

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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A CHALLENGE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Rev. G. R. Symonds

"Moses stood before Him in the breach."

Moses was a great man of prayer, in truth an intercessor. Our text pictures him filling the breach between a just God and a sinful people. This breach still exists, and the greatest need of our day is for individuals who will intercede as Moses did. It is true that Jesus is now at the right hand of God making intercession for us, but there is also need of people in our churches to fill the important-place of intercession if the work of God is to go forward. Intercessory prayer is more than our offering petitions for others with feeling, faith, and concern. It is the Spirit praying through us. And this does not occur until we have attained a depth of experience that qualifies us to fill this place. Let us consider the qualifications of an intercessor.

1. Obedience to all the known will of God. I realize that this includes much. First, it is God's will that all men come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9. So obedience includes repentance. Real repentance and confession of sin will bring into our lives a genuine experience of salvation and a witness of the same. This experience puts us in a place where we cease to do evil and learn to do well. It changes our lives to such an extent that we no longer seek worldly pleasures and associates. The new birth still makes a great change in a life, even though there is much teaching and belief to the contrary.

Next, it is God's will that we be sanctified. I. Thess. 4:3, and according to Heb. 13:12, Jesus suffered without the gate that He might sanctify the people with His own blood. If it is God's will, and Jesus died to provide it, then why can we not have this experience? The only reason is that we fail to meet the conditions and press our claims until we know our hearts are pure. The conditions are a confession of inbred sin, a dying out to self, a yielding of our all to God, and a choosing of the way of holiness. This experience, although doubted and opposed by many, accomplishes a real work in the heart of the believer, and is the greatest qualification for Christian service.

We must also continue our obedience to God after we have walked in the light of holiness, for we have then only reached the place where we can grow in grace and develop Christian character. Have we as young people submitted to God in repentance, sanctification and continued obedience? We must carefully watch our daily living, and firmly stand for truth and against sin.

2. Ambition to be more than a nominal professor.

I'm afraid that there are many who testify to being saved and sanctified that have nothing more than a profession. Probably these dear folks never had a real experience, or if they did, have lost out and settled down in that state being satisfied to remain there. I believe this condition is contagious, and unless we bestir ourselves, we too will become dry, formal, and a hindrance to the cause of holiness. Do we have ambitions to do something for God, and help in the saving of the lost? If not, we should seek a place of prayer and

ask God to forgive us for our coldness and hypocrisy. I believe if we do this that God will lead many out in the ministry of intercession.

3. Placing the work of God first in our interests.

We can never expect much achievement in the work of God until we give it first place in our thought and interests. Many people can arise early six days of the week to attend to the duties of this life, but on Sunday morning it is so difficult to get out to service, there are so many excuses. Again, many can meet all the engagements of the week, and we should, but prayer meeting night they find an excuse and are absent. Some remain home on Sunday and listen to radio sermons while the pastor is pouring out his heart, and needs their support. The car is run every day in the week, but never used to bring people to the house of God on the Sabbath. Now, beloved, I believe if God's work had first place things would be different, don't you? Let us place, and keep God's work first so that He may lead us out and make us a blessing. We must do this to become intercessors.

4. A willingness to work unseen.

Too many church members are not willing to work at all, and others only if they are commended for their efforts, but there are few who are willing to work unseen. An intercessor gets but little praise for his or her efforts and service, and at times he may be made light of and looked down on by professors of religion. But if we get a vision of the value of a soul, and our responsibility concerning it, it would do much toward driving us to our knees and putting a real burden on our hearts for the lost. As we continue in this attitude God will lead us out until we are offering real intercessory prayers.

In conclusion, I believe the future of our denomination depends on the response of our young people to the work of intercessory prayer. Shall we weigh the matter seriously and by the help of God fill the place that will bring blessing to many hearts and rich rewards to us in the day of judgment? We praise the Lord for the young people who are now filling this place, but the need is great. Will you brother, sister, accept this challenge and make up the breach? Shall we leave this for the older ones? They have been faithful, and many of them have passed on. Let us show our appreciation and willingness to spend and be spent by stepping forward and filling the gap.

May God richly bless you all and lead you on to a large place in His service.

CHANGE OF SPEAKERS FOR THE TORONTO Y. P. RALLY

We announced some time ago that Rev. Paul S. Rees was to be guest speaker at the Young People's Rally of the holiness young people of Eastern Canada to be held in Toronto, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Due to a change in his appointments, Brother Rees will be in the Southern States at that time and as a consequence will be unable to attend the Rally. We have engaged Bishop Leslie Ray Marsten, Ph.D., of the Free Methodist Church, as a speaker. Dr. Marsten is a lecturer, author,

and educator, whose authority in the field of child psychology has won for him a national reputation. He was president of Greenville College for nine years, and because of his wide experience is well qualified for speaker at a youth rally.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"FROM CHAOS TO CHARACTER"

By Leslie Ray Marsten

This new book by Bishop Marsten, a leader of the Free Methodist Church, is especially adapted to the needs of the Christian young people of this age. Dr. Vennard, of the Chicago Evangelistic Institute, says: "From Chaos to Character" deals with the profoundest problems in the minds of young people, and answers them so clearly and in such a readable style that I am confident the book will have a very wide ministry." The Religious Digest says: "All the problems of youth are here; creation, the worth of the soul, belief, doubt, emotions, thrills, temperament—these, and others, are clearly defined, illustrated, and so set forth that the average youth is helped along the way of sincere and true faith." Get this splendid book written by the man who is to be guest speaker at the Toronto Y. P. Rally.

GLEANINGS

"The kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."—Matt. 13:45-46.

"It is certain that at the last God gives Himself to us in a measure proportioned to that in which we have offered ourselves to Him."—Liddon.

They ask me for the secrets of holiness. For myself I know no secret than to love God with all my heart and my neighbor (which is all mankind) as myself."—St. Francis.

"If the treasures of ocean were laid at my feet,
And its depths were all robbed of its coral and pearl,
And the diamonds were brought from the mountains retreat,
And with them were placed all the wealth of the world—
Nor silver, nor gold, nor the spoils of the sea,
Nor the garlands of fame that the world can bestow;
But a purified heart that from sin is set free,
I would ask for thee, friend, on my journey below." —James A. Garfield

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," says the Psalmist. Remembering that the little land of Palestine is the place from which the Bible came forth on its world-wide mission. Christian people everywhere should pray for the land and the people who once possessed it by divine gift. Some prominent Christian leaders have proposed Sunday, March 27th, as a time for special prayer for the Jewish people. This date is at the beginning of the annual Pass-over season.—Sel.