

SOME PRECEPTS FOR PREACHERS

Church magazines, the recent Associated Church Press Conference revealed, should have the ministry primarily in mind. For that reason and because the editor was first a preacher, and the following precepts by W. R. Maltby, in The British Weekly of London, meant so much to him, he is sharing them with his fellow ministers. Our audiences can tell us how much we need to practice them!

1. Preaching without emotion is not preaching, but beware of the cheap substitute. Synthetic unction may impress simple souls, but it corrupts the preacher.
2. Remember Penial and wrestle with the great themes, even if they throw you. Jacob was not Israel until he shrank a sinew.
3. Be loyal to your texts. Be aware of context; if you leave it, be courteous and ask permission. Possibly the writer had bigger thoughts than your own.
4. There is always water if you bore deep enough.
5. Motorists and preachers should remember that the aim is not to cover the ground, but to see the country and, seeing love.
6. Illustrate; but don't illustrate the obvious. One good illustration is worth ten poor ones.
7. The well is deep, and you must have something to draw with. But there is no need to make people drink out of the bucket, still less to chew on the rope.
8. In preaching—no demand without the gift; no diagnosis without the cure. One word about sin; ten for the Saviour.
9. Irrelevance is sometimes infirmity; usually it is sin.
10. Emotion arises out of the truth. Emotionalism is poured on to it.
11. Listen before you speak. See before you say.
12. Aim at being independent of the concordance, but do not disdain it until you are.
13. Love simple speech as much as you hate shallow thinking.
14. Polysyllables are not the sign of profundity. Often they are the cloak of poverty, bought at a jumble sale.
15. Never talk down to your audience; they are not there.
16. Beware of the abstract noun. The abstract puffeth up, the concrete buildeth up.
17. By your consonants people will know what you say; by your vowels where you come from.
18. Be audible, but don't shout. Clearness carries farther than clamor.
19. Be sparing of gestures, but do not be a post or a robot. If your hands can talk, let them; if not, give them a rest.
20. Be not like the brook; pause sometimes.
21. One cannot always finish, but one can always stop. If the flow ceases, do not dribble.
22. A preacher's damnation: "He spoke of great things and made them small; of holy things and made them common; of God, and made Him of no account."

—United Presbyterian

"I was talking to that poor man, Haile Selassie, and I said: 'Your Majesty, what are you going to do now?' He looked at me with a curious timid look, and said: 'After all, your Excellency, there is God.'"—General Sir Edmund Ironside.

Temperance Column

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

"SABOTEUR NO. 1"

The Christian Advocate gives us the information that "Heavy loads of war material made it necessary to relay a nine-mile stretch of track on an Indiana railroad, and a construction crew of 135 men were employed to do the work. Said the superintendent, 'This size crew could lay this track in eighteen to twenty-four days; but, because of excessive drinking, it will take almost three months to complete the job. The delay we are experiencing can be illustrated by this fact: the day following our last pay day only seventeen men out of eighty-four reported for work. The others were too drunk.'"

Upon which situation the Advocate comments: "If three Japanese, instead of three tavern-keepers, had put those workmen into that condition, the Japanese would probably have been lynched. But, being tavern-keepers with government licenses, there was nothing anyone could do about it."

And note that absence from work in war plants is a major problem hindering production.

One man writes us suggesting that we have too much indignation against the liquor traffic and the high-up politicians who allow it to prey upon our men and sabotage our war effort.

But he is wrong! We must not hate men, but we must hate this traffic with a perfect hatred.

We are willing to have limits put upon our eating and wearing and traveling, and we are glad to buy bonds and do any other necessary thing to help win this war. We are not glad to be made fools of by the rummies and our national politicians at any time, and especially not at such a time as this.

And while our leaders plead for co-operation and sacrifice to win this war, and then befriend this traffic and turn it loose to debauch our workers and our boys in the camps and waste our resources, we might pray for them as a noted preacher of the last century prayed, "Lord, help our men at Washington to behave so that we can have respect for them."—Free Methodist.

THE 1943 SALOON

The saloon has returned. It is here in forms a thousandfold more vicious and debauching than anything ever known in the palmiest days of the pre-prohibition era. The beer garden, the cocktail lounge, the night club, the dance hall, and a host of other forms of bedevilment have been thrust upon us. Never has America witnessed such a moral debauchery of its citizens, men and women, adults and youth, parents and children, as since the return of legalized liquor.

Our highways have become slaughterhouses for drinking and drunken drivers. Thirty-six thousand persons are slaughtered annually on our public highways, one every fifteen minutes. A million others are injured, one every thirty seconds. A rapidly mounting ratio of these killed and wounded must be laid at the door of liquor.

The nation's sense of shame is numbed.

The spirit of moral protest is smitten with apathy. America needs a moral revulsion to awaken her, a blazing wrath to bring her to her feet against this evil. Our homes must be protected. Our youth must be saved. This devastating traffic in liquor is America's major curse. It should and must go.—American Business Men's Research Foundation.

BEER AND ITS BEASTLY EFFECTS

Dr. Wilbur F. Craft interviewed the inmates of the Christian Home for Intemperate Men in New York as to how they reached the last ditch of drunkenness. Eighty per cent testified that they began with beer. The New York office of the Home Life Insurance Company, years ago said of beer: "Of all intoxicating drinks it is the most animalizing. It dulls the intellectual and moral, and feeds the sensual and beastly nature. Beyond all other drinks it qualifies for deliberate and unprovoked crime."

I have just received a newspaper clipping giving an account of the murder of a ten-year-old girl. The confessed slayer said, "I had too much to drink . . . I can't remember any more."

It is the same sordid story over and over again every day. Drink robs men of reason and moral conscience, and when the effects of it passes they are confronted with indisputable evidence that marks the way to the electric chair, while they stare in dumb amazement at what they have done.

When the people of the United States repealed the Eighteenth Amendment they opened the prison doors for the liquor traffic, the worst criminal in the history of mankind, to spread havoc and ruin all over the nation with the stamp of legality upon it. The Dry Legion.

LINCOLN AND LIQUOR

It is related by Col. John B. Merwin, confidential messenger to Abraham Lincoln, that on the day of his assassination, Abraham Lincoln commissioned him to carry a confidential message to Horace Greeley, and knowing that both he and Mr. Greeley were ardent Prohibitionists, his parting word was, "Merwin, we have abolished slavery forever in the United States. The next great moral conflict will be the abolition of the liquor traffic, to which I pledge my life and my all."

Relating this again and again as his last word with Abraham Lincoln, Col. Merwin asked, "Mr. Lincoln, may I quote you on that statement?" He replied: "Publish it as wide as the daylight shines!"—Selected.

"ILLEGAL BOOZE"

The rummies, the magazines and newspapers which itched for the booze advertising, and our national politicians united in lamenting the awful bootlegging under national prohibition. They promised us that this would be done away if we could again have license. This promise, like the rest of those made by the wets, has not been kept.

In fact, Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, in a release, states that illegal liquor now sold in the United States is estimated at 28,750,000 gallons annually. She predicts that the condition will become a national scandal. Is to legalize crime a solution of the crime problem?