

"PERILOUS TIMES" A CHALLENGE TO HOLINESS PEOPLE

By P. Wiseman.

What a time of turmoil and trouble! Surely the Scriptures regarding the sign of His coming, Matt. 24, also 2 Tim. 3:1-7, and other passages, are being fulfilled today. The condition is world-wide and evidently beyond the skill of man to remedy; "distress of nations; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth."

There was never so much talk about peace as at the present, yet the nations, almost without exception, were never better prepared for war. It is estimated that "the world today is spending four and a half billion dollars a year on armaments." It is a matter of "peace, peace, when there is no peace," or as another Scripture has it, "when they say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

At this time the world's sky is black with war clouds, and some of them have already burst upon the poor people of China.

The unsettled state of things nationally and among the nations affect the church. "The accusers of the brethren" is busy making his accusations, sowing discord, doing everything possible to destroy vital spirituality. The devil would put out of business every spiritual force, and that quickly, if he had his way. He knows very well that division kills spirituality, and hinders God from working.

This is a time for carefulness, prayerfulness, steadiness, unity, confidence and faith in God. It is a time when Christians should practice real Christianity. It is a time to stress that state of holiness apart from which no man shall see the Lord which blessed state means a readiness for life and death, a readiness for his coming.

This is a time when holiness denominations should practice practical holiness in their attitude toward each other; a time for emphasizing the great essentials of our faith, stressing the things that tend to unite us and not the things that divide. As holiness people we are God's people and that blessed and exalted grace of full salvation which has thus honored us, should enable us to exercise that charity toward each other which will help us put to the world, the flesh and the devil a united front for practical Christianity, an unanswerable proof of real heart religion.

Oneness Convinces

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee that they also may be one in us that the world may believe that Thou has sent me—I in them and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; that the world may know."

God wills this oneness not only in particular denominations and churches; but among the holiness denominations. "If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." This statement has a general as well as a particular application. In this perilous time, this time of drift from God this time when every sacred aspect of human life is threatened, when modernism threatens our very spiritual and Christian educational foundation, yea, our very national life (for what is national life without the sacred foundations laid down in the Word of God) in this time rings out the challenge to holiness denominations for unity against one common foe. In our humble opinion there should be more effort in this direction; for it seems to us that just as nations cannot live

independently of each other, nor can we live long independently of each other. It is reported that Cromwell on one occasion remarked, "You may be in the right and I in the wrong, but if we be divided I doubt we shall both be in the wrong." That love which will enable us to practice the Golden Rule will help us out. Amen! We want something for our children, the rising and coming generation, after we are gone.

Division Destroys and Hinders God From

Working

We were profoundly impressed recently while reading a statement from the pen of that noted world evangelist Rev. D. L. Moody, on this line. This is what he said: "There is one thing I have noticed as I have traveled in different countries; I never yet have known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people were divided. Unity is one thing that we must have if we are to have the Holy Spirit of God to work in our midst."

"If a church is divided, the members should immediately seek unity. Let the believers come together and get the difficulty out of the way. If the minister of a church cannot unite the people, if those that were dissatisfied will not fall in, it would be better for that minister to retire. I think there are a good many ministers in this country who are losing their time; they have lost, some of them, months and years; they have not seen any fruit, and they will not see any fruit, because they have a divided church. Such a church cannot grow in divine things. The Spirit of God doesn't work where there is division, and what we want today is the spirit of unity amongst God's children, so that the Lord may work."

Our Hope

Let us keep clean; keep under the blood; keep a sanctified conscience; keep filled with divine love, "the love that beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things endureth all things, the love that never faileth;" live where

"Trusting is like breathing here,

Just as easy, doubt and fear

Vanish in this atmosphere

In Beulah Land;"

live in the blessed enjoyment of the communion of the Holy Ghost, where He is real in our life and ministry; live where we really "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit"; live where God is supreme in all our thoughts, words and actions; a life of aggressive holiness evangelism; a real practical holiness life; live under the gracious outpourings of the Spirit; live where God the Holy Spirit has right of way in our life.

This perilous time is not a time for biting and devouring one another by bitter controversy, evil speaking or otherwise; it is rather a time to get under the soul burden for a lost and helpless world. It is a time for a united front against the great enemy of God, the enemy of the nations, the enemy of the church, the enemy of the home and individual. God help us. Amen!

"Like a mighty army, Moves the church of God; Brothers, we are treading, Where the saints have trod;

We are not divided, All one body we:

One in hope and doctrine, One in charity."

In our moments of meditation recently, we found ourselves repeating the foregoing stanza in this way,

Like a little army, marking time for God

Brothers, we are resting, Where the saints have trod,

We are divided, many bodies we,

Many hopes and doctrines, many charities.

but God forbid; and give us the realization and

experience suggested by the old stanza as it is in the hymn book.

The challenge is to us who profess the exalted grace of full Salvation. What are we going to do with it? Shall we take sides with God in this dark hour, the closing period of the end of the age, and get His glorious gospel out, or shall we fail God, allow the devil to divide, thus kill and hinder the Spirit's working? What is our answer.

Annesley College, Ottawa, Canada,

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MORE ABOUT PASTORS

AND EVANGELISM

C. V. Fairbairn

The pastor must be the center of the Revival, says Dr. Peck—and we believe he is right—"There must be a strong hand on the helm, and that hand should be the pastor's. If he would have a revival, he must be in the revival spirit and stand as the center of its revolving fires." Allowing all due credit to the labors and co-operation of the laity, nevertheless, the revival must center in the pastor. It must dominate, inflame, and impel him. It must be as fire shut up in his bones so that he cannot, will not rest till his contagious faith and zeal have set others on fire. It will be felt in the grasp of his hand, heard in an undertone in all his conversation as the season draws near, and break out in hidden fire in all his prayers. His sermons will take shape and intensity from the consuming passion that burns within him. His pastoral visits will breathe solicitude for the unsaved. Others will become aroused to kindred concern. The revival interest spreads.

Obstacles stimulate the pastor to more heroic determination. The coldness of many intensifies his zeal. The doubt of some that revival is possible challenges his faith. His closet echoes with prayers and is sprinkled with tears. As general, he begins marshalling his forces for the battle, starts the conflict, and holds them to the contest with unflinching courage and faith. He must be the human center of the courage, faith, and energy of the revival. Often it requires great pluck and prodigious work to bring a discouraged, disheartened, or perhaps ease-loving church up to the work. But there is nothing else to do. A revival is the stark necessity of such a church. It is revival, or death. There is no self-recuperation in such a church. God must come and quicken the dead. Nor must the pastor wait till the whole church is aroused. Aroused himself, aflame with the revival spirit, let him inaugurate special meetings and sound the trumpet. Some will be found to rally to his side. With these begin the battle. From the very first, let it be felt that it is no mere skirmish, but a siege till the enemy surrenders. "We once stayed all night in prayer with a few heroic souls," says Dr. Peck, "and within three days the work of God was moving grandly." Often the first services, sometimes two or three weeks even,—we have proven this to be true on our own fields of labor in the pastorate—are utterly discouraging, but persistent pluck will be rewarded. Keep at it.

The preacher for the revival, whether pastor or evangelist, must, above all else, be a holy man himself. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." Says Dr. Fish, "A sermon may be constructed after the best models; it may conform to all the rules of homiletics; the text may be suitable and fruitful; the plan may be faultless; the execution may