

PERFECT CONSECRATION

Romans 12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Many so-called Christians glibly and effortlessly profess that they have consecrated all; that 'all is on thee altar;' Apparently merely lip service since no one can see any outward signs of a consecrated life.

People who are atheists put Christians to shame these days in their devotion to one or another of the present day "isms". They have consecrated everything to their philosophy of life and many are even dying for it. What have we to show by way of such devotion to our Christ, our philosophy of life?

Paul, the Apostle, said: I Beseech you, brethren, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice. Paul called for a complete consecration; a consecration of the whole man: heart, brains, senses, passions, hands, feet, stomach, everything. Some one may hurriedly tell you if you have consecrated father, mother, sister, brother, wife and children, houses and lands, your consecration is complete. Unless you have consecrated SELF you have done nothing. For if SELF awakes one day and asserts himself, your bedside or altar consecrations of everything else will be brushed aside without much ceremony and you will find your prayers, testimonies, and assertions were mere babblings of the mouth and not of the heart.

We are being told that we are not winning this war because we are not "all out" for service and sacrifice. What is this but a confession that we have not made a complete consecration of our wealth, resources, and manpower for the cause of war? If nations must go "all out" for war, should not we do the same; are we not in a war also?

Paul himself was a good 'practitioner' of what he preached. He said: "neither count I my life dear unto myself. . . I have not shunned to declare unto you ALL the counsel of God". And again: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

While thinking about Complete Consecration we can do no better than read the Book of Ruth and listen to the depths of her consecration. Ruth 1:16,17. And Ruth said, Intreat me NOT to leave thee, or RETURN from following after thee: for whither thou goest I WILL go; and where thou lodgest, I WILL lodge; thy people SHALL be my people, and thy God MY God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: thee Lord do so to me, and more also, if OUGHT but death part thee and me."

Who was Ruth? A Moabite, an erstwhile heathen who had married into Judaism. Did she backslide when her believing husband died? Not a bit of it. Did she as Orpah choose to return to her old gods and the chances of getting another husband among her own people and nation? Not at all. How great was her consecration? She broke with her Moabite family; she consecrated family ties. She broke with her nation; she consecrated her loyalty and patriotism. She broke with her old gods; she consecrated her faith and customs. She gave up her chance of marrying again and raising up good old Moabite stock. She consecrated her strongest instinct, the maternal and racial pride. She was willing to make a clean and complete break with the past and all her dear associates and associations for a poor old mother-in-law and GOD. She said: "Don't discourage me. I'm willing to go anywhere. I'm willing to live in the poorest of hovels. I'm willing to accept the poorest and lowest relatives that there may be. I will to be a

Christian indeed. I'm willing to stand for all of this and die for it and occupy a lonely and perhaps unknown grave. Was not Ruth's consecration perfect and complete? It was first a consecration of SELF, then when SELF got on the altar everything else naturally followed. 'Go thou and do likewise. Let us pray.

EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

A PREACHER'S MAIN BUSINESS

By Rev. Myron F. Boyd

The preacher's main business is to preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ and thus bring men and women by humble faith to the foot of the Cross. Perhaps you have heard the story which Ian Maclaren used to tell about a young minister starting on his first pastorate. He was preparing for his first Sunday and his desire was to prepare a great sermon—one which would make those country folks sit up and take notice of their scholarly and able preacher. So he toiled by the hour over that sermon, and had it mighty-nigh perfect when suddenly he thought of what his old mother had told him so often. She had begged him always to speak a good word for Jesus Christ. The recollection of his mother's words reminded him of why he was in the pulpit, and so he laid aside that masterly discourse which was so well prepared and in its place he delivered a simple message of what Jesus Christ could do for men and women. As that congregation left the house that morning their eyes were wet with tears and they all agreed they had sat in heavenly places and eaten of spiritual food. The impression made had surpassed by far what he had hoped to do in that scholarly sermon.

That is every preacher's business at all times. It is to speak a "good word for Jesus Christ" everywhere he goes. When any minister turns his pulpit into a place for practicing oratory or exhibiting his intellectual attainments to the sacrifice of preaching the gospel in power and simplicity he is out of his place. When a preacher is more interested in a large salary, popularity, et cetera, he loses sight of the purpose for which he was called. God called him to be a winner of souls, a "fisher of men."

The greatest message for this age is not what the world will be like during the millennium but what Jesus Christ can do and is doing now in the world. With hearts broken, bodies diseased, pocketbooks empty and guilty consciences driving men and women wild we will never get their attention by telling them that a thousand years from now it will be different. Can Christ do anything for a broken heart, an empty pocketbook, a diseased body, a guilty conscience right now? That is what men and women are seeking to know. They go to church after church and go away without an answer to the queries of their hearts.

Some preachers are too busy all week with their hands so that when they go to the pulpit they are not prepared in head and heart to give the world what they so long have craved. Some preachers study nothing but politics, wars, Communism, socialism, technocracy, plenocracy, et cetera, and thus are incapable of helping hungry souls when in the crisis hour. The only hope for the world today is Jesus Christ and the gospel. Thus it is every preacher's business first to get acquainted with Jesus Christ personally. Then, it is his business to study the gospel daily until he is prepared both in heart and in head to give the

world a solution for its problems. "Brethren," cried Paul, "my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them that they may be saved." That ought to be the burning desire of every preacher's heart, and until it is we will not see great revivals nor many souls saved.

A preacher must have a real vision of hell and what it means to be eternally lost. A preacher must realize that nothing less than the whole gospel will ever satisfy or save the world. A preacher must know that people are lost who are not personal believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. When once a preacher permits these truths to dawn upon his consciousness he cannot be satisfied unless souls are being saved regularly. We worry so much about our own physical condition, our finances and material needs. Let us commit them all into God's hand and go down on our knees and then out after lost men and women.

"Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;
Living with Jesus, a new life divine;
Looking to Jesus 'till glory doth shine,
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine."

ITALY'S TENDER TREATMENT

It has been one of the minor mysteries of the war why Italy has been treated as leniently as she has by Britain, and why no concerted and determined attempt has been made to force her out of the war. On various occasions we have expressed ourselves in these columns on the subject. That we are not alone in thinking as we do may be seen from the following brief report of a debate in the House of Commons during Mr. Churchill's visit to Moscow. It is taken from the Manchester Guardian and is as follows:

Suggestions that military targets in Italy should be bombed like those in Germany and that, in this respect, Italy was being treated with tenderness were made in the House of Commons yesterday by Commander Sir Archibald Southby (C.—Epsom), who asked the Prime Minister if, in view of the bombing of Cairo and Malta by Axis machines, he would ensure that military targets in Rome and other Italian cities should now be attacked.

Mr. Attlee (Deputy Prime Minister) reminded Commander Southby that it was not possible to give any public indication of our future operational plans.

Sir A. Southby: Is he aware that the public in this country and certainly the public in Malta are unable to understand why Italy is treated with such tenderness, particularly in view of the fact that it is a base from which Rommel's supplies go to North Africa, and is it not time that something definite was done about bombing Italy?

Mr. Attlee: There is no policy of treating Italy with tenderness.

Sir A. Southby: Then why has Italy not been bombed? (Cheers.)

Mr. Attlee: It has.

There is more than a suspicion in many minds, both in this land and the old, that the fine Italian hand of the Vatican has had a lot to do with Italy's, and particularly Rome's, immunity from bombs. The reply of Mr. Attlee in the above interrogation is evasive and unsatisfactory. No one would wish or expect him to have revealed information that would be of value to the enemy, but he was obviously quibbling to avoid giving the real reason.—The Evangelical Christian.

There is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, and sincere earnestness.—Dickens.