

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

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### THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

I am the Vine and My Father is the Husbandman. John 15-1.

We note that in this scripture Jesus likens Himself to the true Vine, and His Father the Husbandman, the Divine Planter, and expects us to bear fruit. Many of the richest blessings which have come to us have been because of deep sorrow and pain which we have patiently endured.

Redemption, the world's greatest blessing, is the fruit of the world's greatest sorrow. Jesus tells us that every branch that beareth not fruit he taketh away and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit. We note that when the gardener prunes the vine, to us it looks as if he was destroying it, but he is working for the future success of the vine. So to be a branch in this vine we must be a living one, saved from sin, for Jesus tells us by their fruits ye shall know them. By nature we are dead, fallen branches, but by grace we are saved and become spiritual branches through Jesus' blood. Let us as young people let Jesus prune our lives that we may be the blessing He intends us to be. It may mean the path of sorrow, but when we realize what sorrow He endured for our salvation, we should be willing to give of our best to Him. Let us take time for our daily reading and praying which is one way we can be a real blessing and help to the unsaved. There are blessings we can never have unless we pay the price, and the only way to reach them is through suffering. It may mean that we will have to suffer some for our loved ones to be saved, but let us trust God to bring them to Him in any way He sees fit.

"I walked a mile with Pleasure,  
She chattered all the way,  
But left me none the wiser,  
For all she had to say.

"I walked a mile with sorrow,  
And ne'er a word said she,  
But, Oh, the things I learned from her,  
When sorrow walked with me."

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### THE CRAZE FOR AMUSEMENTS

The wild craze for amusement is world-wide almost. It has invaded the professed church and is producing havoc. Church members without salvation are just as susceptible to its pernicious influence as others. A babe can be amused by giving it a piece of red paper or a string of beads far better than handing it a hundred-dollar bank note. And church babies prefer nonsense and tomfoolery every time to anything that is either sensible or spiritual. The great concern with many a popular preacher is to amuse the babies in his charge and keep them from crawling away from his fold to places of greater danger.

Rev. G. W. Ridout wrote the following pointed words upon the subject, and they were printed in the Pentecostal Herald:

"Not long since we were at the Sunday dinner table of a hotel when a conversation started as to what the church ought to do to attract the young people and become more popular to the community. A party to the discussion was a divorced woman with powdered face and attire so scant that when she went on the street she was the

object of pity and sarcasm, as she tried to walk with a skirt just barely below the knee and almost as tight as a strait jacket. Next was a young man who had been in the war and who had so far forgotten the teaching of his preacher father that he danced into Sunday morning at a block carnival. Next was a young lady school teacher, also of scanty attire, very worldly and withal scornful concerning things religious. These three all decided that pool tables should be placed in the churches for the young men, dances for the young people, movies and other amusements for the folk so as to render the church attractive, etc. At length they put the question up to us as to what we thought. We instantly replied that it all depended as to what we thought was the legitimate function of the church. The schoolhouse is to advance education, the courthouse for purposes of justice, the bank for finances, the hospital for healing, the business of the church is to advance religion, not frivolity.

"I went away from that table stirred in my soul, and what stirred me most was that around that table was a sample of the class of people in all our churches who are always agitating turning the church from a house of prayer to a playhouse and an entertainment center. Now is it not a fact that the people in our Methodist churches who want the dance brought in, the movies, pool tables, billiards and other diversions of the devil are the short-skirt, mosquito-net waist, painted and powdered butterflies of the silly and giddy world, or men and young fellows who smoke and suck cigarettes, and who are better acquainted with the latest thing at the movies and scores of the last ball game and the newest thing in dancing than they are with the teachings of their church or their Bible?

"Who is it that is dominating our amusement and recreation program today? Is it the praying people—the folk who are at the prayer meetings, the class meetings and the revival, and who are found faithfully standing by the preached gospel and the means of grace? Certainly not!

"This whole craze for amusement that is spreading over our Methodism has been hatched in hell, and our 'intellectuals,' so-called, and 'social workers' are consenting to be willing instruments for the spread of this propaganda of the pit. Pity, indeed, it is that so many of our preachers are hood-winked into this diabolical business, and instead of the churches being places of prayer and salvation they become places of play and ungodly diversions where things happen which make devils laugh and angels weep.

"The Presbyterian," a paper which holds steadily for the old paths, said, 'The church is not bound to provide amusement for the young people. The Bible sanctions no such theory. The apostles had no time for such business. The church of Jesus Christ was organized for holy, spiritual and saving purposes. It is a school, and not a playground. It is a workshop, not a pleasure resort. It is the birthplace of souls, not the sporting ground of adolescence. There is an urgent need in many quarters for a return to this spiritual conception. The young ought to be educated to the idea that the soul is of the first importance, and that all else must be subordinate to its conversion and sanctification'."

It must not be forgotten that it is no part of the work of the church to provide worldly entertainment or amusement for people, young or old, and every attempt to do so loosens the hold she has on the unsaved and drags down to lower

levels those who are spiritual who partake of such entertainment. Dr. Ridout's arraignment of the worldliness of many church denominations is none too strong.—Free Methodist.

### WHAT IS WRONG WITH GAMBLING?

Someone wants to know, "What is wrong about gambling?" The following incident answers that question in part:

"A merchant learned that a favorite clerk had won a prize in a lottery. He called him up to the desk and discharged him with the following remarks, 'I have been in business forty-three years, and have yet to see the first man who gambled and remained absolutely honest. Twenty years ago I would have tried to cure you. I am too old now to take on new worries. Remember that I told you that the gambling habit was a disease, fatal to honesty and almost incurable.' The young man secured another position, from which he was discharged inside of two years for dishonesty."

The effect upon government, society, the family is all evil. But worst of all is the result of the gambler himself who does well to stop short of being a general crook and reprobate.

### PREACHERS MUST BE ACTIVE

He who attempts little accomplishes little. A preacher who settles down with his family and simply fills his appointments, and preaches over and over his old sermons, and makes only social visits, can but fail in his work. He does not win souls. He does not expect to; he does not try to. He is like a blind horse on a tread-mill.

But he who settles down to his work and expects to succeed in it does succeed. He proposed to do something, and he wisely adapts his means to the end to be attained. His work is not in vain in the Lord.

John Eliot, one of the first missionaries to the American Indians, wrote: "Prayer and pains, through faith in Christ Jesus, will accomplish anything." The faith that does not produce prayer and pains is downright presumption. If you have faith for a revival, then go to work to promote a revival. In the waters of salvation the fishing season lasts the year round. — Free Methodist.

### WHY THE SABBATH?

#### The Answer of the Nation

A nation speedily loses its moral fibre when the claim of sport and amusement usurp the claims of God and the soul. The British nation will be kept great and strong, not by shouting and flag-waving, but by keeping the soul of the people healthy and virile. If we scrap Sunday we are closing one of the principle avenues to the preservation of our national character. A nation that loses its Sunday loses its soul.

#### The Answer of the Church

There is no wrong, no injustice or abuse which the Christian Church could not remove from public or municipal life. If united and willing, the church today could not only turn the world right side up and inside out, but could cleanse it from tip to toe. Sunday should be preserved among us as a perpetual witness to the fact of the soul, as a remembrance of man's redemption and as a foretaste of his eternal destiny.