

CORRESPONDENCE

January 5, 1932.

Dear Highway Readers:

Another year has passed. In its passing we look back to many experiences which have verified to us the promise, "Lo, I am with you always." How many times the Christian is obliged to look back on life's experiences in order to see that God did answer the prayers for "special guidance" that were so earnestly prayed. Each year God writes on our hearts more clearly the great truth that "God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," and yet Paul tells us we must not live too much in the past but urges us to give our whole redeemed energy and thought to the successful accomplishment of future attainments. What a year of advancement for our denomination it would be if every member would "press toward the mark for the prize of the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus" as advocated by the apostle. That "mark" was not set by Paul, but by God, and the apostle realized that his future happiness depended on his apprehending it. How it would quicken the pace of our spiritual activities if all professed Christians would realize that God has said to the servant who had missed this "mark" (not in Christian living, but in Christian service). "Take ye the unprofitable servant and bind him hand and foot and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

I fear sometimes in our efforts to correct this mistaken ideas regarding sanctification, viz: "the setting apart for a sacred purpose or use" without any cleansing merit, that we have made a similar mistake inasmuch as we have neglected to emphasize the setting apart for "service side". Paul says, "we must present our bodies a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service," being transformed by the renewing of our mind that we might prove what the perfect will of God is concerning our place of service in the body." And when we have discovered our place and calling, if it be prophecy "let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith", or if ministry, "let us wait on our ministering", "or he that teacheth on teaching," etc. But for the sake of the struggling church and for Jesus' sake do something. Don't be a drone and only show yourself to prayer meeting when some co-incident carried you there; or to preaching service when some preacher is occupying the pulpit that never "hit" you; or only put a nickel in the offering when you have paid out ten times that in the last week for candy, ice-cream, or perhaps tobacco; or perhaps have lived the whole year of nineteen thirty-one without giving one dollar to Missions; if this be our record it seems I can hear Paul saying, "When you do go to church, where people know you, please do not testify to sanctification, for the folks who know the full meaning of the word will wonder how you keep the "cleansing" without the "living, sacrificial service."

Well, nineteen thirty-two is to be another "test-sheet." May God help us to do something worthy of our high calling.

One thing we know God is good. How often when justice would say, "cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground," the dear Lord says, "spare it another year, and if it bear fruit well, if not then, cut it down.

This may be the final "test year" for many. What a mighty stirring there would be in all our churches if we knew assuredly that nineteen hundred thirty-two was the end. It may be. It will be for many.

Now for a few words of thankfulness to God

and His people for creature comforts:

Our Christmas season this year was one of the best we remember of. So many presents—so many messages of good will, and then to "run the cup over" the members of the Seal Cove church came to the parsonage one evening bringing with them a generous donation of groceries, glassware, money, etc., besides much cheer and good wishes for the future. We thank God for these fine people who have been so kind to wife and I during these four years we have served them as pastor.

We have been holding a service each Sunday afternoon in the Advent church at Woodard's Cove for the past few months. The services have been encouraging. Two have professed conversion of late.

These people also remembered us with a fine offering Christmas Sunday. We tried to thank them, not alone for the gift but also for the expression of good-will it contained.

Brother Percy Green and wife, of Wood Island, also presented us with a fine gift. We say thank you one and all.

By the time this article goes to "press" we will be in the second week D. V. of our special services. Rev. H. S. Dow is the evangelist. We ask the prayers of all for a gracious, old-time revival which God only, can give to a people who are all the Lord's.

Brethren, pray for us.

F. A. DUNLOP

THE NEW YEAR

How swiftly the past year has flown into Eternity. Truly, in the words of Robert Hall: "The wheels of time are not made to roll backward. Everything carries us on toward eternity. From the birth of time an impetuous current has set in that bears with it all the sons of men toward that interminable ocean."

We can not stop it in its wild flight. The best we can do is to accept the inevitable and make the most possible out of the passing days.

The irrevocable record of the old year is made. We can not change it if we would. If we have failed to walk in the light it brought, if we have neglected the opportunities which came with it, the blame is upon us, and with the blame should come grief because of our failure.

But it is wisdom on our part to profit by the delinquencies of the past and be more careful in the future to keep our covenant vows with the Lord. By so doing we shall have a better record at the end of the year should the Lord be pleased to spare us to see its close.

But who can tell what this new year will bring to us? The brevity of life and the certainty of our coming dissolution should make us desperately in earnest to make the most out of our fleeting hours. We can, by the grace of God, live so holily every day as to have the smile of Jehovah resting upon us.

Life is too short at best to use it for selfish ends and purposes. There is a better way than this. Horatius Bonar has put the thought in good form:

'Tis not for man to trifle! Life is brief
And sin is here.

Our age is but the falling of a leaf,
A dropping tear.

We have no time to sport away the hours,
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

Not many lives, but only one have we—
One, only one;

How sacred should that one life ever be—
That narrow span!

Day after day filled up with blessed toil,

Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil!

We are living in a fast age. Hustle, bustle, haste make the order of the day. The time was, not far in the past, when horses were not allowed to trot in a funeral procession to the graveyard. Now the auto goes there at a lively speed. Every invention that makes it possible for us to travel fast along the road or through the air increases the probability of our hasty exit from this world. Life was never so uncertain as at the present time. When we go out in the morning and bid farewell to our loved ones we have no assurance that we shall return when the day's toil is done. All this suggests the wisdom of being prepared for entrance into the far country, from whence no traveler ever returns.

This preparation for the future is the best possible preparation for the present life. The surest way to have a happy year is to start right, by entering into covenant relations with the Lord. This will insure success whatever may come or go. To walk with the Lord means help in time of temptation, grace to bear the trials and tribulations of life, and to have joy abiding.

Shall we not make this the best year of our lives? It is gloriously possible to live every day pleasing to the Lord, to do His will as we understand it, and as each day comes to a close to realize that it really has been spent in the Master's service. To have victory over sin, over ourselves, and over the spirit of the world is an experience that is our privilege to enjoy by the grace of God.

We trust our readers, one and all, may not be satisfied with present attainments, but "forgetting those things which are behind," may reach "forth unto those things which are before," and, like Paul, "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," and thus make 1932 a year of spiritual progress. Thus we will be a benediction to others and be happy ourselves. —Editor, The Free Methodist.

VICTORY'S FINAL SECRET

Only surrendered persons are victorious; but not all surrendered persons are victorious. "Surrender" means turning ourselves wholly, utterly over to God, to let Him do anything and everything that He pleases with us. To be victorious is to have Christ supreme in our life; and of course he cannot be supreme there while we continue to hold on to anything ourselves. Therefore it is that so much emphasis is properly put upon the "surrendered" life, the "yielded" life. But some make the mistake of thinking that this surrender, this yielding, is all there is to it; and they find that they are not victorious, and wonder why. The answer is simple: surrender or yielding is only our part; the victory is Christ's part; and until we believe that He is doing His part in us in perfect completeness, victory cannot be ours. So, after letting go of our own lives that Christ may be supreme in us, we must then say that we know that He is now working the whole miracle of our victory. And we must know it or else say, consciously or unconsciously, that Christ is false; for He pledges to us His word, "My grace is sufficient for thee." So this is the last secret of victory: to accept, by simple, blind faith, without any evidence, the fact, based on God's Word, that Christ is now our complete victory. That is why the victorious life is better than merely the yielded life; for yielding is our part, but victory is God's part; and His part is always bigger and better than ours.