

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

Those who have informed us of being open for a call to pastoral service include the following: Rev. B. D. Price, Havelock, N. B., Lic. Enos Cann, Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, N. S.; Lic. Sterling Hicks, Lorne Park College, Port Credit, Ontario; Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, N. S.; and Rev. H. S. Mullen, Havelock, N. S.

Rev. G. R. Symonds and our church at Perth, N. B., opened a special campaign Tuesday, March 28th. Rev. Willis Miller is evangelist with Mr. Earl Shnyder as soloist and pianist.

Rev. George Sanders will be with Rev. F. A. Anderson and our church at Beals, Maine, for special Easter services April 7th-9th.

Rev. H. S. Dow has been conducting services at Carsonville, N. B., with good interest and a number seeking the Lord.

Special Easter services will be conducted at Moncton April 7th-9th with the pastor, Rev. E. W. Tokley as speaker and Deverne Mullen as guest soloist.

IF'S OF THE RESURRECTION

Before denying the fact of the resurrection, give serious consideration to all that is involved.

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

"For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

If there is no bodily resurrection "then is Christ not risen." He frequently spoke of His death, and invariably linked it with His physical resurrection. He definitely mentioned the "third day" as the time of His resurrection. (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22). If He has not been raised from among the dead, of what value is His word? If He has not left the darkness and silence of the tomb, Satan scored his greatest victory; and God has given no token of His satisfaction with the supreme sacrifice of His beloved Son!

If Christ be not risen, apostolic preaching was "vain or empty! They preached the Gospel of Christ—the good news concerning the death of Christ for our sins, His burial and His resurrection. Everything hinged on the resurrection, hence, if that did not occur, their message was decidedly empty. Instead of glad tidings to rejoice the heart, their preaching was a delusion to break the heart.

If Christ be not risen, "your faith is also vain!" Many of the Corinthians hearing the Apostle Paul preach, believed his report of the death and resurrection of Christ; but if Christ has not been raised from among the dead, their faith was a hollow thing—they believed a false report. Of what real value is belief in a falsehood?

If Christ be not risen, the apostles were

false witnesses! For they repeatedly bore witness to the resurrection of Christ. It was the burden, the crux, the pitch of their testimony. If the resurrection never happened, from whence then the "great power" with which the apostles gave "witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 4:33). Was it of Satan? Were the apostles of Christ instruments of Satan?

If Christ be not risen, "ye are yet in your sins!" What sinners those Corinthians were! After naming such characters as "fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners," the Apostle Paul said: "such were some of you, but ye are washed . . ." If the resurrection of Christ is not a reality, believers are still in all the guilt and hideousness of their sins. A Christ who is in the cold embrace of death cannot absolve anyone from his sins.

If Christ be not risen, those who have fallen asleep in Christ are perished! You may have imagined that the blessed dead are in "realms supernal," but if the resurrection of Christ is not an actual fact, all their hopes of heaven have been blasted. A perpetually dead Christ cannot receive anyone in glory.

If Christ be not risen, believers are of all men most to be pitied! Because they are crucified to the world by the cross of Christ and they have been taught to regulate their lives here in the light of a glorious eternity to follow. They know what it means to suffer persecution for godliness. If worldliness is insipid to them now, and they have no hope of a brighter world beyond, they certainly are "of all men most pitiable."

Reviewing the seven "IF's" it will be seen that everything vital, everything worthwhile, everything Christian, is shrouded in the gloom of death from which there is no awaking, if Christ has not been raised from among the dead.

We turn from all who are even inclined to doubt the resurrection, to hear the divinely inspired Apostle Paul say, without the least fear of successful contradiction: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

"He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part" were alive at the time the apostle wrote.

Hence, apostolic preaching was not in vain, personal faith in Christ is not vain, the apostles were not false witnesses, believers are not in their sins, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have not perished and believers have hope in Christ beyond this world.

Hallelujah, Christ arose!

—Now.

RISEN

Risen! That answers every sneer.

Risen! That silences all fear.

Risen! That truth will ever cheer.

"The Lord is risen indeed!"

—D. M. T.

OBITUARY

William Melvin, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Perry, Port Maitland, N. S., died Monday, March 6th. Funeral service was held from the home conducted by Rev. H. S. Wilson. Sincere sympathy is extended the bereaved.

RISEN WITH CHRIST

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preacher, but do we practice what is preached? We say,

"O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,"

but do we joyously use the one tongue we have to publish the good news of Christ the Lord?

Our empty formalities make one thing of a stanza by William Watson:

"Outwardly splendid as of old,
Inwardly sparkles, void and cold,
Her force and fire all spent and gone,
Like the dead moon she still shines on,"
Death! The deadness of formalism!

An existence that is self-centered, or that is without purpose, or that is only formally religious—this is death. But there is one thing more about which the Holy Scriptures speak very plainly; to have a morally wrong existence is also death. Here, in point of fact, is the crux of the whole thing. Paul puts his finger upon it when, writing to the Ephesians, he says, "You were dead in trespasses and sins."

If a man disregards or defies the laws of health, he dies. He broke relationship with his physical environment. Death is the result. Now the Bible, without mincing words or darkening counsel with vague abstractions, declares that the children of men have broken relationship with their normal spiritual environment. They have trespassed against the laws of moral and spiritual health. They have left God, the Source of their life, and the inevitable has overtaken them: they are dead!

Of course it is a strong, radical figure of speech. It was meant to be. What ails our humanity is no trivial thing. That is why the reformers have not reformed us. That is why the legislators have not made us law-abiding. That is why the educators have not made us decent. That is why the slogans of progress, such as "Make the world safe for democracy," have come back to mock us in the madness of our recent human slaughter. Death is upon us! "Make the world safe for democracy," have come back to mock us in the madness of our recent human slaughter. Death is upon us! We are not simply victims of misfortune, needing only to be improved; we are agents of evil, needing to be regenerated. Our supremely urgent need is newness of life. It is God, and the restoration of broken relationships between ourselves and him through his Son Jesus Christ.

(Continued)

ON THE RESURRECTION MORN

On the Resurrection morning, Soul and body meet again,

No more sorrow, no more weeping, no more pain.

For a space the tired body waits in peace the morning's dawn,

When there breaks the last and brightest Easter morn.

On that happy Easter morning all the graves their dead restore,

Father, mother, sister, brother, meet once more.

Soul and body reunited, henceforth nothing shall divide,

Waking up in Christ's own likeness, satisfied.

—Sabine Baring-Gould.