

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

## ARE WE TOO BUSY?

Rev. F. A. Anderson\*

When the prophet, disguised as a soldier, stated as an excuse for having let a prisoner, which he pretended had been entrusted to his care, escape, that he was "busy here and there," King Ahab's judgment was that he must give his life in the place of the prisoner's, and one is forced to admit the king's judgment was just. However, there are many things which God has committed to the care of His people, which it seems to me are slipping away from their keeping, and doing so for no other reason than that they are "Busy here and there."

The home, and family life, were instituted by God. His blessing has been pronounced upon them. They are declared, in the Word, to be a type of the heavenly home, and of the eternal life, where the redeemed have fellowship with the Father, and with the saints, His children. Great men, of every day and age, have recognized the home as the very foundation of the nation. Thinking people humbly acknowledge it as a priceless treasure, but the home life is slipping away from us. Duty and labour claim the time, pleasure and recreation make their demands; until parents and children, husband and wife, have no time for the fellowship in the home that would help to make it all that the word suggests.

The family altar is important, and dates back to the time of the first home. God came in the cool of the day, to the garden that was the home of the first pair, and communed with them. Devout Jews in every home in Jerusalem bowed toward the temple and worshipped, as the smoke ascended from the altar of incense night and morning. Jesus rose before it was day and went into the desert place, and on other occasions spent the entire night in the mountains, in prayer. On earth, He had no home, but He had an altar. The great revival, under the ministry of Richard Baxter, came after he had spent three years, in a successful effort, to establish family altars in the homes of his parishioners. Today men are letting the family altar go; it is getting away from us. Why? Men are busy here and there and the altar is gone. Too busy to pray, and too busy for God.

What a glorious, and priceless treasure the Bible is. It is truly a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet, but we are losing the Bible today. In the busy search for knowledge, the human theory of evolution is replacing the Divine fact of Revelation. Satan began to deal with God's Word by writing a question mark to it—"Hath God said?" Today, modernistic teaching does away with a personal devil, but destructive higher critics continue to write question marks after every "Thus saith the Lord." In Christian (?) homes, the Bible lies dust covered, and forgotten on the shelf, and people are busy reading other literature. It may be true that the other literature is good, and has a place in the home, but its place is not to replace the Word of God. The gold nugget of Divine Truth is being buried under the rubbish of human theory, and lost through the carelessness and indifference of the so-called "Christian" people, who are **too busy** to read it.

God sanctified the Sabbath as a day of rest; and it was to be a holy day. He commanded man to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Today men are so busy during the

six days of the week, they must have the seventh for pleasure, and it is no longer a holy day. Help is scarce and work must be done. There is a war on, and in spite of the fact that in factories where they work six days, and rest on the Sabbath, they produce more war material than those that work seven, many must give up the Sabbath for war work. It is no longer a day of rest. The world is so busy, that for many, the Sabbath is gone.

Churches are all but forsaken today and pastors preach to empty pews. The reason is, men are so busy with self, they are indifferent to God and His Church.

Many a person today can look back to a time when they walked and talked with God, and the Holy Spirit dwelt in their hearts. Today they have lost the joy of their former experience, and the Divine presence of God has departed from their hearts. They have lost Him because they were too busy to entertain the heavenly Guest, and He has gone.

The family altar, the Bible, the Sabbath, and the other things I have mentioned are not the only things that are being lost. In the mad rush and hurry to seek the material, and temporal, many are losing the spiritual, and abiding things. In caring for the things of time, the precious things of eternity are slipping away, and men are losing their souls. They are losing them because they are **too busy** to be saved.

What are men doing that they are so busy? Some are seeking to accumulate wealth. There were two men in Bible times who tried to do this, and succeeded: The man who said: "I will pull down my barns and build greater," and the rich man, at whose gate Lazarus was laid.

But who would exchange places now with Dives, or the man to whom God said, "Thou fool?"

Others are seeking pleasure. But enter a rescue mission and ask yourself the question, "why is this sea of sad faces here?" The answer is generally, that they, like the prodigal of old, have found that the rainbow of pleasure does not lead to the proverbial "Pot of gold," but to broken dreams, sadness of heart, and bitter memories.

There are those who are busy getting fame, yet one need only to read any history to learn the truth of the statement, "The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Many today are busy trying to obtain a place of power, but remember Tennyson said, "Our little systems have their day; they have their day and cease to be," and the broken empires of Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, Mussolini, and others give emphasis to his words. These are the things men are so busy getting that they have no time for God.

One of the sad things is, that, in the hurry and rush of the present day, the world is losing the very thing it seeks. God has said, "Buy of Me gold, tried in the fire." Here is true wealth, and it is still true that "in His presence there is fullness of joy, and at His right hand there are pleasures for evermore." The multitudes of the world are so "Busy here and there" that they are losing the worthwhile things.

\* Pastor, Woodstock, N. B.

"To give a man a full knowledge of true morality I should need to send him no other book than the New Testament."—John Locke.

## JUST A FEW MORE DAYS

By Ruth M. Williams

Just a few more days—our journey will be ended,

Just a few more tears—our eyes forever dry;

Just a few more songs—our voices will be blended

With the choir celestial, praising Him on high.

Just a few more days—our joyous eyes shall see Him,

Just a few more battles—the victory be won;

Just a few more loads—our burdens will be lifted,

And we shall hear Him say: "Child, enter thou, well done."

But O if our treasures of gold we've withholden,

If our bread we've not cast on the waters at morn,

The crown that might have been ours for our wearing,

As the ages roll on, shall another adorn.

## THE CHRISTIAN TASK

Text: "Work while yet 'tis day for the night cometh when no man can work."

We should pause long enough to consciously realize that we are made up with a spiritual body as well as a physical one. The great tragedy in modern Christendom is that we are forgetting the spiritual body in a wave of materialism.

The busy bee flits from one beautiful flower to another. Some of the flowers have an ether effect on the bees and they are almost unconsciously benumbed. Too many of our church people are trying to sip sweetness and joy from such satanic flowers and are deadened to the finer things of life.

I. We are over anxious about bodily health. We feed our bodies regularly. We clothe our bodies for comfort, and yet throngs of professed Christians go for months without feeding their souls on God's Word or have their spirits strangely warmed by spiritual communion.

II. In this intellectual age we are concerned with mental development to meet the demands of our day. And yet how few of us are concerned about our growth in spiritual and eternal knowledge through Bible Study.

III. We are worried with the problem of making money and accumulating material possessions and yet allow ourselves to be spiritually deadened by them when we ought to be "Laying up treasures in Heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt nor thieves break in to steal."

Selfishness is one of the world's besetting sins.

IV. We should wake up and realize that we are but pilgrims here awaiting an eternal abiding place. Jesus wants us to work now. The world does not get much definite conviction concerning the power of Jesus to save from the average church member. When I went under ether for a serious operation the surgeons and nurses were very careful to thoroughly disinfect their hands and to even have carefully disinfected masks to breathe through that one single solitary germ might not have a chance to take my life.

Daily we are dealing with a more important matter than physical life. How careful we ought to be. "Give of your best to the Master."