

DOCTRINAL PREACHING A  
NEGLECTED NOTE

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would adequately express the counsels of God . . ." (Bishop Quayle).

There are some things which are true, and which must go into the workshop of the minister and come out in the finished product which he delivers to the people. They are essential to a well-developed and symmetrical presentation of his theme. But they do not each have to be held up to intimate inspection in each sermon. Our doctrinal sermons do not have to be dry theological skeletons whose bones rattle one against another as they are paraded before a congregation which hungers for the deep and spiritual truths of God. Every "philosophical, technical bolt, burr, and link in the centre structure" does not have to be discussed in detail. We must have a creed, and it must possess us. But let us brush away the ancient dust and make ours a creed that sings. It has body, and foundation; and it has stood and will stand. But we can present it in an appealing way and manner. We can have something substantial to give to the hungry world. God has provided it for us in His Word. He has commanded us to study and to teach. His Word is capable of dynamic application to present day life and problems. It still has power to transform humanity. It will remake the world, if men and women will allow it to remake them! But it must be declared in the language of their day.

Whether or not they will accept the truth will be determined in part by the way the truth is presented to them. The present possibilities are unlimited. The challenge was never greater. The world never needed the truth as it does now, nor was ever more ready to receive the truth than now. It has been disappointed and disillusioned by the errors it trusted. Now is the time for the minister to boldly step forth with an authoritative message, appealing and transforming. The message must be a doctrinal one, for its body and foundation each requires sound doctrine.

To refer to Paul's admonition to Timothy, quoted in this article, attention to doctrine is as essential as is attention to personal character. In fact, laxity regarding doctrine often paves the way for laxity regarding personal conduct. One who neglects doctrine is as guilty as one who is careless about conduct; and carelessness about either is fraught with disastrous results. for both time and eternity.—Wesleyan Methodist.

## FRIENDS

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered  
And nobody helped us along,  
If each every minute looked after himself,  
And good things all went to the strong;  
If nobody cared just a little for you  
And nobody thought about me,  
And we all stood alone in the battle of life—  
What a dreary old world this would be.  
Life is sweet just because of the friends we  
have made  
And the things which in common we  
share;  
We want to live on, not because of ourselves,  
But because of the people who care;  
It's giving and doing for somebody else—  
On that all Life's splendor depends,  
And the joy of this world when it's all added  
up,  
Is found in the making of friends.

—Selected

## AS IT WAS, SO SHALL IT BE

C. F. Wimberly, D. D.

There is a book written by this title, but we have plagiarized only the heading of this article; we have gotten material only from the Word. This title, however, brings to a prophetic focus four thousand years of history. The Master said in His Olivet addresses that as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. "They did eat, they did drink, they married wives; they planted, they builded, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they did drink, they bought and sold, they planted and builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be when the Son of Man is revealed."—Luke 17:26-30.

If we are to get a true perspective of this retrospect in relation to the present hour we have only to check the record of the long ago. We are told that the sons of God became infatuated with the daughters of men. Here is a statement hard to understand, but the sons of God were the children of Seth who had a royal lineage and worshipped the true God; they had found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It was the tragedy of mixed marriages as so often seen in these days.

Here is the record of the days of Noe: "The earth was corrupt and filled with violence, and God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." Gen. 6:11-12. It seemed that the terrible corrupt condition was brought about by the sons of Seth marrying the daughters of Cain. However, it developed a super race, giants and mighty men. It is a disaster for godly men or women to marry ungodly companions. It shows that the whole social structure breaks down at the basic foundation—the home. When the home fails the flood gates are opened for all manner of iniquity. That age had no civilizing agencies as we have today—Bibles, churches, laws and government; thus ours is the greater sin as we sin again light.

But Christ tells us that the days of Noe would return, notwithstanding all our show of religiosity and big programs. Such a statement is an open rebuke to the modernistic gospel of "Bringing the world to Christ." He saw no such condition nor did Paul and the rest of the apostles and prophets. We are having the Noan regime duplicated in human society. The supreme characteristic of that age was utter indifference to God and His message. Faithful Noah preached for over a century and warned his generation of the coming catastrophe, but it fell on deaf ears. Noah's gospel did not reach beyond his own household. We are often unable to do even that in this age in which we are now living.

The world has lost its way; society is shambling through a jungle of sinful currents and cross currents in all the activities of life. The home is floundering in a maze of disloyalty and disobedience, the juvenile wave is appalling, the by-product of a broken home, so says Mr. Hoover, of the FBI. Marriage is often only a sex convenience, seldom taken seriously, and may be thrown off in the courts at will. Plans are often fixed for an-

other union before the decree is granted. The American way of life in many categories that we hear so much about these days is a stench in the nostrils of God. Home, the first gift of our heavenly Father no longer bears the divine stamp.

In the days of Noe the land was filled with violence. We have only to read our daily press to know how history is being repeated. Our press is filled with stories of embezzlements, homicides, rapes in high and low places. Rackets of a thousand varieties flourish, and open violation of the liquor laws are cursing every big city. We should be exhorted by the ravages of war and its tragedies to be sober, and seek God and His house of worship, but such does not obtain. It is the spirit of the antedeluvian days repeating itself, even in a streamlined intellectualism. As we stated, the days of Noe did not have what we have and the more guilt thereby. This godless, degenerate age is without excuse. The worldly program was going at high tide when God's clock struck twelve and the flood swept them all away.

The Master gives further information touching the "time of the end." "As the days of Lot were, shall the coming of the Son of Man be." What was taking place in Sodom at this time? Righteous Lot's soul was vexed by what was going on around him. Prosperity—they bought, sold and builded. Lot's downfall was due to the choice he made when he "pitched his tent toward Sodom." A book appeared not long since in which our large cities were delineated as Twentieth Century Sodom. That the moral condition of our land is deplorable needs no argument, our Monday mornings in any police courts of any city will verify.

"As it was, so shall it be." Our indifference to the high calls of God and duty is significant as we view the darkness that surrounds us. We are wondering if the Abrahamic test should be tried out here as it was with Sodom. Would it be more successful? We know that less than 40% of Americans have any connection with religion or creed of any kind. Then when we remember how few of that 40% know anything about salvation—this means all denominations and creeds. Every saved man or woman knows the price of salvation and why so few are holding to the ideals of the Bible. We are not putting up a pessimistic whine, but facing cold facts. Only the spiritually enlightened can see the true situation of the long ago is being duplicated today, and it all bespeaks the climax of coming events. It means the soon ushering in of the coming of our Lord and King to take over the kingdoms of this world, and they all will be His Kingdom.

So in these Scriptures 4000 years of history is being repeated before our very eyes, but only a clarified vision can see. The most alarming situation before us today is the color-blindness in the high ecclesiastical circles. The sinfulness of sin has lost its meaning in the complex ceremonies of religious programs and organizations. Paul tells Timothy that they will continue to practice the outward forms of religion but deny its saving power. "As it was, so shall it be."—Midnight Cry.

The reason why there is so little self-condemnation is because there is so little self-examination. For want of this many persons are like travellers, skilled in other countries, but ignorant of their own.—Sel.