

The Pastor's Message

Rev. J. A. Owens*

Theme: The Cost of the Journey.

Text: Jonah 1:3. "He paid the fare thereof from the presence of the Lord."

The character of our sermon is the prophet Jonah, whom God had called to go and warn Nineveh, that wicked city of nearly two million souls, and the burden of his message was: "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be destroyed." Now Satan, the devil, that arch fiend of hell, is always around to make faces at God's people, trying to scare them from doing the task God calls them to do. Jonah had heard how that this city was exceedingly great and exceedingly wicked and, through this scowl of the devil, Jonah took shipping to Tarshish and paid the fare thereof from the presence of the Lord.

There are three kingdoms that men have to do with. Each one has what is known as legal tender or medium of exchange, as its standard of values. Our temporal kingdom's standard in this country is dollars and cents. All our temporal values are judged by this standard. Then there is the kingdom of Satan whose legal tender is death. "The wages of sin is death." Yes, death while yet physically alive. This is the condition of every sinner. Then there is the kingdom of God's dear Son, the kingdom of heaven, whose legal tender is the "Grace of God." Now Jonah is not the first nor the last one that has paid the fare from the presence of the Lord. Not the first one that has allowed the devil to change the legal tender of the kingdom of heaven, for the legal tender of death.

In the Word of God is pictured the attitude of Christ, coming to help me and to save men, for his prayer on the cross was: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus recognized that as sin was unnatural, sinners were unnatural, off balance, morally perverted, insane. What! You say these men that crucified Christ were insane? Surely they were insane, putting to death the one who wanted to be their Saviour. Any man is insane when he will continue to accept from Satan his legal tender which is Death, Spiritual Death. Surely Jesus was right when he said these men "know not what they do." The fact that He was the Son of God but incited them on. The Purity of Christ added to their frenzy until they became murderers of the best friend man has ever known, Jesus the Saviour.

Yes, men pay the fare from the presence of the Lord when they sin against their better judgment, when they use the legal tender of death in the form of cursing. Cursing on the street, in places of business, buses, street cars, trains. The whole world seems bent on cursing. Satan has no mouth to curse and vent his hate on God and his creation, so he requires his subjects to curse God and His Christ and everything that is good and pure. If you want to get away further from God, keep on cursing, pay the fare of moral death again and again. Exod. 20:7. Second comm.: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

Men pay the fare from God by allowing habits of death to become fixed on them—the tobacco habit and the curse of drink. What Arise and contend with the powers of hell for the chastity of women and the sanctity of

chains Satan has forged around his subjects by these two awful vices! From these two has sprung a multitude of attendant evils, vicious sexual practices, disregard of marriage vows, etc. God have mercy on poor humanity paying the fare of moral death from the presence of the Lord.

Look! What is coming down the street? Looking again we find that it has a strong resemblance to a human being! It is. "It is a human being," we cry. What has happened? Some strange malady is upon them. They stagger, and from their mouths billow clouds of smoke and streams of nauseating brown liquid. "My God!" we cry, "What's happening here?" Death. Moral Death. Men paying their way from the presence of the Lord in the coin of the Satanic realm. Moral death. We look again and see what at first glance appears to be a woman, but upon closer scrutiny we find we are looking at some kind of a queer artificial creature. It would seem too that this one depended upon some kind of internal combustion for her power of locomotion for billows of smoke pour from her mouth and nostrils and did it seem to spout from her eyes and ears or did our eyes trick us?

Oh, God help us! This creature that God had created to cradle the future generation in, paying her way in the coinage of the realm of Satan from the presence of the Lord.

Nations, too, pay their way from the presence of God. Pay it in the coinage of the realm of Satan, Death. The cry is abroad in the land today to conserve, conserve, for war purposes, and rightly so; but what of the allowing of thousands of bushels of grain to be converted into alcoholic beverages; for alcohol is nothing more than arrested death, that can be bottled up to do its damnable work a little later. Oh yes, pray for victory. Be presumptuous and ask God's help while making accessible thousands of gallons of this arrested death. What mockery is this to ask the church of God to pray for victory and at the same time make possible the pouring of liquid damnation down a nation's throat.

Church of the living God, arouse yourself, throw off this yoke of death, raise up thy voice like a trumpet, gird yourself to battle for the souls and bodies of your fellow men. the home. The evils that our fathers condemned we have condoned. God help us!

Let us arouse ourselves as a nation and quit paying the fare of death from the presence of the Lord. God said in II. Chron. 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." God help us to do just this as a nation and find the Grace of God, the coinage of the kingdom of God's dear Son, meeting all our needs. Amen!

* North Head, N. B.

THE BIBLE

This Book, this Holy Book, in every line
Marked with the seal of high Divinity,
On every leaf bedewed with drops of Love
Divine;

This ray of sacred light,
This lamp from off the Everlasting Throne
Mercy took down, and in the night of Time
Stood, evermore, beseeching men with tears
And earnest sighs, to read, believe and live!

—Translation from an old Jewish source

QUARTERLY MEETINGS (Continued from Page 3)

brought us a gracious message from Matt. 5:48.

At the close of the service one seeker was at the altar for sanctification.

Sunday afternoon Lic. R. L. Sabine delivered the message from Judges 14:5-6.

At the closing service Rev. S. G. Hilyard brought the message from Matt. 16:26. His subject was: "Profit and Loss." At the close of this service three men went to the altar for sanctification. Each one testified to definite victory.

We wish to praise God for the presence of the Holy Spirit which abideth with us throughout the entire meeting.

MRS. R. L. SABINE, Secretary

ADD QUARTERLY MEET

District No. 4

The Quarterly Meeting of District No. 4 convened with the church at Woods Harbour, N. S., May 31st to June 3rd.

The first message of the Quarterly was brought Thursday evening by Rev. P. W. Briggs, from Matt. 24:38: "But as the days of Noah were."

Friday evening Rev. F. A. Dunlop preached from Mark 10: "The Rich Young Ruler."

Saturday afternoon the usual business meeting was held with the president, Rev. P. W. Briggs, in the chair.

The Saturday evening message was brought by Rev. F. A. Dunlop. Text: Luke 11:13.

The speaker emphasized the need of the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the believer's life.

Love Feast Sunday morning was conducted by Mrs. F. A. Dunlop. This service continued until noon.

Rev. P. W. Briggs preached Sunday afternoon from Matt. 24:38. The closing message of the Quarterly was given by Rev. F. A. Dunlop. Text: Heb. 3:13. "But exhort one another daily, etc." A message on the unconscious influence of a sinner, making clear his need of salvation.

During the services eight seekers were at the altar, seeking pardon or sanctification.

Prayer meetings were held Friday and Saturday afternoons, also Friday morning.

This was indeed a good Quarterly because of the presence of the Lord and His blessings. We left Woods Harbour feeling refreshed in our souls. We also enjoyed the special singing rendered during the services.

LOIS E. HERSEY, Sec.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

A book that is not worth reading twice is not worth reading once.

Christianity is not a creed nor an institution, but a way of life.

Being sorry you got caught is not repentance.

One thing that improves the longer you keep it is your temper.

Religion is not a vocabulary nor a restraining hand, but a source of power.

Self-improvement is a duty you must perform yourself.

If your religion can be hidden it might easily be lost.

Thinking begets thinking.

Every difficulty is either a grindstone or a stepping stone.