

THE MORALITY OF THE PREACHER'S VACATION

Some slight intimations of reflection upon the preacher's annual vacation have at times appeared, but these intimations are not well founded. It is the preacher's physical, mental, spiritual and pastoral duty to take a vacation at least once a year, and this vacation should be a month in duration, should not be spent somewhere in a revival, should not be made up too completely of travel, but should be a time of real rest and change.

Only a little time ago a preacher was commending himself for having been "at it" for fifteen years without a vacation, and he was even then speaking in a weary voice about the many weeks ahead during which he was sure that there would be no let up in his toils. He was trying to be very religious about it, but even a casual observer could see that he was physically weary, mentally fagged, spiritually strained and not more than eighty per cent efficient. Such a preacher needs a guardian. Some of these times he will break, then he will take a long vacation during which he will not rest. He may not die, that would be a mercy upon his folly; he may simply break down his nerves or fall into the snare of the Devil because of his over-strained condition.

The extremes of life are much closer to gether than the means and one extreme, and an overworked preacher, who scorns vacations is just the kind of a preacher who will overeat, eat food that does not agree with him, eat late at night when the service is over, indulge in social intimacies that border on evil, and finally break down morally and go wrong.

The preacher in order to be safe and efficient must be physically fit, mentally fresh, and spiritually keen, and he cannot be all these all the time. The only alternates are to be mediocre a lot of the time or to be efficient part of the time, and there is no question but the latter is preferable, and it is possible only if the preacher is religiously careful and punctual to take his vacation.

D. L. Moody never allowed himself to become absorbed in his evangelistic work but that he would religiously take off four months of the year and spend it in rest and prayer and study. He loved to get away in some mountain resort where the call of service would be the smallest. Here he would rest and pray and read and when he appeared in his next campaign he would be as fresh and rested as a boy. Beersheba, Tenn., a mountain resort which was so far away from the roads of travel that in several years of preaching in that section, we never found opportunity to visit it, was one of Moody's favorite resting places. And Mr. Moody counted his rest period of four months absolutely essential to his eight months of strenuous activity.

And you will find that Spurgeon was careful to take his vacation, and that other eminently successful preachers found it positively necessary to observe periods of rest and adjustment in order to do what they did. It is vacation time now, what are you going to do about it?

Oh, you say, my charge is too poor. I cannot afford a vacation. Take an inexpensive one. That is the best kind any way. Go off and spend at least two weeks in the woods—you can live as cheaply there as you can at home and you will come back a new man.

This is the first time we ever wrote on this

subject, and we do it now because we can plainly see that life, health, efficiency and morality are all involved, and because we know that many who read this (holiness preachers have not usually believed in any but enforced vacations) need to be stirred on the subject.—The Preacher's Magazine.

GOOD ADVICE

A writer in the "Free Methodist" gives some practical and timely advice to Camp-meeting goers. Among other things he says: "There ought to be greater interest taken in these gatherings. Begin early in forming your plans to attend at least one of these seasons of grace. Much prayer and fasting should precede the time. Go with a determination to make all your God-given energies bend toward the success of the meeting. Don't make it a time of mere recreation. It should not be a place of ease or rest. It is a call for burden-bearers. Attend every service, if at all possible. Pray before the service, at the service, after the service; pray all the time. Keep in a spirit of earnest prayer. Everybody be a booster during the meeting. Get burdened for the lost. Do but little social visiting, for it dampens your zeal. Abstain from criticism. Don't leave the service during the altar call; it attracts attention and diverts the minds of others as well as your own. Much depends on you as to what the results of the meeting will be. Be deeply concerned about it. Be prepared to shoulder any burden that may be presented. Lose yourself in God and the welfare of souls. Disabuse your mind of the thought of merely having a good time. The Master calls for workers, not drones. If God has blessed you with a family of children, take them along. Labor for their salvation, and may the coming camp meetings be record-breakers, both in deep spirituality and in the symmetrical unifying of our forces for greater aggressiveness in the Lord's harvest field. The clarion call is sounding forth. The militant hosts are soon to gather their rallying forces. The chariot of salvation is heard rumbling through the land. The mighty weapon of God's Word is being unsheathed. The Gospel ensigns are being unfurled. 'Put on the whole armor of God.' Everybody get ready for the fray.

Who says, Amen?"

—Church Herald and Holiness Banner.

THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN

"Let us go forth unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach" (Heb. xiii. 13).

I cannot give it up,

The little world I know—

The innocent delights of youth,

The things I cherish so!

'Tis true, I love my Lord,

And long to do His will;

But oh, I may enjoy the world

And be a Christian still!

I love the hour of prayer,

I love the hymns of praise,

I love the blessed Word which tells

Of God's redeeming grace.

But—I am human still!

And while I dwell on earth,

God surely will not grudge the hours

I spend in harmless mirth!

These things belong to youth,

And are its natural right—

My dress, my pastimes and my friends,

The merry and the bright.

My Father's heart is kind!

He will not count it ill

That my small corner of the world

Should please and hold me, still!

And yet—"outside the camp"—

'Twas there my Saviour died!

It was the world that cast Him forth

And saw Him crucified.

Can I take part with those

Who nailed Him to the tree?

And where His Name is never praised,

Is there the place for me?

I. Corinthians ii. 8

Nay, world! I turn away,

Tho' thou seem fair and good;

That friendly, outstretched hand of thine

Is stained with Jesus' blood.

If in thy lease device

I stoop to take a part,

All unaware, thine influence steals

God's presence from my heart.

I. John ii. 15

I miss my Saviour's smile,

Whene'er I walk thy ways;

Thy laughter drowns the Spirit's voice,

And chokes the springs of prise.

Whene'er I turn aside

To join thee for an hour,

The face of Christ grows blurred and dim,

And prayer has lost its power!

James iv. 4—Galatians i. 4

Farewell . . . Henceforth my place

Is with the Lamb Who died.

My Sovereign! While I have Thy love,

What can I want beside?

Thyself, blest Lord, art now

My free and loving choice,

In Whom, though now I see Thee not,

Believing, I rejoice.

I. Peter i. 8

Shame on me that I sought

Another joy than this,

Or dreamt a heart at rest with Thee

Could crave for earthly bliss!

These vain and worthless things,

I put them all aside:

His goodness fills my longing soul,

And I am satisfied.

Psalms cvii. 9

Lord Jesus! let me dwell

"Outside the camp" with Thee!

Since Thou art there, then there alone

Is peace and rest for me.

Thy dear reproach to bear

I'll count my highest gain,

Till Thou return, Rejected One,

To take Thy power, and reign!

—Margaret Munro

RIVERSIDE CAMP MEETING

We will soon be gathering at Riverside to engage in our annual camp meeting, which begins on Aug. 7th and continues for ten days. This should be a great meeting, and it will be, if the children of God put enough into it. Let us wait upon God in special prayer for a great out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the camp. The committee to secure special workers have engaged Rev. Jordan W. Carter, D.D., of Wilmore, Ky., as our evangelist. Dr. Carter is a strong, sane holiness preacher and worker. He has been in Northern Maine during the summer, in tent work on definite holiness lines. We trust there will be a rallying of the forces and a united effort on the part of the holiness people in Northern New Brunswick and Maine against the forces of darkness, that a great victory may be gained in the saving of sinners and the sanctification of believers. Let us do our best to bring this about.