

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

THE WORLD OUTLOOK

Five hundred and twenty-two daily newspapers in the United States now bar hard liquor advertisements.—Watchman-Examiner.

Canada is setting the United States a swift pace in putting a stop to liquor advertising. All liquor ads, both distilled liquor and beers, over the stations of the nationally-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, have been withdrawn. Present programs under liquor auspices will end with current contracts. In four provinces, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario (comprising 40% of the population) liquor advertising in any form is illegal.—Selected.

THE MOCKER

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Strong drink makes men think they are warm when the thermometer says not; they think they can fight the whole world when a little boy could push them over. They think they are rich when they have nothing. They think they are wise when they have made a fool of themselves. In an ordinary normal person the heart beats seventy times per minute, 4,200 times an hour, 100,800 times in twenty-four hours. Seven and one-half tons of blood pass through the heart each day. When alcohol is taken the heart beat increases 30,000 times in one day—three times where it formerly beat twice. This enlarges the arteries and veins, causing weakness and ulcers, so that the drunkard is exposed to disease and other calamity. These little ulcers eat holes like a sieve in the blood vessels so that in time of excess or excitement they burst and death is the result.—Contributed.

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Liquor in all its forms and used for any purpose whatsoever I believe to be an unmitigated evil.—Dr. Howard A. Kelly, of Johns Hopkins University.

A CALL TO WORK

"Son, go work today in my vineyard."—Matt. 21:28.

The text is a trumpet call to the Church of God. A trumpet call to work. Christ came into this world to seek and save the lost. This was His great object. His words and work, His life and death, His resurrection, His ascension and intercession, all tend toward this one great end, the salvation of men.

To men, He the anointed head of the Church, has given the mission, and commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The command is explicit and direct. With the command comes the responsibility to obey. Men around us are perishing, many without the knowledge of salvation.

"Shall we whose souls are lighted,
With wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted
The Lamp of Life deny?"

The awful warning contained in Ezek. 3:6, should be carefully and prayerfully read by every professing Christian. "If the watchman see the sword approaching and blow not the

trumpet, and the people be not warned, if the sword come and take away any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at the watchman's hands."

The command is, "Go, work," and He who gave the command also said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The work of saving men belongs to men. It is the work of men, true, divinely qualified men, yet men.

There are four questions suggested in the text. Who? What? When?

FIRST Who? The worker, this is the first question suggested. Who are God's workers? There is only one answer, saved men and women, such as have a definite, clean experience, for blind guides are apt to lead others into the ditch.

The Christian worker should have a clear conception of the Scripture, which reads, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Salvation means victory over sin and evil desire, victory in the name of Jesus; victory by the power of the Holy Ghost; victory, a trinity of victories over the world, flesh and devil; victory in temptation; victory in trial; victory in all times and everywhere.

"Christian soldiers, why dismayed?
Why let Satan make afraid?
Jesus Christ our Captain is,
And the triumphs must be His.

Armed and strengthened by His grace,
We shall win in every place,
Earth and hell in vain combine,
Victory on our banner shines.

Victory, victory, everywhere,
Christ our Lord shall triumph here,
Raise your voices high as heaven,
Victory, victory, shall be given."

It would seem that many in the Church of God have but little knowledge of victory. Take the experience often given, "I ask an interest in your prayers, I am weak and unworthy, my trials and difficulties are many. I make many crooked paths, but I know that if I endure to the end, I shall wear the crown." And then at once sing, "His yoke is easy, His burden is light." Where is the victory in such an experience? We need victory in the life. Men of the world want victory. The Christian worker needs the spirit of Paul. "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."

Many Christians say, "The world is looking at me." That's right, we are built to be looked at. Ye are living epistles to be read and known of all men. Men of the world have a right to look at the Christian, and in looking they ought to see victory. Talking with a ship-builder some time ago, he being an unconverted man, reference was made to a prominent man in the Church, a class-leader and a trustee. He, though a man of the world, said, "I believe in him. When God converted him it was a miracle. Had you known him as he was, you would have said so, too. Twenty-five years ago, he was the worst drunkard in the community, dirty, low, degraded, but from his conversion until now, he has been a credit to the town." Victory, such victory, tells for God. The Christian should have that power by which the world, and the powers of evil can be held in subjection. He should be able to exclaim, "Thanks be to God, which always causeth me to triumph."

SECOND: The Christian worker should be emptied of self. There are many, who have self in the way. Self is a great hindering cause. No man can be a success in Christian work, until emptied of self. He must get to the place where it is not, What do I think? but, What does God say?

Ambition, pride, love of honor and position, must not and will not exist in the one emptied of self.

The Christian emptied of self no longer says, "I did it," "My work," "My labors are successful." But exclaims, "It is the Lord!"

Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, was able at the "Beautiful gate" of the temple, to restore power to the helpless, lifeless limbs of a cripple. The people, amazed, gave glory to the apostles, but Peter pointed them to Jesus and said, "It is not by our power that this man has been made whole. It is Jesus."

Men emptied of self and filled by God such as Luther, Wesley, Asbury, Finney, Spurgeon, and Moody, shake the world.

THIRD: The Christian worker must be a man of faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Before its power all obstructions vanish.

The man of faith is not ruled by circumstances, he is master of the situation. He sees the giants in the land, but is not afraid, and, cries, "We are well able to go up and possess the land."

"Have faith in God," should be the motto of every Christian worker.

FOURTH: The Christian worker must have a love for souls. This love is God-given. It is born of the Holy Ghost and is not acquired. A touch of Pentecostal fire will give it.

John Knox, of Scotland, had this love when he cried, "Give me Scotland or I die."

Love for souls, not for denomination, Church. A love for poor, lost men.

FIFTH: Yet one more needed qualification for the Christian worker: Confidence in the Word of God—that it is God's Word. He must have no doubt in regard to its authority, authenticity, inspiration. "Thus saith the Lord," must be the rock of the Christian worker's confidence. These are some of the qualifications necessary to successful Christian, soul-saving work. Look at them. Victory in life, emptied of self, faith in God, love for souls, confidence in His Word. What do you think of it? Does it seem too much? From a human standpoint it may, yet God can bestow all this and more.

Tarry until you are endued with power from on high. Tarry for the Holy Ghost who will bring every necessary qualification with Him.

You will do more in twenty-four hours with the divine anointing than in twenty years without it.

Seek the Pentecostal power.

I have already written too much.

I have promised to answer four questions. I have taken up my space in trying to answer one. If at any time in the future opportunity may be given me, I shall be glad to answer the other three questions of the text, What? Where? When?—Rev. George T. Harris—The Christian Standard.

The Massachusetts Bible Society has to print Bibles in ninety languages to satisfy the needs of the people of that state alone.—Christian Herald.