

## GOD'S EMPHASIS

C. V. Fairbairn.

Dr. Drummond eulogizes Love as "The Greatest Thing in the World." The Apostle Peter wrote, "And above all things have fervent love among yourselves." 1 Peter 4:8. And Paul, in perfect agreement, says, "And above all these things, put on love."—Col. 3:14. God places the emphasis on perfect love. He would rather have his saints possess and practice this than anything else in the world. O yes, God has only one goal for his saints.

God loves holiness. Satan hates it and fights it in every possible way. He gets some preachers to declare the experience impossible of attainment. He gets others to teach its postponement till death. But he finds others who will advocate the experience in spite of him. He has to plan new tactics then. Some of these he gets to make the way so difficult as to baffle attainment. In other cases, he gets them to misplace the emphasis, thus befuddling, distracting and even deceiving anxious souls. He gets one to emphasize signs and wonders, until the whole crowd goes to seeking tongues or something, instead of the fulness of love. He gets another to emphasize some manifestation of joy, until seekers discrediting the Spirit's own peculiar witness, will accept nothing as evidence except that certain demonstration. Still another will advocate some peculiar idea, wrongly called a conviction, until the crowd cannot see holiness for that thing. With one it will be a mode of baptism. With another, it will be some new speculation on Second Coming. And with still another, some one agent of sanctification, the Blood, the Word, faith, or fire, will be held up to view till believers' minds are distracted. Well, may the dear Lord bless them all, sprinklers, pourers, immersionists, pre-s and posts, those who emphasize the Blood, those who emphasize the Word, those who emphasize faith, and those who emphasize fire! May He bless them with that more sacred baptism by which we are all baptized into one body whether we be pourers or immersionists. Amen and amen!

At Perth, July, 1923, the Lord revealed a great truth to Sister Fairbairn. It looked as though a certain crowd would take the meeting clear out of everybody's hands. Sister Fairbairn's public declaration was, "The Lord has let me see that the devil will let us ride the hobby of divine healing, second coming, plain dress, tongues, or anything like that, if he can only get us to leave out holiness, that God's quarrel is with sin." Brethren, that is the truth. If we make such issues our stock-in-trade, the devil will let us be quite popular with a certain crowd, but let us come right out plump and plain, declaring that God's great quarrel is with sin, sin in the heart and sin in the life, and O how the devil will rage!

Men not only sidetrack themselves when they misplace the emphasis, but they ditch others also. How the vision must have pained Apostle Paul, when he had to tell the elders, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock!" How much worse must have been his hurt, when he had to add, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, (on purpose) to draw away disciples after them!"

"Above all things have fervent love among yourselves. ABOVE ALL THINGS." Here God places the emphasis. Above all other doctrines, above all other issues, "above ALL THINGS put on love, which is the bond of perfectness." Love makes the brethren one. Love answers Christ's prayer for the brethren. Those other issues tend to divide the brethren. They hinder the answer to Jesus' prayer by creating

heart, society, and church distinctions unwarranted by Scripture. The church of God must take her stand militantly around the doctrine of perfect love. Firm here, and she can rise and march to victory. Neglect this, desert this, or take up position anywhere else, and though she be ever so sincere, ever so zealous, ever so ready to advance her cause, she is foredoomed; for already death's decay has set in.

We are just as far from Divine order as the distance between our emphasis and God's. "Be not carried about with divers and strange teachings," says the Spirit. "For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats (or anything else), which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."—Heb. 13:9. We believe that the waning of victory for many a soul, the loss of power with many a preacher, the dwindling of many a society, the wasting away of more than one conference can be traced to the undue emphasis of nonessentials to the neglect of the great essential and the grieving of the Holy Spirit.

O let us humble ourselves, and pray, turning from these our wicked (albeit unintentionally so,) ways: then shall God hear from heaven, and forgive our sins, and heal our Zion. Then shall the Holy Ghost be "given to them that obey him." Then shall "the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us." Then shall we have that charity which "suffereth long and is kind" and "covers the multitude of sins." Such divine love is brother-uniting, backslider-winning, world-convincing, God-like, Christ-like, the very essence of that Holy Spirit which makes God God. Without this we are no longer of the holy people; we are "weak like other men."

O God, give us to see that if Thou canst be consistent and bless a man, we can be consistent and love him; that if Thou canst call him son, we can be consistent and call him brother. Help us to ever place the emphasis where Thou dost. Give us fervent charity among ourselves. Give us that fulness which overlooks every fault it possibly can, covers defects which it mourns but cannot remedy, and procures, through His All-prevailing Name, pardon for what it cannot overlook, and ever desires to restore the erring one in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted. Amen, and amen."

McPherson, Kansas.

## THE LITERARY DIGEST POLL

Much has been said and written with reference to the poll experiment of The Literary Digest on the prohibition question. The wets may get all the comfort out of this they possibly can. We find out of the 20,000,000 ballots sent out, 406,464 marked ballots were returned to The Digest office. Considerably less than one-fifth of the people who received the ballots returned them. This was purely wet propaganda, and we may safely say, a flat failure.

This wet "pole" is entirely too short to knock prohibition persimmons. It is hardly a good length walking cane. It is not long enough to make a good policeman's billy. It would make a baton for a wet leader to wave in the swan song of anti-prohibitionists. We thank God and take courage over all of this noise worked up in the interest of the saloon down-stairs and the bawdy house up-stairs.

The Devil and his servants have never invented anything one-half so destructive of everything good and hopeful in humanity, as the liquor traffic. It has emptied homes of everything that brings comfort and happiness,

and hearts of everything that brings peace, and filled up more pits in outer darkness with hopeless souls than almost all other inventions of devils and men. May God stir up every well-wisher of humanity to drive the liquor traffic from the earth.

It is an interesting and hopeful fact that the recent vote in Pennsylvania shows how utterly untrustworthy The Literary Digest poll is. For instance, The Digest poll gives 147,557 votes for enforcement of the prohibition law; 136,233 for modification; 246,063 votes for repeal of prohibition. In the recent election in that state before the totals get in, we find at least 700,000 votes for the dry candidate and a little over 200,000 for the wet candidate. You will find the wets' newspapers very quiet on this subject. Never allow yourself to be deluded in expecting any sort of square deal from the friends of the saloon. They live in a realm of selfishness and darkness that disqualifies them for anything like a true vision of things best for their fellowbeings. The whole liquor interest is utterly selfish. Those who make and sell liquor which intoxicates and degrades their fellowbeings, are in the business, not for the welfare, comfort and happiness of their fellowbeings, but for money. They love money. They would blast homes, destroy bodies and damn the souls of their fellowbeings in the pits of eternal torment for money—the love of money that burns their eyes, shrivels their souls and makes them indifferent to the murder of women, the starvation of ragged children, the blight and wreck of manhood. They are after money.

The time has come when we need to have a great prohibition revival in these United States. The enemy is busy and the servants of God and the friends of humanity cannot afford to be quiet or indifferent, but we should be, not only on guard, but constantly advancing and assaulting the enemies of God and humanity. Every pastor ought to preach to his people earnestly on this subject. The preachers in the counties and villages should have church union rallies on Sabbath afternoons, bring the people together and give them rousing addresses on the subject of prohibition. Prohibitionists ought to write articles for the county papers—everything that can be done, should be done to arouse the people. The battle against the saloon and its representatives should be kept hot until they are made to know that the time has come for them to shed a drop of innocent sweat to get their board instead of the selfish method of degrading and destroying their fellowbeings with liquor, and living off of the blood money they receive for such degradation. Hit the whole liquor business. Hit it often, hit it hard! Stamp the very life out of it! Show it no quarters! Give it no mercy! Save the men who are in the business by driving them out of the business into something legitimate and honest.

It should be well understood that, from this time forward, that we are not to trust Literary Digest polls to fix the destiny of this nation, or to regulate its moral and spiritual welfare.—The Pentecostal Herald.

The men and women that are lifting the world upward and onward are those who encourage more than criticize.—Elizabeth Hanson.

"He who rules himself is every inch a king."  
—Wesleyan Methodist.