



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

THE DANGER OF EXPOSURE

Our young people seem to be pretty well informed concerning the essential requirements of salvation, and are proving that they can make the necessary break with the things of the world, and have grace to live above them. We understand perfectly that a Christian must have a personal heart experience, and a "going on to perfection" disposition; and when he loses these he has backslidden. There is no middle ground. Our societies have not, and do not have to, resort to divers sorts of amusements to hold their members. We have our eyes pretty well open to the situation and know where the line must be drawn. We rejoice in our manifest spiritual life, and are moving ahead with confidence.

Nevertheless there is the danger of overconfidence. Let us not glory in our system of beliefs, nor in our rigid adherence to the truth. Let us not be unmindful of our danger. We must work with a sword in one hand. Young people all around us are going to excess in all manner of unwholesome pleasures and practices, which are fast becoming popular—the more daring and unrestrained, the more popular — while the teaching of the religious world in general has no word to give, and no remedy to offer. At best this will have an unconscious influence upon us. We must be careful lest we first ignore, then permit, and lastly embrace these things. Right now we are in the place where we are liable to think that we as individuals can expose ourselves in one way or another to worldly influences and unsound teachings and escape unharmed. But it cannot be done. When God places us from necessity in the furnace, we will come out without even the smell of smoke upon us, but we will be badly burned when we ourselves venture too near to the furnace door. Let us ask God for wisdom and grace. He will help us to meet this problem as it should be met, whether it be in our societies, or in our individual lives—in the school, on the street, preparing for our life's work, or pursuing our daily occupation. Salvation has no guarantee against undue exposure.

HARVEY J. S. BLANEY.
Y. P. Editor

DESIRE OF COMFORT

It may be said that the whole human race is busy trying to make itself comfortable. Comfort in its elements include three meals a day, a place to sleep, and a little something to wear. But these are usually considered necessities, and comfort comes with some of the "finishing touches."

Comfort as just defined has to do with the physical body. But it is possible to become so interested in mental comfort, physical comfort will even be sacrificed to it if necessary. Many a young student struggles in poverty for years in order to gain an education, when comfort could have been bought at the expense of giving up the educational opportunities.

The ethical and moral bearing of our subject already begins to emerge. In fact, it is even a religious privilege to encounter an experience that may be called "The revaluation of values."

Have you already seen the picture of the young student, first giving up the physical comforts in exchange for mental achievement, and then with joy finding that the mental treasure is more delightful than the physical treasure would have been? Then go one step more. It is possible to give up, if need be, both physical and mental thrills to obtain spiritual treasure, and then find that the treasure found is immeasurably greater than the treasure relinquished.

Let us assume now that we wish to participate in this program of yielding up physical and mental comfort in order to obtain spiritual comfort. There is a danger that we need to point out at the start. It is: We have not progressed far so long as we look wistfully back at the things that we have relinquished.

Have you heard the testimonies in which we were told how much money would have been made had the testifier not accepted Christ? Why blame Christ for your diminished income? It is easy to make a lot of money in imagination, but if money is of no value as compared to spiritual treasure, why trouble to even mention it?

Here is a lesson we wish you to get right now: Do not exchange one thing for another if you are robbed in the transaction. No one is asking you to give up bodily comfort and mental fame and skill in exchange for character and spiritual attainment unless the latter is almost infinitely more valuable to you than the former.

When a man buys a piece of furniture normally worth one hundred dollars, and pays but ten dollars for it, does he go around saying, "I paid all of ten dollars for this piece of furniture?" No, hardly. He calls your attention to the value and beauty of the article, and usually is quite willing for you to think that he paid more than ten dollars, if you do not come right out and ask.

In the same way, when we give up anything in exchange for spiritual blessing, we should be so vividly aware of the value of the spiritual blessing that we will hesitate even to mention what we gave up in exchange, since anybody, if we didn't say otherwise, would naturally assume that we gave up more than we did, or at least would have been willing to give up more.

This would not seem to be very important, but it is important. The Christian life, if it is genuine, is one that should be vastly more happy, even under unfavorable circumstances, than a life in which someone is trying to get happiness from physical and mental considerations. The only thing that would jeopardize this Christian happiness would be for you to look wistfully at wealth or great scholarship, like Lot's wife looking back at the burning cities of the plain.

There is a man I know who lives just a door or two outside of the city limits. For that reason he cannot have city water piped into his home. But he has had a well dug right on his own place, and an automatic electric engine to pump this water into his house. And so he is independent of the city and the city water. Those who know say that he has tapped a living vein, a crystal clear river of water underground, and could pump enough water out of his own well to furnish a village of many thousand inhabitants.

So there you are. He has not city water, but he doesn't need it, for the water wells up right on his own place. Likewise the Christian does not always have the type of pleasure that comes from great wealth or great scholarship, great amusement or great fame. But he doesn't need to get his happiness from any such sources. He raises his happiness right out of his own heart! This happiness flows in to him from Heaven itself. It is a slice of heaven served in advance, just as an indulgent mother at times gives Johnny a piece of cake an hour or two ahead of supper time.

All through this lesson we have assumed that when a man becomes a Christian he has to give up physical comfort and great learning and the other displays of the world. But you know, and so do I, that all about us are true and devout Christians who have found that godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and the life that is to come.—Selected.

TOM HAS GOOD NEWS

Dear Joe:

Hurrah! Be happy with me! Help me to rejoice! Hold me down while I tell you something! Brace yourself for the good news! I am going to college this fall! Yes, Sir, this very fall—September 10. The wondrous conclusion was arrived at last night. And you should have been a party to some of my dreams. I dreamed about it all the time I wasn't lying awake thinking about it. I was graduating with honors when my alarm clock went off. If I can contain myself for a few minutes, I will tell you about it.

Dad has always said that he wanted me to go to college as soon as I finished High School, but when we talked about where I should go, he seemed awfully particular. He found the same thing wrong with most of the colleges, and when I graduated in June he said he guessed he would start me in the office with him. (And do I hate Insurance). He talked about so much modernism being taught, and about degrading influences, and I even heard him say once that he would rather I never went to college at all—that I live and die a numbskull and a pauper—rather than run the risk of having my faith in God and the Bible and Salvation ruined. I thought he was awfully hard on me at first, but I have gradually come to see that he is about right. I sure thought that my last song had been sung as far as college was concerned. But a quartet of fellows was at Camp from some college down near Boston. (And could they sing). I talked with them and found that smoking and dancing and such things aren't even allowed at the college, and that prayer meetings are held just like at our own church, besides revival meetings every little while. All the Professors are Holiness men and women. It isn't a second-rate place either. They hold a high standard of scholarship, offer all the courses I could ever want to take, and give degrees and everything. I gave the fellows my name, and soon got a letter from the President. Yes, Sir, the President himself wrote me a nice letter. I showed it to dad, and talked to him, and coaxed him a little, and he wrote some letters and investigated a lot, and at last