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EDITORIAL

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE—
GOD BLESS THEM!

God has blessed our church with a fine group of Christian young people. One could not be present at the recent Y. P. Convention without being impressed with this fact. In the factory, on the farm, in the office, the hospital, High School, and University, our consecrated youth are witnessing a good confession to the praise and glory of Christ Jesus.

Fifteen years ago our Young People's Association was organized. At that time we had a very small group of Christian young people at our Camp Meeting. A like condition prevailed in the local churches. In not a few churches one, two, or three young people were found bravely standing for the Lord. During the years immediately following the organization of our Y. P. A., real revivals broke out in many of the communities where our churches are located and scores of young people were born of the Spirit. Throughout the entire fifteen-year period there has been a healthy increase in our young people's work. We have local youth groups which are strong factors in the spiritual life and labours of the churches with which they are united. The young men and women who come to our Camp Meetings by the score are a real strength to those meetings as they sing, pray, testify and co-operate in the general programme of the Camps. Denominational Y. P. Rallies, such as the one held at Moncton May 23-26, with about one hundred and twenty-five of these radiant, youthful witnesses for Christ present, are a credit to our denomination.

Not too many years ago the lack of young people was a source of concern to our pastors and people who looked to the future. Who was to fill up the gaps made in the local churches when the faithful men and women who had been bearing the burdens and fighting the battle had ceased from their labours? Where were the potential pastors, evangelists and missionaries who would succeed those who were giving service at home and abroad when these faithful servants and hand-maidens finished their course? The Lord has graciously eased the minds of all who were thus troubled by raising up an army of talented, consecrated, young men and women, some of whom have gone forth, some now in training for service, and others loyally assisting in the work of the local church and standing ready to go forth into other fields if the voice of the Lord should call them.

Great grace and much wisdom are needed to employ our youth gainfully in the work of the Kingdom. Pastors and church leaders, as well as denominational authorities, would do well to pray for divine strength and guidance in this task. The enthusiasm and zeal natural to youth may be mistaken for self-seeking and those who would and could render valuable service may be forced into dangerous idleness because of mistaken judgment. Young people must have something to do. They would be sub-normal if they did not crave activity. Happy is the church and happy are the people who have learned how to guide the virility of Christian youth into channels of usefulness. Strong hands and willing hearts these young people possess, and they're ready to do with their might what wise and humble leadership assigns them.

The problem of a quarter century ago was: "Where are the young people?" Our present problem is, "What shall we do with them?" What shall we do to strengthen and encourage them in their courageous testimony for the Lord? What shall we do to keep them from the spoiler's hand? What shall we do to employ them to best advantage in the service of the Master? I leave the questions with you. The answers are to be found by those who have unselfish love for the Lord and an unselfish interest in the future of His work.

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES

Lic. Kenneth Sullivan

Texts: Eph. 3:19, Phil. 4:7, Rom. 11:33.

The quality which became the supreme characteristic of the life of St. Paul and shaped his career was devotion to Christ. From that moment when he met Christ his one passion was to do the will of the Master. He delighted to be counted as a slave for Christ and his only ambition was to propagate His ideas. The transformation of his life was so great that the "heart of Christ was beating in his bosom" toward those in sin. To carry on the work that Christ began was a joy to him even if it had caused him to bear on his body scars and bruises as a reward. He was willing to die that others might live even as Christ had died for the world. Behind all the bold expressions that Paul makes concerning the work for the Master we can sense the deepest humility. He knew that Christ had done everything for him. The old Paul had vanished away and a new Paul had come in the image of Christ. His thoughts, words, deeds, and character were of Christ.

St. Paul was peculiarly aware of the mission of his life—to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. As he went out preaching Christ, revivals broke out, men were brought to God, churches were organized, and the Christ whom Israel rejected was now to bless the world. Today we have a record of Paul's letters as he admonishes them and extols the glory of his Redeemer. The personality of Christ had changed him and became so dominant in him that all he could do was to tell others about it—yet he could not fully understand it. There were depths which his keen mind could not reach, and throughout his letters as he is expounding the gospel to the people he has to stop and say, "it passeth all understanding". And it is with this thought in mind that I should like for us to take a look into three different letters and listen as Paul tells his people that our

God passeth all knowledge and is past finding out—He is too great for our understanding.

1. The Love of Christ Which Passeth Knowledge.

In his letter to the Ephesians St. Paul exhorts them to unity, holiness and love and to such a life as consists with their high calling. One of the things that he exhorts them to know is the "love of Christ which passeth knowledge". Other places in the Bible give account of the love of Christ but nowhere is the fact made more challenging than it is here when we see it as being beyond our grasp to fully comprehend. The kind of love which Paul speaks of here is that which Christ Himself showed us—that when we were yet sinners He died for us. It was the love that He had when He looked upon mankind in a lost condition and saw a hope of its restoration and "humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" to effect a redemption. This is "love that passeth understanding."

The redemptive price had been fixed on humanity and justice would not relent and the love of Christ was given the supreme test. As heaven stood in hushed silence and the decree again was proclaimed, "The wages of sin is death", His love did not shrink from the full and awful responsibility required. Christ took His leave from heaven with anxious forbodings knowing full well what the cost would be, and sought to pay the penalty for sin. Can we comprehend the extent of God's love? Do we know what feeling He had when He spoke of that baptism by blood? Can we ever know what He endured that night in Gethsemane when He prayed and underwent such mysterious agony? Can we comprehend the complaint when He cried out from the cross, "My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken me?" These facts go beyond our thoughts, but the love which made Him stoop to such agony is indeed love which passes knowledge.

The love of Christ passes all knowledge because of its divine nature. He is divine; therefore, His love is divine. If we could understand all concerning the divinity of Christ we might understand His divine love. It is out of this heart of divine love that He can put a love into the hearts of men. This love in the Christian is not understood by the world. Men are persecuted for righteousness' sake because their accusers do not understand the nature of God's love in the heart of man. To understand His love we must know Him, but if we do not know Him we cannot understand the love which He has put into the heart of His children. We sing:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky."

Our God is great and His love is beyond our comprehension but we can have a share of that love in our hearts that will make our very being cry out to be more like Him and to know more about Him. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

II. The Peace of God Which Passeth All Understanding.

In the letter to the Philippians St. Paul sounds the keynote, "Rejoice in the Lord always." And as he exhorts them to be of the same mind in the Lord he gives out a bit of