

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Rev. B. D. Price*

BACK TO GOD

"But from the beginning of Creation, God." Mark 10-6.

We want to get back to God. In these days in which we live, we are perplexed, divided and confused by things intermediate and transient; we seem to have gone to the limit. We have had enough of them and want to get back to God, away back into the council chambers of the Eternal, where we may re-discover the Divine purpose for us and do what He wants us to do. The context is described in a very clear and beautiful manner. The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked Him some questions concerning the law, tempting and mocking Him and thinking to entrap Him. But His answer was: "What did Moses command you?" You profess to be devoted to the law of Moses. What does He say about it? However, Jesus did not stop with the prophets and Moses, but, as prophesied of Him by Isaiah, "He drew His breath in fear of God." He was not the disciple of any man, had no strings tied to him by party or creed, but spoke from the mind and heart of God without fear or favor. Therefore, beloved, we must turn to Him as our teacher and Deliverer in this time of trouble, and look to Him when we begin to rebuild, for all the inventions and schemes of society, the suggestions and legislations of man, must be made subject to this eternal truth. God says: "thus and thus," not "what do men say," nor this party or that, but "what has God said?"

If we could convey this thought to all of our minds what inspired souls we would be; our problems would be solved. Moses wrote some things for the "hardness of their hearts," but it was aside from the eternal thought, permissible but not perpetual. It seems that man, from the beginning has had to have minor providences, little by-laws, and enactments to restrain the wanton and the wilful, but all these are only playthings. "Vanity, vanity," says the wise one. If we would only get back to our text: "In the beginning of creation, God." Every man and all of authority would breathe and stand in the fear of God. Legislation would be just. Social standard would be equalized. It just seems the nature of fallen man to make more and more wordy laws. But Jesus brought all laws to a minimum. He said, "all that the prophets and law have been trying to say, may be summed up in two words, 'thou shalt love the Lord thy God and thy neighbor as thyself.'"

We will be trying, in fact, we are preparing now, for a new order, better living, better schools, better governments and laws in general and continual peace, but these are all perishable. Men come, men go, nations come and nations go but God's Word shall not pass away.

Beloved, we want to hear that still small voice that calls us away from all this into the sweet fellowship of God, union with the spirit, oneness with the eternal right, then we will have order, love, peace, and goodwill toward man.

Truly man is a fallen and depraved being, but in the beginning God created man in His own image and His own likeness. We are not

stopped by the law of the church. We must get back to God's own purpose in making man, to whom he could speak in communion of heart. It seems that man is looked at "as grass," few in days, many cut down in youth; life is short at the most, full of trouble, anxiety, infirmities; we live today, are gone tomorrow. But God made man immortal, gave him what is called an immortal soul; the soul being the true self. We must get back to that Divine stand if we would set a right value upon any human creature that has debased humanity and brought discord upon the very earth he treads. At this present time we are looking anxiously into reports of commissions, committees and councils, into examinations and cross-examinations, and we are basing our judgment of mankind and society upon such reports. We have had enough of human legislations. The reports are perfectly correct, they are useful within given limits. We cannot govern society as it is at present, debased and degraded, without the assistance of such. But at the beginning God made man upright. When we hear of man or men we ought to hear of uprightness, but "many inventions have been sought out" and the greater part is falsehood. Consequently when we look upon man, we are led to believe that his worth is small. He has lost his value. But this is wrong, for we must look on him as God created him, in His own image, for a great purpose. And what was man's relation to man from the creation? Man was to be man's keeper. A sweet thought, a Divine socialism, the socialism that is forgotten today.

But man has a dream, and other propositions to make. These may be good; they may suit for a period of time, and be very useful within a limited period, but what does God say? That is what we should know. God asks: "Where is thy brother?" This is not a doctrine that can be taught by pamphlets nor an issue of some very learned one. This belongs to the beginning. No reformation can take the place of regeneration. No socialism can ever replace this Divine idea of man filled with anxiety about man, not happy until he is found, saved, cared for, protected. This is not a mechanical law. We being in His image and likeness should love one another, not by commandment of the law but by the commandment of the Holy Spirit by the pressure of an infinite and ineffable necessity, the in-pouring of the spirit, the rush of God upon all the motions of the soul. Man has thought out many things. He tinkers, he patches, legislates and amends, enlarges and undoes. He is before God, a fool, He "does not hold large commerce with God."

When the spirit is right all literal schedules may be discarded. We shall not be right until we cannot help doing good, until we breathe it, until we are transformed by it. That is the Divine idea. God is love. Not by Word or covenant, but **is** love. That is how He made man in the beginning. "In His own image."

"In the beginning, 'man's relation to other creatures, What was it? As they passed by for him to name, God gave them all to man for his help, but what has man done? Other creatures were to be in subjection to man, but man exercised his authority with the spirit of hatred, destruction and torture until even the animal creation is at enmity with him. Even the plant life, man has used for greed. God gave them to man for food and

and greed, man has robbed himself of all that was intended for him. God has given plenty, but yet so many are deprived of the necessities because the fruit of the land goes for corruptible things until the day in which we live is a day of trouble, want, sorrow, drunkenness, uncertainty.

As we look upon the scene, we see this lesson: "Get back to God; back to the beginning, back to what was meant for us." Christ pleads and teaches us how to get back to God, the Father, the Creator, and He has made provision whereby we can return.

Man has lost his standing with God by sin and by the law he was condemned. But Christ has purchased our redemption, not with corruptible things, but by his precious blood, and until we get back to Him our hopes for a better world is in vain. We may strive in our own strength and have great hopes for the future after the war, but, beloved, unless we lose sight of ourselves and turn to God, we are lost here and eternally. "Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?"

May God help our people, our nation, to spend time before God, when looking for a new order, that they might find their way back to the original purposes of Him who created all things "in the beginning."

* Woods Harbour, N. S.

THAT'S DIFFERENT

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work on the farm, and motor to town and stay all day. That's different!

12. Many can alibi, "We haven't enough gasoline to get to church, gas rationing, you know," but we notice they have plenty to get to town, two or three times a week, and possibly to drive over and chat with a neighbor. That's different!

13. Many must be at their secular work right on time; in fact, they have not been as much as a minute late the whole year. But on Sunday the same group average from ten to thirty minutes late to church. That's different!

14. Many say "We would be glad to attend church, but we haven't a way"; but the same group can find a way to town or to the neighbors. That's different!

Are you guilty? You may get by for awhile, but there is coming a day when all excuses will be laid aside. God will look down into the innermost recesses of your heart, and He will see the lies, the damning excuses, the sidestepping of the issue. How will your lying excuses look then? The Bible says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8).

"After the pleasures of life are o'er,
And you shall stand, face to the shore
Of the dim land of the evermore,
Careless soul, what then?"

In that day it will be too late; but thank God that day is not yet upon us. We can be ready, if we act now. Here is the solution, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent" (Rev. 2:5).—Free Methodist.

Mrs. Fannie Bradley

The funeral service for Mrs. Fannie Bradley, of Maple Ridge, was held at the home of her son, Mr. Harry Bradley, of that community, and the Reformed Baptist Church, at Otis. Interment was in the Otis cemetery.

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