

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

TOM MAKES SOME RESOLUTIONS

Dear Joe:—

Happy New Year! Ring out the old, ring in the new; Thirty-five, we're through with you. Thirty-six comes on apace, with smiles of welcome on her face. With smiles upon her brand new face; good omens for the human race. How is that for poetry—a first attempt? I know you will smile at it, but the holiday season has sort of got me under its spell, and sitting here in my room alone with a most gorgeous night shining in through the window, I must give vent some way. And then I have an invitation to spend New Years about fifty miles from here. You ask me who and where? That's alright, I'll tell you some day—perhaps. I haven't found it as irksome staying here at the college for Christmas vacation as I thought I would. I didn't want to stay at all, but since some of the church people are helping to pay my expenses here, I didn't feel I should spend their money going home and back, when I could just as well stay here. About twenty students in all are on the campus. We had a tree in the college parlors, and we each put all our presents on it and gathered there like a large family on Christmas morning. And then with a real Christmas dinner in the dining hall, I have had a very fine time. Of course it has been lonesome, and I know the home folk miss me like everything, but they sent me lots of things to help give me a good Christmas. The pen and pencil set you sent me are most acceptable, for I have just about wore my old pen out. Many thanks!

Strange as it may seem for me, I am nevertheless making some New Year's resolutions these days. Most people seem to laugh at the idea, I used to myself, and most resolutions end like the case of the fellow who stopped smoking and took it up again three times, all on New Years Day. But I feel a few resolutions will help a fellow. Of course they aren't enough in themselves, but on the other hand, God won't do everything for us. He gives grace and strength, but only after we have done our best. It is good for us to have a few things to go by—to have a few things already decided upon in case of an emergency—to have YES and NO already signed and sealed on some matters. I believe a fellow can steer himself clear of many temptations by having it all decided beforehand what he is going to do on certain occasions. Of course some things are already settled. NO has already been said to things with the stamp of the world upon them. And the last YES has been said to all the known will of God. But there are many things in between that can get a fellow into difficulty. Things on the "no harm" plane, or in the "good enough" realm, or in the "get by" sphere, have to be watched. I have determined to make the most of my time, and to get the most out of what I do, whether it is work or play, duty or pleasure. And then I am going to try to always sacrifice that which is good for what is better, and the better in turn for that which is best. I have resolved to be of the most use I can wherever I am, both to those around me, and in the service of the Lord. And then I believe it is God's will for me to find the place in life and the field of labor where I will

be able to accomplish the most in the long run. It's not enough to be doing good work today, but today's work should lead to and prepare us for better and bigger work in the future.

I didn't used to think much along these lines, but these few months in college have made me see things in a different light. I know what I have said may sound quite amateurish to you, but to me they are the seed of that which will be worth a lot to me someday. And now I must close. It is already to the time when I am to meet a group to go on a skating party. This is one of the few evenings this winter when there will be good skating, so I must away. Again, Happy New Year! Write when you can.

Always your friend,
TOM.

SUGGESTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Recipe For Happiness

In the first twelve verses of the Sermon on the Mount, found in the fifth Chapter of Matthew, Christ gives us a perfect recipe for perfect happiness, that inward happiness which is but the foretaste of future never-ending bliss.

1. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT. Those who realize that they are poverty stricken in soul without God.

2. BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN. Religious mourners. Those who mourn because of their poverty of spirit.

3. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK Not only the meekness of Moses, but the gentle, loving, tender, compassionate, merciful meekness of Christ.

4. BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Those whose deepest cravings are after spiritual blessings."

5. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL. Those who show mercy in the same measure as they received it.

6. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART. Those whose hearts have been cleansed from all sin.

7. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS. "The peace-receivers become transformed into peace-diffusers."

The secret of real happiness is here shown to be given in the various steps which lead one into an experience of heart holiness. Justification is experienced in the fourth, where they who hunger and thirst after righteousness are filled. Sanctification is found in the sixth, for the pure in heart shall see God. Without Holiness no man shall see the Lord. There is both a present happiness to be found such as cannot be compared to any other on earth, and also a future, never-ending bliss is promised. The reward for poverty of spirit is the Kingdom of Heaven. The reward for spiritual mourning is eternal comfort. The reward for meekness is the inheritance of the earth. The reward for soul hunger and thirst is complete filling—absolute satisfaction. The reward for showing mercy is the continued merciful favor of God by which we were saved. The reward for a clean heart is a glimpse of God which will never end. The reward for being peace makers here on earth is recognition that we are the children of God. Then he tells us in the eighth beatitude that all of these qualities are to be the object of persecu-

tion from the world. But we should "rejoice and be exceeding glad," by remembering the blessed experience which has always followed to those who have been thus persecuted. The Kingdom and all its riches are ours. We are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ." Great will be our reward in Heaven.

SPIRITUALISM

(By Jennie Henry)

(Concluded from last week)

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air; his watchword at the gates of death; he enters Heaven with prayer." If Daniel needed to pray three times a day, and if Jesus needed to spend whole nights in prayer, how essential it is that we, in these days when there is so much to tempt us away, spend much time in secret prayer. God has given us many precious promises to encourage us. He says, "pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit," "pray everywhere," "continue instant in prayer," and we are given the promise, "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength," and that when we draw nigh to God He will draw nigh to us. As we read the lives of some of the mighty men of old, we read about lives that were backed up by prayer. We may not be called to fill such places as they filled, but each is called to a life of service, hence to a life of prayer. May God help us to see our need, for it is only as we realize our need that we will endeavor to pray as we ought.

It is not necessary that much be said here concerning the results of spirituality. We all know from studying Bible characters and the lives of great men, founders of great Holiness denominations, just what has been the result of spirit-filled lives. Peter, after Pentecost, was so filled with the Spirit that through his message and testimony for Christ he was the means of saving three thousand souls. We too can be filled with the Spirit. We have all been saved for a purpose, and that is that we might be soul-winners. We each have our place to fill. Dr. Lyman Beecher, when asked concerning his success, replied, "It is not I who does it, it is my Church. I preach here as hard as I can on Sunday, and then I have four hundred members who go out and preach by their lives every day of the week." It is only as we meet conditions in such a way that we prove God faithful to open the windows of Heaven and pour us out blessings that we are not able to contain, that the world will be touched through our lives.

Young people, let us not get self-centred nor self-satisfied. May we never lose the vision of lost humanity, nor of the happy consequences of doing work for God in this life. Let us determine in our hearts to keep spiritual, for God needs us in His service.

By the lodestone of thy love
Draw my heart to things above.
By the power of grace divine
Make my will the same as Thine.
By the glory of thy face
Lure me to the dwelling place.
Let my whole affections be
Centred, gracious Lord, in Thee.