

tion to the will of God it will prove a snare in promoting a divine work of grace.—Editor, The Burning Bush.

SOME PARAGRAPHS

W. Edmund Smith

The summer is nearly over and the camp-meeting season is gone. The pastors and people can now appraise the real spiritual results in their respective churches. As a pastor I always found it took about three months to regain in attendance at church, Sunday School and prayer meeting what was lost in the summer slump. The faithful few hold the fort till the others get back. Spirituality seems to evaporate in hot weather. Few grow in grace during vacation. They let down physically, mentally and spiritually. This may be true of pastors as well as people. I heard a pastor say, "It is hard today to keep people spiritual." I heard one man say that he endured the greatest bondage trying to keep something he did not have. He took sanctification by a head faith. But he finally died out to sin and the desire for mere emotion and really got the blessing.

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World conditions look none too good. The once greatest leader of world democracy is floundering in heavy seas. Socialism promised Britain the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. After two years Britain is worse off than ever, in spite of three billion and a half loan from U. S. A. But if Britain would divert the billions she spends every year on whiskey, nicotine, gambling and sport into channels of legitimate trade, things would soon pick up. We in America boast of prosperity, but as true as there is a Holy God in heaven who rules in the councils of men, judgment will come upon this land for its drunkenness, licentiousness and prodigality. But while the old prophets pronounced judgment upon Israel in the most denunciatory language they always ended with a note of hope for better days; and we too can still believe to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

It is hard for us preachers who can drive lovely cars, live in modern homes, wear good clothes with a comfortable salary back of us, that can enable us to take a vacation in August and run all over the country the rest of the year, to think things are so bad. Our fathers in the ministry had to either walk, ride horseback or in a buckboard over the worst kind of roads, yet they believed to see the goodness of God in the land of the living; and their living was pretty poor in comparison with ours today.

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I heard a Nazarene General Superintendent recently tell a District Assembly the revival meetings held by the Nazarenes were becoming a joke. The church goes in for a two-weeks meeting; some are stirred a little. If there is some extra attraction more people will come out. But there are small results. He urged an intensive canvass of the church community. We must compel them to come in.

At the last quadrennium of the great Methodist Church, a slogan was given for an increase of a million members during the ensuing four years. Each great conference was given its quota according to its membership. Then this conference quota was apportioned to the respective districts that compose a conference, and from there the quota was passed on to each church on the district according to its membership. The race was on. Pastors organized their members into teams and sent

them out to canvass for members. The thing has been a wonderful success. It looks as if by next summer, when the General Conference comes here to Boston, more than a million members will have been won. Such a revival is bound to sink a church deeper into the slough of worldliness and unbelief. It is easier to get joiners than to get borners.

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We naturally shrink from affliction and suffering, yet after all they prove the greatest blessing when received in humility and faith. They in fact humble us down to see the vanity of mere earthly things, or to bank too strongly on favorable circumstances. How suddenly things all change! How suddenly the strong man is brought low! But we in our physical weakness and discomfort can have awakened in us a larger appreciation for the things that remain and a larger sympathy for those we know who suffer so much more than we. "The Cross is not greater than His grace." A patient submission to the will of God will enable us to see the patterns God has for our lives, and all things work together for good to them that love God.

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No person can preach holiness unless he has the blessing; the same is true of testimony. We may preach about the blessing after it is gone and we try to soothe our conscience by an orthodox presentation of the doctrine. But the spirit will be lacking and it is the Spirit that gives power to preaching and testimony. "The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life." And the preaching that magnifies a great emotional experience but does not deal with the "Old Man" falls short. The battle for holiness has ever been waged around the demon of inbred sin. Multitudes of good people plead for the sparing of Agag. But to seek for holiness without the crucifixion of carnal self is about as futile as for a man totally blind, crawling about in a perfectly dark room, looking for a black cat that is not there. Or to use another quotation: it is like a person firing his rifle without aim into the air and then looking around in the grass for the game.

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When our souls are truly blessed of God, it makes our hearts, as I heard a good Scotsman say, "ALL liquid." No hard lumps there; no hard feelings; no self pity but a fulness of love and joy. Our souls can be convulsed with a tremendous burden for the souls of loved ones and for those that may hate us. Our prayers reach out for all mankind. We feel a burden for this old world of sin and suffering. We pray for every church and every pastor that God may bless them all He possibly can. How blessed to have a real breaking up time! When the mountains flow down at His presence God seems so real. Holiness is the thing to be cultivated. It is then we pour contempt on all our pride. The things once gained we count loss for Christ. Then we feel ourselves less than the least of all saints. We are lost in wonder, love and praise at the mercy, patience and goodness of God towards us. Hallelujah!

THE FAMILY ALTAR . . .

A grieved mother said: "If I had only known that it was his last trip home!" Her son, on his return to the service during the war had gone down into the deep blue sea; a submarine had done its deadly work. This mother had failed to pray with her wayward son, and now felt the sting of a guilty conscience. "If I only had!" are among the saddest words in the

English language. Negligence bestows no benefits, grants no blessings.

Not long ago a sailor came to our office and requested that we explain God's method of salvation. I stressed the fact that faith is essential; that "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Then he said:

"Sir, my folks do not pray; they are not church members. I waited around home, thinking that before I left for the war they would pray for me. They only joked about religious matters, and said funny things so that I would not feel too sad about my going away. Sir, I love my parents, and I think I will cast my lot with them. So long, sir. Thank you for your words and prayer."

He left me with a sad heart—I could do no more. Oh, ye careless, prayerless mothers, no preacher or public teacher can take **your** place in the training of **your** child!

The first murderer said to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God's answer to Cain was **this**: "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." If a man is the keeper of his brother, how much more is he the keeper of his own children! Note the Scriptures which suggest God's interest in the salvation of the whole family: "Come thou and all thy house into the ark," were His words to Noah. Paul said to the trembling jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." "Are they all in?" asked a mother of her husband. "Yes, Jane, they are all in." Then I am going home," she replied, and passed on to her eternal home. That saintly mother was dreaming of her young motherhood days when her children were young.

Come, now, while you have life and health, and opportunity to erect a family altar. Put your whole heart into this matter regarding the salvation of your children. Bow low before the Lord of mercies, and He will bend the very heavens to crown your soul with victory.

Are you at a loss to know just **how** to conduct family worship in the home? Many stumble over the very simplicity of the method. Just pull two or more chairs together, a piano bench will do. After a brief Scripture reading, kneel, and pour out your hearts' desires to the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

"When ye pray, say, Our Father, which art in heaven." God is a fatherly Being who loves, and longs to save the whole family. Only believe, and obey, and thou shalt see the glory of God, and enjoy forever an unbroken family circle in Heaven.

SEVEN THEORIES OF HOLINESS

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sinful world, prior to death—the Spirit attesting the fact of inward purity and holiness, and enabling us to "serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life" (Luke 1:74-75). And tens of thousands in all lands have borne glad testimony as living witnesses to this glorious fact.

If Christ is not able to save us from sin—inside and outside — right now, then His remedy is not equal to our need; if He is able but not willing to thus save us right now, then He must favor our having some sin, and thus becomes the minister of sin. Thank God, He is both able and willing, and willing and able, to save to the uttermost, all that come to God by Him (Heb. 7:25), and do it right now.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.