

## MINISTER OF CHRIST FOR THE TIMES

## XXIV.

"Enter into thy closet"—Matt. vi, 6

The minister for the times is a solitary man. He is much and often alone. He seeks long, solitary sittings with the Holy Scriptures; and in stillness and thoughtfulness labours to inform his understanding, and impress and sanctify his heart, with the sacred truths of revelation. He communes in solitude with the righteous dead, and listens to their solemn voices, and thinks over what they once thought, and feels again what they once felt, and kindles with the fire that was wont to glow in spirits singing now in paradise.

He loves, too, to commune with his own heart; and, when every human eye and ear are absent, then to converse with himself alone—then to make solemn inquiry whether all will be well—whether sin is dead, and faith, and hope, and love are living;—whether flesh is crucified, and all the Christian virtues are blooming and flourishing;—whether Satan is cast out, and Christ is formed within the hope of glory;—whether this world is relinquished, and the spirit is longing for God and heaven;—all possible efforts are put forth to save the world.

He loves especially to be alone with God, and pray to his "Father who is in secret." There he tells him all, unfolding his whole heart to the great Searcher. He confesses—repents—supplicates—intercedes—weeps. He pours forth his soul in a thousand strains of holy devotion. He strives after the excellent glory. Laying hold of unearthly strength, God meets him, and talks with him, as with Ezekiel in the field. He blesses him as Jacob, when being left alone, the patriarch had power with God, and prevailed. He manifests himself as to Peter, when, by himself, he prayed upon the housetop. He touches him as Daniel when he made supplication, and the angel flew swiftly. He is prepared for new victories. He is adorned with salvation, and rewarded openly.

## ADVERTISING

By Rev. W. E. Hickey

In our day it seems the devil has a monopoly on advertising. Christians could learn some lessons from the devil and beat him at his own game.

Have you ever noticed as you drive along the highway, a new building going up? There is great excitement! As you watch the building progress, you are stunned with the beautiful architecture, the paint and the stained glass in the windows. Money is no object. Finally, the grounds surrounding the building take on great beauty. Large display signs go up, and last, but not least, the electricity is turned on. The place is a blaze of light to beckon the traveller in. What is this place? Nothing more than a roadhouse or another beer joint.

Yet the representatives of God are afraid to advertise. Some of our churches (thank God, not all, for some have caught the vision) are dirty-looking buildings, badly lighted, and the grounds surrounding say loudly, "Nobody Cares."

Let's get together. God will help. Give that church a badly-needed coat of paint. Turn on the electric light so folk will know that you are in business. Beautify the grounds. Oh, you say, that is fine, but where will we get the money? Try Mal. 3:10.

Take care of God's house first, and you will be agreeably surprised how the money will come in.

## THE MASTER'S QUESTION

Have ye looked for My sheep in the desert,  
For those who have missed the way?  
Have you been in the wild, waste places,  
Where the lost and wandering stray?  
Have ye trodden the lonely highway,  
The foul and darksome street?  
It may be ye'd see in the gloaming  
The print of My wounded feet.

Have ye folded home to your bosom  
The trembling, neglected lamb,  
And taught to the little lost one  
The sound of the Shepherd's name?  
Have ye searched for the poor and needy  
With no clothing, no home, no bread?  
The Son of Man was among them—  
He had nowhere to lay His head.

Have ye carried the living water  
To the parched and thirsty soul?  
Have ye said to the sick and wounded,  
"Christ Jesus make thee whole?"  
Have ye told my fainting children  
Of the strength of the Father's hand?  
Have ye guided the tottering footsteps  
To the shore of the Golden Land.

Have ye stood by the sad and weary,  
To soothe the pillow of death,  
To comfort the sorrow-stricken.  
And strengthen the feeble faith?  
And have ye felt, when the glory  
Has streamed through the open door,  
And flitted across the shadows,  
That there I have been before?

Have ye wept with the broken-hearted  
In their agony of woe?  
Ye might hear me whispering beside you,  
"Tis the pathway I often go!"—Sel.

## THE PLIGHT OF POLISH WOMEN

One of the most heart-rending appeals ever uttered is a cry from the women of Poland which was recently smuggled into the United States by a Polish woman who escaped from that country. She reports the plight of the Jewish and Catholic women as unspeakable. This is a part of the appeal: "The world has witnessed many atrocities and crimes; the history of mankind is saturated with blood and tears; but history tells of no Calvary equal to ours. We are seized on the streets; our homes are entered at night. We are housed with fallen women; we are deported to German brothels. Our daughters are outraged. We mothers have shed tears until we have no more to shed. We have prayed that our daughters might die. Poland has forgotten laughter. Before God almighty we swear that our words are true. We are living in hell. We are smothering in it. Our condition grows worse day by day. We plead for help." Such is but a segment of the long appeal. This is German justice. Adolf Hitler pledged his word of honor that not a single Pole would be deprived of his liberty. The Nazi press informed us that Poland under German administration is prospering and that the majority of the Polish people are cheerfully co-operating with the German administration and are satisfied with it.—United Presbyterian.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Be sure, with pure.

## KNEELING IN PRAYER

Kneeling as an inestimable approach to God is substantiated all through the sacred Scriptures. We read that Solomon made a brazen scaffold, "and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven" (2 Chron. 6: 13).

Ezra discloses, "And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God" (Ezra 9:5).

The Psalmist cries, "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psa. 95:6).

Daniel—"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Dan. 6:10).

Stephen—"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep" (Acts 7:60).

Paul—"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:14).

Though not the only approach to God, kneeling is obviously the most satisfying to the aspiring soul, yea, to the agonizing soul.—Selected.

## A RESOLUTION

They have recently discovered in the private journal of Sir Thomas Brown, a physician much loved in Norwich, England, of three hundred years ago, a rich paragraph which we pass on to our readers:

"I have resolved to pray more, and to pray always; to pray in all places where quietness inviteth, in the house, on the highway, and on the street; to know no street or passage in this city that may not witness that I have not forgotten God. I purpose to take occasion of praying upon the sight of any church which I may pass, that God may be worshipped there in spirit, and that souls may be saved there; to pray for my sick patients and for the patients of other physicians; at my entrance into any home to say, 'May the peace of God abide here;' after hearing a sermon, to pray for a blessing upon God's truth and upon the messenger; upon the sight of a beautiful person to bless God for His creatures, to pray for the beauty of such a person's soul, that God may enrich her with inward graces, that the outward and inward may correspond; upon the sight of a deformed person, to pray God to give him wholeness of soul, and by and by to give him the beauty of the resurrection."—Herald of Holiness.

## VITAL PREACHING

There are suggestions that the pulpit generally might exhibit a deeper intellectual and spiritual penetration into Christian truths. Sermons are too frequently softened to lazy and immature minds. Some would welcome the preaching of theology—not theology in set and time-worn phraseology, but a living theology of a living God. No beauty of utterance will refresh and comfort people so much as the revelation of our God in the fullness of His being.—From Report to Assembly on State of Religion.