

SPURGEON SAID IT

By the late Rev. A. J. McKinney

There is much preaching these days. And what is it? "O, Lord, help Thy servant to preach, and teach him by Thy Spirit what to say." Then out comes the manuscript, and they read it. A pure insult to God Almighty! We have preaching, but it is of this order. It is not preaching. It is speaking very beautifully and very finely, and possibly eloquently, in some sense of the world; but where is the right-down preaching such as Whitefield's? Have you ever read one of his sermons? You will not think him eloquent; you cannot think so from his printed sermon. His expressions were rough, frequently coarse and unconnected; there was very much declamation about him; it was, indeed, a great part of his speech. But where lay his eloquence? Not in the words you read, but in the tone in which he delivered them, and in the earnestness with which he felt them, and in the tears that ran down his cheeks, and in the pouring out of his soul.

The reason why he was eloquent was just what the word means. He was eloquent because he spoke right out from his heart—from the innermost depths of the man. You could see when he spoke that he meant what he said. He did not speak as a trader in the mart of business, or as a machine, but he preached what he felt, and felt what he preached, to be the truth and that he could not help preaching it. When you heard him preach you could not help feeling that he was a man who would die if he could not preach, and with all his might call to men, saying, "Come! Come! Come to Jesus Christ, and believe on Him."

Now that is just the lack of these times. Where is the earnestness now? It is neither in pulpit, nor yet in pen, in such measure as is needed to be fruitful. This is a sad, sad age, when earnestness is scoffed at, and when the very zeal which ought to be the prominent characteristic of the pulpit is regarded as enthusiasm and fanaticism. I ask God to make us all such fanatics as most men laugh at—to make us all just such enthusiasts as many despise. I reckon it the greatest fanatism in the world to go to hell, the greatest enthusiasm upon the earth to love sin better than righteousness, and I think those neither fanatics nor enthusiasts who seek to obey God rather than men, and follow Christ in all His ways. I repeat, that one sad proof that the church needs a revival is the absence of that deathlike, solemn earnestness which was once seen in the Christian pulpit.

ARE WE REVERENT?

By Ila Dean Kline

Upon visiting a certain church a stranger said that he was struck with astonishment and contempt as people were ushered to seats during the reading of the "Scripture," parents unnecessarily paraded their children in and out, heads turned upon the entrance of late comers, people chewed gum, studied, whispered, and watched the clock.

Surely we would not show as little respect to our earthly friends, would we?—Sel.

We can know that we love God when we have a stronger desire to please Him than ourselves or another.

HOW I ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF GOD

By George Muller

Surrender your own will. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

Do not depend on feelings. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

Seek the Spirit's will through God's Word. I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

Note providential circumstances. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

Pray. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.

Wait. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

WENT TO SLEEP IN THE WRONG PLACE

A man went to sleep on the edge of a high building, rolled over, and fell to the ground to his death. Someone will say, "Certainly no one was to blame. A man is not responsible for what he does in his sleep." Very true. But the man went to sleep in the wrong place. That was his dreadful mistake.

So we see someone enamored of McPhersonism or some other form of "tongues" and "honestly" mistaken. Or he may pursue any other modern heresy. Not so long ago we talked with a woman who was accepting "tongues" with avidity. She did seem "honest" enough. But we happen to know the religious history of that woman, and that for these many years she has been religious but has steadfastly refused to repent and be converted, and of course has failed to live a real Christian life or walk in the light she had. Now she wants tongues!

Is she to blame if she "honestly" goes to tongues. She is to blame for the past disobedience which has brought such darkness that she has no spiritual discernment.

"Then Jesus said unto them: Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice."

Love is patient in suffering. The object of its affection is more attractive and deserving of attention than the discomfort of affliction.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Dr. Jesse H. Baird, speaking to members of Christian Endeavor Societies of ten Western States, reminded them of the religious sources of democracy by this statement:

"American civilization was born of a spiritual revival—the great revival which swept Europe known as the Protestant Reformation. It brought a good part of the first colonists to the American continent. They came because their religious zeal made it impossible for them to live any longer under European institutions as they were. The Puritans of New England, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, the Scotch Covenanters of New Jersey, the Huguenots of France who scattered all over the colonies, the Palatinate Germans and other groups carried over to America an intense religious zeal, a zeal which had given them courage to face the angry deep and the howling wilderness rather than to compromise their convictions. They built a new civilization upon these convictions. They gleaned political ideals and methods from a search of the Scriptures."—Selected.

Better shun the bait than struggle in the snare.—Dryden.

A MILLIONAIRE'S REFLECTION

One of the most influential men in Great Britain is Lord Beaverbrook, who owns the London Daily Express and a number of other daily papers. He is the son of a preacher. He made a fortune in Canada and then went to England, where he has forged ahead and made money and a name for himself. Some years ago he was elevated to the British peerage. Recently he wrote, "The evangelist is a man who has the greatest opportunity for doing good, and if I were in a position to influence the life of a sincere young man today I would say to him, 'Rather choose to be an evangelist than a Cabinet minister or a millionaire.' When I was a young man I pitied my father for being a poor man and a humble preacher of the Word. Now that I am old I envy him, his life and career."—Selected.

CHRIST THE ROCK

A story is told of a vessel that was wrecked one stormy night by crashing on the rocks off the coast of Cornwall, England. All hands hurled by the waves upon the jagged slopes perished but one lone Irish lad, who was of a great towering ledge, where he managed to find a place of refuge. In the morning, watchers on the beach spied him through their glasses, and a boat was launched and rowed out to where he clung. Almost dead with cold and exposure, he was tenderly lifted into the boat and brought ashore.

After restoratives were applied, he was asked, "Lad, didn't ye tremble out there on the rock in all that storm?" He replied brightly in this Irish way, "Trimble? Sure and I trimbled. But do you know, the rock never trimbled wanc't all night." If you have trusted Christ, you are on the Rock. While you may tremble, that does not invalidate God's salvation. The Rock remains firm and secure. Look away from self altogether and rely solely upon the Word of God.—H. A. Ironside, in Full Assurance.