

## WATCH THE BEGINNING

By E. E. Shelhamer

No one is overcome and led into sin all at once. It is impossible for the devil to enslave us without our consent. It is this inward consent to the suggestion without, that gives Satan the advantage. And when he has gained the first step, he will quickly seize the next.

There are four steps to a man's downfall, but they are successive and the three final ones cannot be overtaken until the first is taken. Here they are:—1. Attention. 2. Consideration. 3. Gratification. 4. Humiliation.

**Attention.** This is the beginning. Mother Eve and David were not responsible for the fact that their attention was called to a certain object unless they ought to have been elsewhere at the time. Eve was perfectly innocent when approached by the tempter. David, on the other hand, should have been at the head of the army fighting the battles of the Lord. But, "he tarried at Jerusalem." It was while here, being idle and eating rich dinners, that he saw Bathsheba. Even now he could and should have refused to look the second time. The cleanest saint may be brought face to face at any moment with an evil suggestion. He cannot help it. But, thank God, he need not take the next step and "consider" the proposition. This is the great battleground. The difference between Joseph and David was that the former turned on his heel and "got him out," while the latter paused, pondered, then plunged! The one came off unsullied and victorious, while the other went down in defeat, disgrace and despair. Yes, watch the beginnings.

1. The beginnings of **Estrangement.** Someone has misunderstood and mistreated you. Now Satan is on hand to magnify it and cause you to pull off in spirit from the other party. And if you are not watchful and prayerful it will not be long until you will in return magnify his faults and the gulf of separation will widen exceedingly. Wesley said: "Never suffer the first thought of separation from your brethren."

2. The beginning of **Self-Sufficiency.** Has God been pleased to use you? Then sink a little lower at His feet and give Him praise. But if you dare to think of yourself as being above the average, pride lurketh at the door. It is so easy to call attention to your achievements and take satisfaction therein. Pride is so subtle that you may declare it is gone when, behold! you are full of it. One proof that it is there is when you cannot keep still if your opinion is assailed and ridiculed. Can you hold your tongue and answer "never a word" when others trample under foot your views on Tongues, Baptism, Feet-washing, Second-Coming, Church Government, etc.? If so, it is a good sign you are well saved.

3. The beginnings of **Compromise.** This may pertain to a dozen things, but we now refer to one's attire. Parents who were once plain can now put on, or take off until one would hardly know them. And their children are a sight! I have stopped blaming the silly girl for the way she paints her face, plucks her eyebrows, bobs and parts her hair like a boy, and goes half naked. It all started back there when she was an innocent child and the mother thought she looked "so cute" to appear like other children. Parents, don't you know that not only you, but your little ones, are called to be a "peculiar people, zealous of

good works?" God hates nakedness. Listen! "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon." And remember, these priests were men who wore long robes to their ankles. Hence not even the calves of their legs would be seen. Now if God Almighty was so particular about His priests, how must he disdain women (some lady evangelists and singers) whose dresses are entirely too tight and short at both top and bottom? O, how terrible when pastors and evangelists defend their wives and daughters in these things. No marvel they dare not "cry aloud and spare not." Their mouths are stopped. "Like priests, like people." Call me an extremist if you wish; I will take my stand with the good old Book. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."—Deut. 22:5.—Holiness Era.

## BEAUTY OF LIFE

"My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me,  
I may not choose the colours  
He worketh steadily;  
Full oft He weaveth sorrow,  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the under side."

Live day by day,  
The path before thee  
Doth not lead astray,  
Do the next duty,  
It must surely be  
That Christ is in the one  
That's close to thee.

—Julia Harris May.

## A GREAT SIN

The following is part of a manifesto signed by 170 ministers and representing twenty-four denominations in New York City:

"We call upon our Christian brethren to guard their hearts, their minds, their lips, their hands from emotions, thoughts, words or deeds that partake of the 'sin of anti-Semitism.' We extend to our brethren and fellow citizens of the Jewish race and blood our solemn assurance that by the constraint of our own deepest Christian conviction we shall oppose unceasingly 'the sin of anti-Semitism.'"—Selected.

The *Missionary Review of the World*, speaking of Christian Missions in Columbia, in South America, says: "After more than eighty years of occupation, there are now only twenty-six national ordained workers, serving forty-six organized churches with a membership of 1,196. The Sunday-school enrollment is 2,245. Many new missionary societies are entering this field, most of them of the independent and faith groups. In one year the total number of missionaries has jumped from 87 to 113. There is an open struggle in Columbia between Church and State. While religious conditions are backward the country is making rapid development in many other ways."—Sel.

If the enemy succeeds in fighting a soul to a standstill, he will likely keep on forcing him backward.—Sel.

## OUR GETHSEMANE

All those who journey soon or late  
Must pass within the garden gate;  
Must kneel alone in darkness there,  
And battle with some fierce despair.  
God pity those who can not say:  
"Not mine, but Thine;" who only pray  
"Let this cup pass," and can not see  
The purpose in Gethsemane.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"It is hard to see how a great man can be an atheist. Without the sustaining influence of faith in divine power we could have little faith in ourselves. We need to feel that behind us is intelligence and love. Doubters do not achieve; skeptics do not contribute; cynics do not create. Faith is the great motive power and no man realizes his full possibilities unless he has the deep conviction that life is eternally important and that his work, well done, is a part of the unending plan."—Calvin Coolidge.

"We are living in a time when the eternal barbarian is camped before humanity's door. If he should be allowed to enter farther and install himself, society is heading . . . towards a new barbarism and a slavery blacker than the bondage of old-time Egypt. In one country after another, life is being pressed into one single form; the nations are being turned into single-minded homogeneous units, the thoughts, feelings and desires of whose members are to be permeated with one exclusive national ideology . . . The new leviathan state stifles every expression of independent judgment, replaces the criterion of conscience with a criterion of its own, and bases this on what is of service or dis-service to the state, rejecting the rights of the individual and the demands of justice and morality."—Days of Our Years.

It would hardly be supposed that the Rotary organization would be antagonized by the Catholic Church. However, the *Christian Union Herald* reports this situation in Peru: "The Roman Catholic Church has begun to oppose the Rotary International in the land of Peru because Rotary, 'while professing no religion, rejects no creed.' In Peru the Church demands of the Rotarians that they must all be identified with the Roman Church and must carry on missionary work to attract Rotary members to the Catholic faith. Furthermore, members must be identified with one or more Catholic Action institutions. And even so, all priests are forbidden to join Rotary clubs."—Sel.

"Gentlemen, I have called you here this morning to say that England needs a revival of spiritual religion more than she needs anything else in this wide world, and her material conditions will not improve unless that spiritual revival comes to her. I charge you men, with the responsibility of promoting and fostering such a revival of religion."—Lloyd George, to all the Non-Conformist Ministers.

## BACK TO GOD AND THE BIBLE

"I do not see," said Calvin Coolidge, "any method of improving our social and economic relations except through the teachings of religion. In fact, it is my belief that we have gone as far as we can in progress and reform until we have a more general acceptance of the truths of the Bible. If these are permitted to slip away from us the progress we have already accomplished will vanish with them."—Selected.