

## CHRISTIANIZING CHRISTIANS (?)

By Mrs. H. C. Morrison.

Those who read the daily papers and especially those who read the various church papers, have an idea of what we are facing in the so-called Christian America. The heading of this article seems paradoxical, but it expresses a condition which we are facing in this day, for they are *not all Israel who are of Israel*.

We have recently read an account of the World-Conference on Christian Fundamentals which interested us, and caused us to thank God for this movement which is seeking to preserve the fundamentals of the Christian religion, in this day when the powers of unrighteousness are striving to undermine the faith of the humble followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This conference was held in Chicago where Dwight L. Moody did such a great work for God. The fragrance of his ministry still lingers in that great city, and from it, throughout the world. The sessions of the conference were held in the Moody Tabernacle Church, of which Paul Rader is pastor. It was one week's duration, but was run with tremendous zeal, there being forty speakers chosen from the most conservative leaders of the old-fashioned faith in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain.

The objective of this conference was *orthodoxy*, but not an orthodoxy that did not manifest itself in life and character. It is said that Graham Scroggie, of Scotland, gave an address on the "Risen Christ," and became so enthusiastic at the conclusion that he shouted "Hallelujah" three times at the top of his voice. This, to say the least, is refreshing! I suppose if that should occur in any one of our pulpits today the people would become frightened and think the preacher was "beside himself."

We recently read an article which was discussing the propriety of saying Amen when the preacher made a good point in his sermon. We also heard of a preacher who requested that no one say Amen, as it disturbed him. Our judgment is, that a preacher who would buckle the harness on so tight as that would not be likely to say anything that would provoke an Amen. We would suggest that none of those who read this stay away from church for fear of being "disturbed" by Amens, for they are few and far between in these days of frigidity and formality.

But back to the conference, whose purpose it was to emphasize the *need of fundamentals*. It is said that a young man appeared upon the platform, apparently sincere and earnest, but not entirely free from the shackles of skeptical Modernism as taught in too many colleges and theological seminaries, and who sounded a false note. He said that, "All a sinful man needs to do to get in touch with God is to act as though God exists, and that power will begin at once to work in his life." It is said that Paul Rader bowed his head in his hands, and the convention was strangely silent as the young man spoke. It was remarked that "The solemnity and unresponsiveness of the audience must have been the working of that mighty law, 'the voice of a stranger will they not follow!'" How fitting after such an unwholesome innovation, that Mr. Rader should offer a prayer that praised God for the sinner's approach to Him through the blood of the Lamb of God, the atoning blood shed on Calvary.

It may be of interest to our readers to know the Doctrinal Statement of this Conference on Fundamentals, so we give it as follows:

I. "We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments as verbally inspired of God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

II. "We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

III. "We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

IV. "We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also that spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

V. "We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all that believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.

IV. "We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.

VII. "We believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

VIII. "We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God

IX. "We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost."

We wish to explain ourselves in giving this article the heading we did, by saying that, notwithstanding the fact that we are known and respected as a Christian nation, yet there are many who hold high positions of leadership who are not "contending for the faith once delivered to the saints," but are seeking to undermine and destroy that faith with vain philosophies and erroneous ideas brooded in the incubators of skepticism and higher criticism, and hatched out of brains contaminated with the modern forms of infidelity afloat, not only in our own dear America, but throughout the world. When it becomes necessary to hold conferences to emphasize the *need of returning to the fundamentals of our Christian religion*, then we say our Christianity (?) needs Christianizing.

But Paul tells us that such will be the condition of things in the *last days*. And, in view of this fact, he drops a word of hope and comfort, when he says, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his." Listen! He gives this fatherly admonition to the true minister, lest he become impatient with the deceived one. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

I wonder if you have gotten my idea of *Christianizing Christians*? Let us Pray!—*Pentecostal Herald*.

Religion that doesn't abide with one twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week isn't worth having.

## TWO BIG BEARS

Alta Zimmerman

Little Betty came in from her play and sat down on a stool at her mother's feet and said, "Mother, tell me a story." Her mother asked her, "What kind of a story?" "Tell me a Bible story. One that I have never heard before." replied Betty, to which her mother gladly consented.

"A great many years ago, even more years than you can count there lived a man by the name of Elisha."

"Did he live before Jesus lived?" asked Betty (for she located all Bible stories before or after Jesus was born.)

"Yes," replied her mother, "and Elisha was getting to be an old man. God had taken the preacher, Elijah, to heaven so Elisha had to fill his place. He was what would be called today an holiness evangelist. He went from city to city and preached the gospel. Told people how they should live to please God but no doubt it was the same then as now, for some people found fault with him and said mean things about him and probably made fun of him or else some children would not have done what they did.

"After God had taken Elijah up to heaven Elisha stayed for a few days at Jericho at what we would call today a Bible School. Then he started for Bethel and as he was going along the road a big crowd of children came out and made fun of him, laughed at him and said mean things to him. The Bible tells us one thing they said which was 'Go up, thou bald head.' Elisha then turned to them and rebuked them and the Lord sent two bears out of the woods which tore forty of the children. You see it was very displeasing to God for these children to make fun of Elisha—God's minister—and it is just as displeasing to God for children to make fun of the preacher today.

"There are two bears that the Lord sends today upon children who make fun of God's minister, although they are not real bears like those two bears were that came upon these children. Yet they are just as dangerous to children as those bears were.

"One bear's name is 'Faultfinding.' When this bear gets hold of children he tears them that is, makes them disagreeable and unpleasant so that no one likes to have them around. This bear causes children to fall out and have a fuss while playing. All little girls and boys should keep an eye open for this bear and when they see him coming they should run as far away from him as they can.

"The other bear's name is 'Irreverence.' This is the bear that causes children to make fun of those who go to Sunday School and church. He also causes children to whisper while the preacher is preaching, or while the people are praying and causes children to cut up in the Sunday School class. Also this bear causes children to wear their dirty clothes on Sunday and go fishing and hunting instead of going to church. This is a very mean bear and he tears children so they appear very displeasing to God and unless they stay away from this bear he will make them so ugly and mean that they will not get to heaven."—*Christian Witness*.

Study your neighbors, not with a view to getting the advantage of them, but with a view to helping them.

There is not a hero in the Bible who was called from idleness. They were elected from one form of activity to another.