

THE URGE TO NAKEDNESS

Modesty of attire is specifically commanded in the Scriptures, and it is taught by implication in a hundred passages. But now the costume of the bathing beach is ever more abbreviated, and there is a craze to extend the bathing beach attire as far inland as possible. So that on the streets and in automobiles half-dressed women and girls expose their charms for the admiration of Tom, Dick and Harry.

Women who are hardly brazen enough to use the extreme scanty attire themselves send their little girls and sometimes larger ones out on the streets dressed for persistent and continual sex appeal. This is an attack upon the morals of the girls themselves, and an attack upon the morals of all men who see them. That women and girls in outfits built for the exposure of the person can parade our streets and in our homes with no evil moral results is a beautiful theory—but false.

In attire there are two striking marks of heathenism. One is the loading of the person with truck, such as beads, gold, glass and brass on neck, arms, legs, fingers, ears and nose. Nakedness is the other heathen habit. Neither of these shows refinement. Both are gross. They are not in good taste. If they were in good taste they could not be Christian—not with the open Bible in our hands to guide our way. Whatever the heathen near or far, may do, let us do what we can to save our "Christian" civilization. Remember that your conduct and that of your family sends influence perhaps afar. Let the Christian avoid nakedness and semi-nakedness in public places.—Free Methodist.

SPURGEON AND THE BOOKWORM

"Search the Scriptures diligently."

C. H. Spurgeon on one occasion went into Scotland and stopped at a wayside inn. There he picked up an old worm-eaten Bible. He held it up between himself and the sun, and there was just one place that he could see the light clear through. One worm had begun at Genesis, and eaten right through to Revelation. Mr. Spurgeon said, "Lord, make me a bookworm like that!"

Oh, that we all could just eat into the Bible a little section at a time! But if you study it word by word you will be enriched. Word studies of the Bible are like picking up pearls and diamonds.—A. C. Dixon.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is the greatest thing in the world. It is also the costliest. "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." That great word makes two things clear. The first thing is the enormity of sin. It requires some great and worthy cause to justify the sacrifice of a life for its sake. It cannot be cheap and worthless if a man dies for it. The cause for which Christ died must be immeasurably great. Sin could find no easier solution, no cheaper way. If men are not troubled about their sins, God is mightily troubled, and Jesus Christ was troubled unto death.—Sel.—John Macbeath.

It matters to Him about you.

I. Peter 5, 7 (Literal translation).

Every time you plant a doubt in my heart you add a pain.

A CEMETERY FOR FAULTS

We all make mistakes. None of us is infallible. This is a self-evident truth which we are willing to admit but likely to fail to remember and apply in our relations with others. We would do well to keep our minds open and discount much of the unpleasantness we encounter every day.

Our best friend may hurt our feelings by an act of which he is barely conscious. We know he did not mean it; we know that he would apologize profusely if he knew what he had done. So why fret about it?

Someone whom we like very much may do or say something which, to our way of thinking, is painful or insulting. Yet we can see that he meant no harm; his angle of thought simply did not coincide with ours. So why sit and worry about it?

Life is far too short to spend even a few minutes doubting the sincerity of our friends. And friends—real friends—are far too few and valuable to risk on the altar of suspicion. We must simply remember that everyone does not think as we do; that everyone does not react in the same way we do; and (and this is by far the most important), that no one is entirely without fault. If we will keep this truth where it can be seen and if we will but have the wit and tolerance to act on it, our lives and the lives of our associates will be considerably less gloomy and more gracious.

Henry Ward Beecher, it is said, once remarked that every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.—Donald Spatz, in *The Challenge*.

NO HAPPY BACKSLIDERS

Come now, backsliders, tell me, Are you happy? Have you had one happy hour since you left Christ? Does the world satisfy you, or those husks you have got in the far country? I have travelled a good deal but I have never found a happy backslider in my life. I never knew a man who was really born of God who ever could find the world satisfy him afterward. Do you think the prodigal son was satisfied in a foreign country? If a man has been born again, and has received the heavenly nature, this world can never satisfy the cravings of his nature. Oh, backslider, I pity you! But I want to tell you that the Lord Jesus pities you a good deal more than any one else can. He knows how bitter your life is; He also knows how dark it is. He wants you to come home. Oh, backslider, come home today! I have a loving message from your father.—D. L. Moody.

THE SMOKER AND THE REST OF US

From the *National Voice* we have the information that "Careless smokers caused 47,845 fires throughout the nation last year, or twenty-three per cent of all forest fires, the Division of Forestry reports."

Add to this, if you will, the tens of thousands of fires caused by smokers in private property; and the fire losses by the cigarette can be computed annually in hundreds of millions of dollars.

The insurance companies pay much of this loss, to be sure. But do not be too sure! An agent said to us the other day, "These rates are too high. Cigarette fires make them so."

Therefore, add this to the other counts against the wicked habit—the rest of us help pay the expenses.—Free Methodist.

WHAT THINKING MEN SAY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible.—Prof. W. L. Phelps, Yale University.

In a state university a young man may enter and go through a four-year course and reach the day of his graduation as completely ignorant of the ethical and spiritual teachings of the Bible as when he entered.—President W. O. Thompson, Ohio State University.

Christianity is the salt, life, light, and it must express itself intentionally and powerfully in saving, lifting and enlightening. . . . Christianity needs the Christian college to keep pure its deposit of truth. It is charged with certain definite revelations from God.—Dr. John E. White, President, Anderson College.

Hand in hand the Church and college have girdled the earth with the gospel of salvation and enlightenment. . . . Let me declare to you with all the conviction of my soul that the Christian college is no beggar at her doors, but the servant and ally of the Church, who for her prayers and gold will have her young men and women trained in mind, cultured in heart, and dominated by a great passion—the passion of service for God and humanity.—President John G. Acheson.

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.—George Washington's Farewell Address.

With the forces of evil backed by men and money, systematically organized to destroy, we must back with men and money all campaigns for Christian education. I repeat, the need of the hour is not more factories and materials, not more railroads or steamships, not more armies or navies, but rather more Christian education. This is not a time to reduce investments in colleges—this is the time of all times to increase subscriptions.—Roger W. Babson.

THE FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST

By Rev. Samuel Chadwick

It is fire that prevails. For fifty days the facts of the gospel were complete, but no conversions were recorded. Pentecost registered three thousand souls. It is the cause that sets men ablaze which wins converts. Gladstone's fiery passion routed Parliaments and slew the giants of oppression. Wesley, Whitefield and General Booth wrought wonders by the fire kindled of the Holy Ghost. Men ablaze are invincible. Hell trembles when men kindle. Sin, worldliness, unbelief, hell, are proof against everything but fire. The Church is powerless without the fire of the Holy Ghost. Destitute of fire, nothing else counts; possessing fire, nothing else really matters. The one vital need is fire. How we may receive it, where we may find it, by what means we may retain it, are the most vital and urgent questions of our time. One thing we know, it comes only with the presence of the Spirit of God, Himself the Spirit of Fire. God alone can send the fire. It is His Pentecostal gift.—Samuel Chadwick.—Selected.