

The unsanctified ones at the Jerusalem Passover were afflicted with a certain malady which had to be healed before they could be accepted. Sin in any form is disease, and unless cured it eventually becomes fatal. "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death." It is a condition which demands attention, because it is a matter of life and death.

To have unsanctified Christians in the congregation demands special prayers. It is a matter of prime importance that they should be cleansed.

Hezekiah prayed for the healing of his people. Recall the intense earnestness of Christ's prayer for His disciples; Paul's prayers for his converts; the prayers and supplications of the disciples themselves in those pre-Pentecostal days; and for an instance of individual prayer for inward cleansing the prayer of David in Psalm 51.

We know that prayers for sanctification have been and will be answered in behalf of every one that truly prepareth his heart to seek God. Furthermore, the progress of real revival depends on the sanctification of believers. All the genuine revivals from Pentecost until now have synchronized with the sanctification of God's people. The measure of revival we may expect is the measure in which Christian congregations walk in the light of holiness.

It is trite to say, but it must be repeated, "A genuine revival is greatly needed, yes, even among 'holiness people.'" God never intended our church to settle down to a defensive warfare and to building bulwarks against a siege enemy. If it does, it will eventually starve to death behind the ramparts. Our church lives and grows by aggressive assaults against its foes. This cannot be done so successfully if there are many in our congregations who are not sanctified. Soldiers whose hands hang down and whose knees are feeble are not prepared for battle. They must be in good health.

Reader, are you one of those in the congregation who is not sanctified? There is good news for you. There is pardon and cleansing and healing for you. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it." A life of usefulness awaits you and a place in the ranks of those who give impetus to revival, so greatly needed, in the individual, the church and the world.

OBITUARY

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—

David Henderson

The funeral service of David Henderson was held at the home of his son, Robert, who is a deacon of our church here at Woodstock, on August 11th. Death occurred as the result of an attack of pneumonia.

Mr. Henderson was a deacon of the U. B. Church and the service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Stiles, of Jacksonville, assisted by the writer.

Interment was in the McKenzie Corner Cemetery.

We extend sympathy to those bereaved.

F. A. ANDERSON

"We shall never acquire any great capacity for joy, the blessed peace of God will never possess our mind and heart as long as we shrink from self-denial."

WE STAND MIDWAY BETWEEN TWO EVENTS

By William Archer Butler, M. A.

We stand midway between the two awful manifestations—the ascent to glory and the descent to judgment. Between the two epochs lies the history of the world! There are those and they are men of deep thought in many instances—who believe that the second of these great events is not so far distant as the unbelieving world would gladly deem—who think that "the thief in the night" is already on his way, that "the good man of the house" had better set his watch and bar his doors. I enter not now into such calculations. Such expectations have often been held, and often deceived; but it is a miserable folly which would thence conclude that they can never be realized; and which, from the poor experience of a few hundred years undisturbed by miracle, would take occasion to ask, "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were." It does, indeed, seem to be a providential arrangement of God that at almost all periods the expectations of the coming should be preserved in the church. Ages have, it is true, proved the fallacy of these immediate hopes; yet the hope itself "springs immortal;" and still, with unrelenting earnestness, the brotherhood of Christ strain eye and ear to catch the distant gleaming of the advent light and the sound of the chariot-wheels. From their very failures they gain (and not unjustly) a ground of hope; for that which must at a definite (though unknown) period be accomplished, and has not yet been, must, in virtue of those very disappointments, and in proportion to their number, be judged the nearer.—Evangelical Messenger.

I GAVE THEM MYSELF

Said a mother to me one day: "When my children were young I thought the very best thing I could do for them was to give them, myself, so I spared no pains to talk with them, to read to them, to teach them, to pray with them, to be a loving companion and friend to my children. I had to neglect my house often. I had no time to indulge myself in many things which I would have liked to do. I was so busy adorning their minds and cultivating their hearts with affections that I could not adorn their bodies in fine clothes, though I kept them neat and comfortable at all times.

"I have my reward now. My sons are ministers of the Gospel; my grown-up daughter is a Christian woman. I have plenty of time now to sit down and rest and keep my house in order. Plenty of time to go about my Master's business, wherever He has need of me. I have a thousand beautiful memories of their childhood to comfort me now that they have gone out into the world. I have the sweet consciousness of having done all I could to make them ready for whatever work God called them to do."—Selected.

In what was believed to be the largest mass dedication of Bibles in history, the Gideon Society recently presented 23,000 to the public schools of Georgia. Similar gifts have already been made to the schools of California and Oklahoma.—Religious Telescope.

Temperance Column

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

CAN GOD BLESS AMERICA?

By far, the most popular song in America just now is "God Bless America." It is a beautiful song and ought to be sung with great zeal. But think of God's side of the matter for a minute. How can God bless America under the circumstances under which many Americans live? Can God bless America when in other lands children are starving for bread and milk, and 130 million Americans spend seven billion dollars annually in some form of gambling? Can God bless America when even in some churches "bingo," purely a gambling game, is played to raise money to build the Kingdom? (A recent news ad read, "Bingo in the Holy Ghost room Thursday night.") Can God bless America when during last year one and a half billion dollars was wagered on horse races—a sum larger than was spent for national relief? Can God bless America when, during the year 1940, five billion dollars was spent for intoxicating liquors—an average of nearly \$40 per man, woman and child? Can God bless America when more money is spent for candy and cosmetics than for the religious education of youth? Can God bless America when tons upon tons of salacious sex literature pours from our secular presses to inflame the beastly passions of men? It is no more reasonable to expect a genuine blessing of God under these circumstances than to gather figs from thistles. If America expects to be blessed, she must meet the conditions of a righteous God. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness . . ." "Righteousness exalteth a nation."—Arkansas Methodist.

EARLY METHODISM

"We often hear people talk of the good old days of early Methodism, of the old-time camp meetings and revivals, etc. Thank God for these precious memories; but God has not exhausted Himself; God is able to produce just as great revivals in our day. God says, 'Behold, I will do a new thing' (Isa. 43:19). Nevertheless, as we turn the pages of history and read of other days we do strike some things that stir our souls. Here is something from an old-time camp meeting in Ohio. On Sunday morning, in love feast, the Lord rained down righteousness upon His people. At 11 o'clock Bishop McKendree preached in the house and John Sale in the barn at the same time. The power of God fell on the people, and some were prostrated and cried to God for mercy, and some found peace in believing. Bishop McKendree also fell prostrate under the mighty power and glory of God. A number fled from the house, but fell in the yard and cried aloud for mercy. As the preaching in the barn was over at the same time, the two congregations met in the yard. The Lord then made bare His holy arm in the sight of all the people; sinners were cut to the heart; many fell down under the mighty power of God and cried out, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'"

Attorney General McMullan, of North Carolina, recently ruled that bingo games are illegal when operated for profit. It is regarded as rather hard on the churches which depend upon this species of gambling to pay their tithe.—United Presbyterian.