

## THE SHORT-CUT TO—WHAT? . . .

The short-cut is the right way to go wrong! What a lesson from an icy hill! I was hurrying to my home church to meet the family after a preaching engagement in a nearby town. Going by Sandy Hill road would save me two miles and several minutes. But, arriving on top of the hill, I discovered that it was a mass of ice. So, without rubbers and with a cold still vexing, I proceeded to put on the chains. The car and I landed safely, but with loss of time and inconvenience. The folk had already gone home from church. In leaving the main road and taking the short-cut I failed to arrive in time, and so "missed the mark," as the Greeks would say. "To miss the mark" is the outstanding conception of sin, I remembered. Did I commit the sin of the short-cut?

As I mused, I thought how prevalent is this sin of the short-cut, especially among good people! Said our college president to us the other day:

"I recently received a letter from a young lady, sixteen years of age, who said she had a call to God's work, and wanted to go to Bible school. She had not completed her high school work, so I advised her to get that out of the way before taking further studies. She demurred, saying that would take too long—that she could not afford the time."

She "could not afford" to take a few years to lay a foundation for a life-service of many years. It was the sin of the short-cut!

He had been graduated from a college of high scholastic and spiritual standards, and by God's grace had profited well by his training. Then, upon their graduation two Spirit-filled young people started life together. Their lives were filled with joy and the abounding grace of God. Against the advice of spiritual friends, they chose to go to a seminary not reputed to be conservative. The Highway upon which they had been walking, now seemed too straight. The distance between the world's way and God's way did not seem as great as in the high moments of college life. The joy of the Lord, so characteristic in the earlier days, became less and less. Then his earthly pilgrimage was cut short. His entrance into the Eternal City is not questioned, but what about the "abundant entrance?" Oh, the insidiousness of the short-cut!

She had a call to the mission field, and was in college joyfully preparing for her high calling. Following graduation she went to a distant city to study nursing. Then the vision began to fade. Sorrows came. Life became a burden, and the world became more and more attractive to her. She left the King's Highway for sin's sweet (?) morsel. The short-cut to her way of happiness has brought remorse; her life-calling has never been realized, and likely never will be! Such can never say, as did Jesus, "I have glorified thee \* \* \* I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." It is the old story of the sin of the short-cut.

How prevalent is this sin of the short-cut in everyday living! God calls to communion and meditation as the morning hours are breaking, ere the work of the day is begun. But love of slumber, the pressure of studies, or cares of the household become the short-cut to the doings of the day, and no touch of God is felt upon the soul to bless the activities of the day.

God calls to a life of separation from the world to Himself—a life of absolute abandon-

ment to His holy will—one of a cleansed channel and purified motives. But many Christians seem to think that such a life takes too much time (to be holy) and too great a sacrifice of one's cherished desires. Hence they do not "sell out" completely to God and become a "vessel sanctified, and meet for the Master's use." There is no short-cut to a life of Christian maturity. To leave God's highway of a life of constant spiritual renewal for the short-cut of a life of worldly conformity and approval (Rom. 12:1-2) means loss of power with God and man, and failure to build one's life out of things that are eternal (I. Cor. 3:12-15).

"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10, R. V.). God designs that every believer be a fruit-bearing Christian; so He constantly places ahead of him, in the way, opportunities for good works which His obedient people walk into, and glorify Him. But when they take a short-cut, out of the way, then life is barren and lacking in fruit. Beware of "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (I. Peter 2:11). "Anything that steams the window of the soul is a fleshly lust." Even good things may sometimes do this. Anything, however small or great, anyone, however dear or prominent, that makes Jesus less real in one's life, and His cause less dear, is a fleshly lust. Good things may become allurements to the sin of the short-cut.—Selected.

## A HOLY GHOST TRAINING

Peter Wiseman

Any person familiar with the advancement—in what direction we shall not say—of modern education will not question the need of courses designed to meet the need on every line, courses in psychology, philosophy, history, apologetics or Christian evidence, theology, and such like; but it is our sincere conviction that there is no need equal to that of a knowledge of the Bible. The command is, "Preach the Word"—the written Word and the Incarnate Word. How could a young preacher preach the written Word without a knowledge of that Word gained from comprehensive and intensive study of the Word? And how could a preacher preach the Incarnate Word, the Christ, without an experiential knowledge of the Christ?

There has been quite a lot of emphasis on a defence of the Word of God, as may be covered by Christian Evidence—and rightly so—but after all is not the greatest defence of the Word of God the Word itself? Does it not still have divine authority? This is true among all classes of men, the learned as well as the illiterate. Prove your "thus saith the Lord," and people generally sit up and take notice.

The outstanding need for our pulpits is men who know the Book of God and declare the great truths found therein without fear or favor; not what men say about the Bible, for or against, but what God says in His Book. The positivism of the Christian faith will meet the need.

Back to Bible preaching will do more to meet the challenge of the hour than any other kind of preaching. It is the only force that will meet and stem the flood of destructive criticism. If all the pulpits in America would for but one Sunday declare the whole truth of

God as revealed in His Word, a mighty revival would be on our hands. A lot of preaching must sicken the heart of the Eternal. How sad and how awful!

The challenging need even among fundamental and orthodox groups is this very training: a training in the Word of God; courses in both Old and New Testament, comprehensively and intensively covered, under the guidance of Holy Ghost professors, men with religion enough to honor the Holy Ghost. Let young people go out from such an atmosphere and with this store of vital knowledge, crowned with holy fire, the fire of the Spirit, and something will happen, just as surely as it happened on the Day of Pentecost. It can happen again.

The Christian institutions that will make provision for this, and are not afraid to honor the Holy Spirit; institutions that will see to it that such courses are given and given by men who know the Book, know the God of the Book, know the Holy Ghost and honor Him: such institutions will have God's smile and find a place in history as being a mighty factor to stem the flood of destructive criticism in the nineteenth century. Many will rise to call them blessed.

## THE DECLINE IN GODLY LEADERSHIP

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God to glorify, and no one can stand as sponsor for me before the Great Assize. There I must stand alone; and if it should be necessary that I stand alone for a little while here, I shall not wish it had been otherwise when the day comes. If my fellowship is worth asking, then it will be given to the saintly man, the humble man, and the holy. He who would call me to his side must have garments that smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia out of the ivory palaces. Let him show me his scars and then command my service. I shall not withhold it. Gladly will I toil beside the man who reminds me of my Saviour! As for the other, let them not trouble me. I am trying to show forth the glory of Him who called me out of darkness into His marvellous light. It is "a great work, and I cannot come down."

## OBITUARY

Mrs. Eliza A. Beal

Mrs. Eliza A. Beal passed away July 17 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Janie Kent, West Jonesport, in her 84th year. For many years she made her home at the Flying Place, Beals. When Rev. Daniel Hilyard came to Beals preaching Holiness, she embraced the doctrine and became a charter member of the Reformed Baptist Church. Also she was elected the first President of the Ladies' Aid.

Of her ten children, four survive: Mrs. Irving Kent, West Jonesport; Mrs. Frank Alley, Clarence and Charles Beal, of Jonesport, and one brother, Frank T. Wallace, of Beals.

Funeral services were held Friday 2.00 p. m. in the R. B. Church at Beals, conducted by Rev. S. G. Hilyard, assisted by Rev. Melvin Sweet, of Beals. Interment was in the family lot at Sewell Field, Beals.

To the sorrowing ones we extend our sympathy.