

CORRESPONDENCE

Black's Harbour, N. B.

Dear Friends:

I am happy to report victory in my soul. I find my Christ to be an all-sufficient Saviour.

On March 29th I was pleasantly surprised when about thirty-five of our Church people gathered to spend the evening. Brother John Justason, on behalf of those present presented me a birthday gift, which was much appreciated. On such occasions I find it hard to express the gratitude I feel. May the Lord bless these good folk who have been so gracious to us since our coming here.

The services are good and quite well attended. There are many needy souls in this community. May the Lord help us to win some of them for Him.

GERTRUDE WILSON

Fellsmere, Florida

Dear Highway Friends:

The South is in mourning for President Roosevelt. Flags are floating at half mast on every public building and will be continued for thirty days.

Said one Navy man: "Our ship has lost a great captain." His tomb is guarded by two soldiers.

Said one commentator: "He was a man of prayers, one who loved his Maker." His favorite hymn was, Onward Christian Soldiers.

The Camp Meetings are over, and the attendance was good. The police are baffled more or less by the fact that many unwanted people shall come here in spite of strict gas regulations.

A car load of gypsies from the North were held up by the police and questioned about their gas. The leader replied: "We were given gas, and told that we were needed in Miami to tell fortunes." No doubt they were kept busy.

It is rather hot here now, and the tide has turned. People are flocking north now, where the weather is cooler. I will be leaving for home soon. My daughter will go north with me. Will spend a few days with friends at Daytona Beach. Enjoy The Highway and am always glad to hear from any part of God's vineyard. Greetings to all my friends.

MRS. FRANK KIMBALL

Seal Cove, N. B.

Dear Highway Friends:

We wish to give a brief account of our work here and acknowledge the goodness of our God to us through The Highway.

We have had a real good winter in our work here. There has been a revival spirit prevailing in both the Seal Cove and Wood Island Churches all during the winter. Quite a number have been seeking the Lord in our regular services. Some notable victories have been achieved.

We had revival services at Seal Cove during the month of March with Rev. R. H. Hamilton as our evangelist. Brother Hamilton was a great man with a wealth of experience and we enjoyed having him with us. We had a good meeting, deep conviction rested upon many, and quite a number sought and found the Lord. We carried on for a week after our evangelist had left, and had good results. We are still having seekers in our Sunday evening services and trust to climax with a gracious quarterly meeting here May 31-June 3.

Yours in Christ,

REV. & MRS. G. R. SYMONDS

DOCTRINAL PREACHING: A NEGLECTED NOTE

One of the neglected phases of ministerial labors is doctrinal preaching. The clamor against "doctrinal" preaching and for "inspirational" messages often signifies a desire for more heat than for light. This appeal may lure the unsuspecting minister into dangerous by-paths which seriously impede his ministry. It is far easier to select a theme from the current literature and illustrate it with incidents from the newspapers or the misdeeds of the daily lives of our members and neighbors, than it is to dig out truths from the gold mine of God's eternal Word. But how does this superficial treatment fit into the command, "Preach the Word?" Often one seeks to excuse himself, or hide his error, by attaching a verse of Scripture to his effort as a text, which sometimes is merely a "pre-text."

There is nothing more certain than that the one who preaches effectively must preach doctrine! As those who have received the gospel as a sacred trust which we are obliged to pass on unchanged, the ministers must study how to teach the truth effectively. "Teaching is too rare a characteristic in the ministry. Men can talk, exhort, or appeal; but none of these must be confused with teaching. Teaching is causing another to learn, and nothing short of this will suffice. . . The deepest, strongest, and most lasting results in the ministry accrue from those who can teach." (Griffith-Thomas).

Doctrinal Preaching is Necessary

Those who decry doctrinal preaching would do well to bear in mind the place and emphasis which Paul puts upon this.

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in so doing thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." 1 Tim. 4:16.

Many church members are ill-informed on cardinal truths. Often in their quest for more light they fall victims to the advocates of error. Doctrinal preaching, which is sustained by illustrations, forestalls such errors and fortifies the soul against them. Indeed, if we are to preserve our converts, cultivate their spiritual life, we must indoctrinate them.

The one who neglects doctrine neglects essentials. If he does not preach doctrine, what does he preach? The being of God is doctrine; man's redemption is doctrine; the Person and Work of Christ are doctrines. Heaven is a doctrine. Hell is a doctrine. "The realities, the hopes, the fears of this world,

At the close of the revival the Church gave us a love offering of \$105.00.

The only special services that we have had on Wood Island was after our last quarterly meeting at North Head. We detained Rev. H. E. Mullen from Monday until Thursday. Our brother preached well, and the people appreciated his efforts. We had good services with definite results. We are having a baptism at each of our churches a little later or perhaps will have them both together.

The longer we stay here the more we appreciate the co-operation and kindness of our good people. They make us feel that they are with us and appreciate our efforts.

We expect to keep true to our trust and press the battle for souls.

and the world to come, come to us in the Scriptures as doctrinal revelations."

Can you think of Paul or Peter as not preaching doctrine? It was the positive doctrinal preaching of the early leaders that built the Church on so secure a foundation that "the gates of hell" have not prevailed against it. Dr. Grier said: "If you do not preach doctrine, you will grow intellectually and spiritually weak, and your parishoners as lean as Pharaoh's kine . . ."

Prejudice Against Doctrinal Preaching

The complaints against doctrinal preaching may, in the main, be said to arise mostly as "protests against faulty or dull methods of presenting the great Christian convictions." Too often the language is technical, not understood by the minister himself, much less by his hearers; too few illustrations are used to make the meaning clear; and often there is too little apparent connection between the messages and the ones which preceded and and will follow it.

One writer of a generation ago declared that "Antagonism to methods of publishing truth, to the garb of a doctrine, to the intricate process of development and proof" is sometimes erroneously misinterpreted by the minister "as opposition to the doctrine itself; so he often empties his pulpit of the fundamentals, and takes to what he calls 'practical preaching' instead. Inevitably he discounts his ministry, and often runs into bankruptcy."

Blessed is the minister who does not yield to the popular clamor for shallow preaching. "There is always a temptation to shallow plowing in farming and thinking in preaching; yet, there is just as much opportunity for deep plowing and preaching now as the world has ever known. There is, however, a difference in implements and methods, and one must know how to either preach or plow."

It is believed that the majority of churchgoers wish to be indoctrinated with the solid truths of God's Word. But just as the commercial world has discovered that there is tremendous value in the shape, color and decorations of the packages they use, so must the minister give attention to the manner of his dealing with doctrines. He can make this sort of preaching helpful or hurtful. He can become unbalanced and spend so much time on narrow themes, of limited application, with reference to the whole body of revealed truth, that he deals with minors instead of majors; or he deals with negatives in a world that is perishing for something positive. He can over-emphasize some minor point and make his whole effort fail. The true minister studies to show himself an unashamed workman, whose program is God-approved, and whose efforts will be fruitful for the salvation and edification of men's souls.

Making Doctrinal Preaching Helpful

"The preacher is to captivate men for the gospel. He must storm the citadel of the intellect, that he may so reach the heart. Perpetual sameness creates nausea. The reiterated testimony of experience is that preachers who persist in preaching on one theme at all times, and from all texts are not those who bring men most under the benign influence of the gospel truth. It is foolish for men to say "they ought to like it, and it is good for them." They do not like it. The man of God who knows the sublimity of the mission to which heaven has called him will bring forth from the treasure, "things new and old." . . . Monotony of theme is to be avoided if a man

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