Were it not for the Blood, we would be still in our sins, without a ray of hope, but thank God, for the Blood that cleanses!—Gospel Herald.

Any paper dated today is a back number concerning religious error compared to New Testament.