

## BROKEN LIVES

Rev. Walter E. Isenhour

There are broken lives throughout the earth. How pitiful, how sad, how deplorable! We meet people continually who have wrecked themselves physically, morally, financially, spiritually, and occasionally mentally. When we look into their lives across the years we find that sin and the devil are to blame always. The enemy pulls lots of tricks across the lives of men in order to defeat and ruin them eternally. He blinds the multitudes to the beautiful things of life, and opens their eyes to the enticing, ruinous things of life, although he always keeps the fact of the ruinous and destructive in the background until he accomplishes his purpose. He never lets people see the exceeding sinfulness of sin if he can help it until too late to make amends, and he never lets them see the blessedness of right living as long as he can help it. And it is really and truly astonishing how he can "pull the wool" over the eyes of the great majority of people.

Yes, the devil is the cause of all the broken lives. He brings it about in many ways. He entices some to wreck and ruin themselves through strong drink. Indeed he wrecks untold millions in this way. Others are enticed to commit crimes of various kinds. Many have their lives all broken through the sin of adultery. This is one of the most damnable sins of the day. He entices others to lie, to gamble, to curse, to form bad, ruinous, destructive habits, to keep bad company, to indulge their appetites in alcoholic beverages and dopes of all kinds, and so on. He works havoc in the lives of multitudes through the modern dance, the ungodly movies, through bad literature, thus robbing them of that which is good, clean and wholesome. He keeps all the good away from men, or as much as possible, and presents all the evil possible.

How cunning and deceitful the devil it! It is astonishing how his plans work out for man's downfall and destruction. We find him undermining the plans, aims and purposes of man everywhere. Oftentimes it is done in such a way that it seems impossible to detect until the life is broken, the career ruined, and the soul lost forever, unless we are absolutely enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the tricks and plans of the devil. I was once told of a young man who was in love with a very fine young lady. He planned to marry her. They looked to the future for happiness and success when they became husband and wife. He was expecting to enter the ministry, and went away to school for preparation. He wrote his sweetheart and she wrote him. Everything seemed to be going well when one day he received a letter from a young man who informed him that his sweetheart had married. This so astounded him, upset his plans and knocked him off his feet that he quit school, gave up the call to the ministry and went into other business. He never wrote his girl friend again, but left for parts unknown. Of course she lost sight of him suddenly and mysteriously. Years passed by when one day he chanced to call at a certain place and this same woman answered the call. She knew him at first sight, and about the first thing she said to him was to ask why he treated her as he did. The fact is she had never married. She had been true to him, but the letter telling of her marriage was a lie in order to

break up their courtship and marriage. Of course he had married, therefore could not marry her. The false letter had not only broken up their courtship and marriage, but it had defeated his plans and preparation for the ministry. It had broken their lives. It defeated them. Maybe it also defeated others, as they might have done much good in soul-winning and life-saving.

However, it is likewise marvelous and glorious how God can mend broken lives when men turn to Him with all they have and with all they are. Praise the Lord! He can mend broken lives and gloriously save wretched, miserable souls. He has the power. When He touches the heart, soul and life of a man He mends the broken chords and they vibrate to heaven's harmony and sweet music. Hallelujah! Only our blessed Saviour can mend the broken lives and save the lost souls of men. He who made us can restore us when we are lost, wrecked, broken and ruined by sin if we sincerely call upon Him, repent deeply and yield completely. Reader, come to Him now and let Him mend every broken chord in your life, heart and soul. He is waiting, He is ready, He is anxious. Are you ready? If not, why not? He can tune you with heaven's harmony.

I read a poem recently in regard to an auction sale. Among the various articles that were sold was an old, time-worn violin. When the auctioneer presented it to the crowd some one bid it up to two dollars. It was about to go at that when a man stepped up and took the bow and drew it across the strings. If I mistake not he was the maker of the violin himself. Oh, such sweet music! It was charming and thrilling and startling. No one knew but the maker of the old violin just what it could do when a master hand touched it. Then they began to bid higher and higher. It went up to a thousand dollars, and still the auctioneer held on. It kept climbing, bid upon top of bid, until the old violin was bought at two thousand dollars.

That is like life. There are those who seem to be almost valueless. Nobody seems particularly interested in them. They seem but worthless in the community, or of such little worth that people pass them by unnoticed almost. Preachers and churches pass them by. Business men pay them no attention. They seem rusty with ignorance, hardened by sin, and bent tremendously downward. They have no aim, no plan, no purpose, it seems. However, in the depth of the inner life there may be marvelous latent powers. There may be a brilliancy that the world knows nothing about. There may be diamonds, gems and pearls that are absolutely hidden to mankind. Once let the Master maker of such lives take hold of them and the world may be amazed, and may look up and take notice. The harmony and sweet music of love and grace may shine and sound forth in such melodiousness that thousands may be uplifted and blest, and many souls brought to Christ through them. Our business is to point them to Jesus, the Master maker and Harmonizer of mankind. He can break through the outward uncomeliness and mend the broken strings of the heart, mind, soul and spirit and startle the world. Oh, that we may lead them to our blessed Master!

The typical college student has a vocabulary of 60,000 words.—Papyrus.

## GROWING OLD ARIGHT

William H. Bates, D.D.

Says a Scotch essayist: "To grow old wisely and genially is one of the most difficult tasks to which a human being can ever set himself."

The way in which the events of a life are met has all to do with the pleasure and profit of a life.

Consent to grow old. Some people struggle against advancing years. No man can succeed warring against the inevitable.

We should regard our true life as belonging to the spirit rather than to the body. The body is temporary. The spirit is immortal. Our true life is not in the decaying body, but in the immortal spirit. The comforts and the gratification of the desires of the body should not be the aim and end of life. He who elects to live in the pleasures of the body, elects, by the very necessities of the case, though unwillingly, to live in its pains.

Act upon right principles. Throughout all the universe there is the law of gravitation to which the elements yield obedience. So it is in the moral and spiritual realm. Right principles must be adopted and acted upon. What principles? Honesty, rectitude, helpfulness, faithfulness, conscientiousness, in a word, obedience to God.

Plant happy memories.

Cultivate younger friends.

Learn lasting pleasures.

Have a right purpose in life. This gives to the other points named their effectiveness. Oh, the power of a human will controlled and animated by an absorbing purpose! As a rule men accomplished their purpose if they work hard enough and sacrifice enough for it. But when the purpose is accomplished it makes a vast difference in the satisfaction enjoyed if we know it is a right one. One of the greatest statesmen once said: "To serve God and become like Him is the highest possible object of life."—The Bible Champion.

## BRINGING THEM IN

One of the most beautiful points in Mr. Moody's life was his extreme earnestness and fidelity in doing little things for God's work. Bishop McCabe says that on one occasion Moody heard him preach Christ to the people. At the close of the sermon Moody said: "Chaplain McCabe, I want you to preach that sermon in my Illinois Street Church to the poor sinners whom I will gather there for you." Moody held this service at midnight. When Bishop McCabe walked into the room with Mr. Moody, there was not a soul present. Moody said, "You sit down here and I will go and get the audience." He went out on the street and in about a half hour returned, followed by a great crowd of toughs from the street. McCabe grew ecstatic, as he told of the wonderful service held at midnight with these poor sinners. Moody was faithful over little, and God made him ruler over much.—The Way of Faith.

Last year America gave \$40,000,000 for relief and religious purposes abroad. This did not include Finnish relief. The benefitted in order as follows: China, \$10,000,000; to Palestine from American Jews, \$5,000,000; to Protestants in Japan, \$3,500,000; Ireland, \$2,500,000; Germany, \$1,500,000; Poland, \$1,300,000.—Herald of Holiness.