

GOSSIPING.

H. S. Hallman

A gossip is a tattler—one who repeats idle talk or unfounded rumors. They may be scandalous, half-confidential, usually ill-founded personal remarks about, or criticism, of others.

The gossip is a mischief-maker. He may have no intention of doing harm to anyone. He simply talks, and frequently adds considerable of his own to what he heard. He does not lie intentionally, but he fabricates stories out of his imagination that he cannot prove. Much of the trouble among church members is caused by gossiping. A few get together, and all kinds of conversation carried on in a careless way, and the gossip repeats to others what was said, and adds to it, to make it more exciting, and trouble is on hand.

Somebody said: "To every dispute there are four sides, the inside, the outside, the right side and the wrong side." The gossip always gets the wrong side. The wrong side affects both the inside and the outside of the person.

The best way to stop gossiping is to mind your own business. If your business does not require all your time, you have gone into the wrong business.

Disputes quickly follow criticism. Critics seldom do the things they advise others to do. The critic becomes a gossip and the gossip becomes a busybody, and a busybody is never a busy body.

Gossips are more poisonous with their bites than dog bites. Few are killed by dog bites, but slanderers and gossips have made many untimely deaths. The man who shoots off his mouth should be punished like the man who shoots off his gun that he did not know was loaded. It would be a great blessing if the Japanese proverb "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil," were heeded.

The gossip is a mischief-maker and an artful dodger, hard to locate. He is a liar of the worst kind. He always attacks the absent one, and that is cowardly. More trouble has been caused by gossip than by any other thing, except strong drink.

If you expect to grow in grace, you must cut out gossip. Preachers are sometimes found to gossip. I shall never forget the advice my first Presiding Elder gave me when I had moved on my first field of labor. He said: "People will come to you and will find fault with some brother or sister. You have to listen to them, but when they are through you simply say 'my.' If they get no encouragement from you they will soon stop talking about their brother or sister to you." Many a preacher has got himself into difficulty by listening to gossip and taking part in it. The next time you start to speak ill of or find fault with any one, curb your tongue, and you will instantly feel the benefit, for you are learning to control your tongue. If you find yourself where gossip is carried on, turn the conversation. Keep in mind the following scripture passages:

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth; and the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, so is the tongue."—*Jas. 3:5.*

"If a man among you seemeth to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, the man's religion is vain."—*Jas. 1:26.*

"But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment, for by thy words thou shalt be condemned."—*Matt. 12:36, 37.*

"A froward man soweth strife; and a whisperer separateth chief friends."—*Prov. 16:28.*

"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles."—*Prov. 21:23.*

There is hope for the gossip if he repents and confesses his wrongdoing.—*Gospel Banner.*

I SHALL NOT WANT.

By Mrs. M. E. Brewer

Thank the Lord I shall not want for rest, for He maketh me to lie down in green pastures and says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

I shall not want for refreshments, for He leadeth me beside the still waters. I shall not want for forgiveness, for He restoreth my soul. David said, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

I shall not want for guidance. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye."

I shall not want for courage. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." I shall not want for comfort. "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Jesus said, "I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you . . . and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." "O spread the tidings round, wherever man is found, the Comforter is come."

I shall not want for joy. "Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." "Thou wilt show me the path of life." "In thy presence is fullness of joy." I shall not want for any good thing in this life, for, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

I shall not want anything in the life to come. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

For me the ties of earth are growing weaker and the ties of the life to come are growing stronger. There once was a large family of us gathered around one hearthstone. But now we are separated and some have crossed the river that has no bridge. Others are preparing to go. Now the family is parted. Will it be complete some day? "Will the circle be unbroken by-and-by in a better home awaiting in the sky?"—*Herald of Holiness.*

DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL ISSUE.

It is a fact confirmed by the history of Christianity that there is real danger of missing the real point in religion. It has always been thus. In the days of the apostles, designing men were ever trying to engraft upon Christianity human philosophy and speculation. To counteract these the epistles of the New Testament were written. The apostles had to be contending constantly against attempts of designing men to adulterate and weaken the standards.—*Christian Witness. II Chron. 12:14.*

Just let your light shine—you do not have to shine—if you have it.

FUTURE PUNISHMENT.

V. May Dorman

And he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord. (Said of Rehoboam)—*Chron. 12:14.*

Wickedness is its own punishment.—*Quarles.*

All who take on the Satanic character must expect the Satanic doom; all who bear the devil's image must share his destiny. So all who bear the likeness of Christ will share his glory.—*Rev. Daniel Steele, D. D.*

The soul of man can by no agency of man or of devils, be lost and ruined but by his own only.—*Carlyle.*

Our heaven and hell, the joy the penalty,

The yearning, the fruition.—*Lewis Morris.*

As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live.—*Ezekiel 33:11.*

If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?—*Ezekiel 33:10.*

He, the only Just, wills for each one what is right. Be of His hundred names this one the most exalted. Amen!—*Goethe.*

He threatens the innocent who spares the guilty.—*Coke.*

Oh, mighty force of truth that by itself so easily defends itself!—*Cicero.*

Oh! the dullness and the hardness of the heart of man, which contemplates only the present, and does not rather provide for the future.—*Thomas a Kempis.*

The world is like a staircase; some are going up and some going down.—*Proverb.*

A GOOD MEAL OF THE LORD

Life is more than material and outward; it is spiritual and inward as well. If the outward and physical should have attention, so should the other. Indeed, if comparisons are to be made, then we should earnestly insist that if either is neglected it should be the outer man rather than the inner.

Jesus said that man should not live by bread alone. There is a nature "bread" can not feed—but by the "Word of God."

We, lately, were situated to observe the daily life of a housewife. We noticed that the Bible was a regular companion. As regularly as the days came (and we observed this for two weeks) she sat down with this book in her lap and read it at some length; indeed, she actually seemed to put more time into this than at her table feeding her body. And she was a busy woman. Her telephone rang many times a day and her time seemed to be mortgaged to the interest of the Church and her neighbors.

Is it not needless to say that this was soulful and songful? She was both. She fed her soul. She was lean in her body; evidently not so in her soul.

We need good meals of the Word. Here is a secret. Here can be had strength. Not to give attention to this means—alas! how many know what?

Sit down with the Word. Read it regularly, and, if possible (and it is) at some length; and find as conscious satisfaction and strength as one ever gets from eating food for the body.—*Christian Witness.*

Many a man of great talent has walked in spiritual darkness because his big head got between him and the sun.—*Christian Witness.*