

SIN'S LEADINGS

Sin, in all its ramifications, is fast throttling the world and forging fetters of brass upon the nations, and is becoming so familiar on every hand that it seems no longer sinful. Unbelief is the father of all sins and step by step is leading church members and professors of religion into a looseness and tolerance which are appalling. God plainly declares that He looks upon sin with no degree of allowance, and if we regard iniquity in our hearts He will not hear us. He condemns all sin without any exception. He says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," and "The wages of sin is death."

Sin leads to embarrassment and shame.

Sin leads to condemnation before men and God.

Sin leads to punishment here and hereafter. We reap what we sow.

Sin leads to death on earth and eternal death in eternity.

Sin leads to cowardice in the face of opposition.

Sin leads to judgment, with corresponding penalties.

Sin leads down to hell and eternal separation from God forever.—Free Methodist.

WESLEY'S ADVICE ON PREACHING

John King was one of the early English Methodist preachers who came to labor in America. He accomplished a vast amount of good. As a pioneer of Methodism in America his name should be held in grateful remembrance; but he was imprudent in the use of his voice and did not appear to know that it is not thunder that does the execution, but the lightning, and that bodily exercise profiteth little.

John Wesley, knowing his habits, wrote him thus: Scream no more at the peril of your soul. God now warns you by me, whom He hath set over you. Speak as earnestly as you can, but do not scream. Speak with all your heart, but with a moderate voice. It was said of our Lord, 'He shall not cry.' The word means, 'He shall not scream.' Herein be a follower of me as I am of Christ. I speak loudly, often vehemently, but I never scream. I know it would be a sin against God and my own soul." Loud screaming preachers, take warning.—Exchange.

TEN DAYS IN JAIL EARNS PORTER
A \$10,000 DIAMOND

James T. Brown, thirty-one, negro apartment house porter, became the owner of a six-carat, emerald-cut flawless diamond worth, according to those who should know, \$10,000.

The perfect gem cost Brown a slightly bruised toe, the indignity of arrest, and ten days in jail—all of which he, and others, consider a bargain.

Brown, strolling in Prospect Park, New York, last August 6, stubbed his toe on a clod of earth and stone—uncovering the glittering gem.

The next day he asked a jeweler to appraise it. The jeweler called the police. Magistrate Farrell later held him in jail ten days for unlawful possession of property.

Police made every effort to find the owner. By law, in six months, it is "finders keepers." February 6 marked the six-months' period,

but police held the gem an extra three weeks.

Now the authorities announced they are turning the diamond over to Brown.

Ten days in jail for a \$10,000 gem averages \$1,000 a day for James Brown's sufferings! Hosts of people would be willing to suffer a bit of humiliation for the recompense of a thousand dollars per day. But believers have even a better prospect than that!

Hearken to these inspired words: "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

And again: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:17, 18).

To find Christ by faith as one's own Saviour and Lord is to possess something infinitely superior to earth's most precious gem. And to allow Him to shine out in our lives is to court some type of persecution, the endurance and enjoyment of which are abundantly worth while.

The Lord Jesus said: "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets" (Luke 2:22, 23.—Sel.

LIFE

Tender teens,
Teachable twenties,
Tireless thirties,
Fiery forties,
Serious sixties,
Sacred seventies,
Aching eighties,
Shortening breath,
Death,
The sod,
God.

—Joseph Cook

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own,
Live, love, toil with a will,
Place no faith in tomorrow,
For the hands may then be still.

—Selected

The test of every Christian life is not leaves but fruit. "Fruit, much, more." A Brahmin compared the Christian missionary to a mango tree. It puts forth blossoms, and then weights its branches with fruit for itself? No, no; for the hungry who come to it for food. By and by the tree is assailed with clubs and stones. Its leaves are torn, and its branches are bruised and torn. It is stripped bare. But does it resent this cruel treatment and refuse to yield fruit another year? No; next year it is more fruitful than ever.—J. R. Miller.

COMPASSION

An army chaplain, going over a battlefield, saw a wounded soldier lying on the ground. Bending over him he said, "Would you like me to read you something from the Bible?" "I am so thirsty," said the man, "I would rather have a drink of water." The water was quickly brought. When he had drunk of it the man said, "Can you lift my head a little higher?" The chaplain took off his overcoat, rolled it into a pillow, and tenderly put it under the man's head. "I am so cold," moaned the poor fellow. Off came the chaplain's other coat and was spread over him. Then the wounded man looked up and cried, "If there is anything in that Book which will make a man do what you have done for me, let me hear it."

Just as the chaplain showed the love of God to the poor wounded man by his actions, so the Lord Jesus proved His love to us by the things He did.—Sunday School Times.

SHELTER

It was Augustine who declared that God had made man for Himself, and that man can find rest only as he finds it in Him.

Gerhard Tersteegen has expressed the same idea,

"Thou hidden love of God, whose height,
Whose depth unfathomed, no man knows,
I see from far Thy beauteous light,
I only sigh for Thy repose—
My heart is pained, nor can it be
At rest, till it finds rest in Thee."

How fading are earth's flowers! Their fragrance may fill the air; their beauty may delight the eye but drouth, frost, the careless step, the storm, time—something will destroy.

And if one seems to have comfort, security, happiness, he may still have some worry lest what he thought so safe fade in his very hand. Too often the worst fears are realized.

But in God one may find a retreat and a hiding place. Though the house of hope fall

Dr. A. C. Gabelein is credited with saying, shelter here and finally a habitation eternal in the heavens.—Sel.

FUTILE CURIOSITY

Dr. A. C. Gabelein is credited with saying, "I find many people whose consuming passion is to know more and more about the Antichrist."

Others of us have met these people, too. If it is advertised that Christ is to be presented to the congregation the hearing may be small, but if the preacher is to identify the Antichrist there may be hardly room in the building.

Which may mean that people would rather hear a man tell what he does not know than speak of what he understands.

But this may mean also that too few people realize that one's first responsibility is to get Christ for himself and then bring Him into the lives of others.

As to the Antichrist: If he is any worse than the fiends who are rampant in Europe today, he will still not be worse for those who are being crushed there.

We best flee from the Antichrist not by trying to have our curiosity satisfied but by having Christ enthroned in the heart. Whatever may happen to the world, man's primary need is of personal salvation.—Free Methodist.