

## THE MODERN PLASTER BOOM

From Immanuel Missionary

"Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar." Ezek. 13:10.

This day and age is witnessing the greatest building boom of history. It is amazing at the speed in which multitudes of houses are erected in a very short time. The frame is quickly slung together, then stuccoed on the outside and plastered on the inside, and sold for a fabulous price. From all appearances the buildings are strongly constructed, but they could not stand the strain of wind and storm.

Simultaneously with this great plaster boom, there is in the spiritual realm, another great plaster boom. Souls are being plastered up with untempered mortar. It makes a good appearance, and grand show of achievement on the part of the plasterer. Under well constructed and forceful sermons multitudes are being persuaded to "make a start," "make a decision for Christ," etc. It looks good, it is touching, it savors somewhat of the genuine, and godly men and women have endeavored to make themselves believe, against their God-given convictions to the contrary, that a real transformation has taken place in the hearts and lives of those who signed a decision card. They have been told that they are saved and safe in the arms of Jesus. They have said Peace! Peace! but there was no peace. It was the same old life beautifully plastered on the outside.

We have gone to some lengths to investigate the genuineness of the conversion of some who have been under the influence of the modern accession boom. After beholding, and listening to the testimonies, we have been constrained to fall back upon the Scriptures for confirmation. "Plastered with untempered mortar" speaks out to our anxious spirit. When we see those who are prominent in the "Youth movement" and other recent movements with their bobby socks, toeless oxfords, paint and powder, bobbed and marcelled hair, sleeveless and barely to the knee dresses, and often appearing in slacks and denims; and at the same time professing to love the Lord, what conclusion can we reach and be honest, but that such are only **plastered with untempered mortar**. Why lie against the truth and say they are of the Lord, when they are not?

The blame is not to be laid at the door of the plastered, but at the door of the plasterer. The prophet said, "They (the plasterers, the false prophets) have seduced my people." Deceived themselves, they cannot but seduce those who may be awakened under such portions of truth they may give out. "Many shall follow their pernicious ways." It takes time and expense to prepare and administer well tempered mortar, but most any resemblance of real mortar can quickly be gotten together. It takes no skill to mix it, and it takes less to apply it. Oh if we could only see the multitudes of young and old going about with a profession, a false security, and a man made comfort, it would make us weep. Some years back we attended a meeting in a western city. A world known and popular evangelist was the preacher. The city auditorium was packed that night. It was young people's night. At the close of the sermon the evangelist said something like this: "How many think I have preached a good sermon, and you would like

to live a better life?" I judge that six hundred young people stood to their feet. Quick as a flash chevroned ushers darted out from all directions with card and pencil in hand. As they rushed to the standing youth, they would enquire, "What church do you want to unite with?" The cards were gathered and took to the evangelist. With a stack of cards in each hand he was commending the many young people for the noble thing that they had done. If this plasterer was not plastering with untempered mortar—getting souls into a profession without any real possession, then we don't know the difference between truth and falsehood. On the way home that night, sad and sorrowing, we said to the two young men that had gone with us to the service, "This is the worst thing that has ever hit this city." Hundreds of young people had been persuaded into a profession of religion without being acquainted with the Author of salvation. No doubt the majority of those young people will live and die under the delusion that they were saved that night.

While the plasterer is largely to blame, yet the word says that the untempered wall shall fall. "There shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hail stones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it." "Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, 'where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it.'" Ezek. 13:11-12. Oh the tragedy when souls come to the end of life or to the great Judgment day, and find that they have been deceived and seduced. They had been told that all was well—peace! peace! and now there is no peace, but sorrow, despair, and remorse. The daubing that is expected to stand when the storm comes, has all been washed away, leaving the poor soul to his doom.

In the midst of this modern, popular, plastering boom what a great need of preachers of the other type—those who will declare the whole counsel of God, those who will insist upon genuine repentance of sin, and a living faith in the atonement for sin. Those who will unflinchingly and everlastingly proclaim that young and old can be knowingly and clearly born again, made a new creature, with all the old things passing out of their lives, and all new things replacing the old. This, and this alone, will ever satisfy the heart of our youth, and win the smile and favor of the living God. Much prayer is going up for a nation-wide revival. We need to be more specific. We need to pray for a genuine revival of old-fashioned conviction and repentance, that unpopular, hated, yet rugged way to the cross where only the blood can be applied for sin and uncleanness. Let us not fall into ease at the glaring reports we hear of sweeping revivals in which thousands are reported to have swept into the kingdom of God. It may be indications that many are lured into the refuge of lies (a mere profession of salvation). Walls plastered with untempered mortar answers to the Apostle Paul's powerless "form of godliness." And to Jesus' "two fold more the child of hell." Most of the modern converts do not even "Appear beautiful on the outside," or "outwardly appear righteous unto men." A little stereotyped testimony seemingly forced from a betrayed heart, and perhaps a quitting of the movies, dances, and a few of the more prevalent sins, are about the sum total of the fruit of their decision. Are there not many in the world that have gone this far in denial, yet make no profession of salvation whatsoever? In the

long run, and in the final test a plastered wall can no more endure the vehement storm than the wall that has never been plastered. Even so, a soul that has been daubed with mere profession of salvation has no more chance at the judgment than the soul who has never submitted to the process of being whitewashed and plastered by a hireling ministry.

The need of this tragic hour is that bold, clear, and biblical teaching and preaching of holiness. Holiness begun in regeneration, and so far having the soul, that he has not only quit sinning, but does not henceforth sin. Holiness of regeneration that removes one out from the world, keeps him unspotted from the world, and enables him to live a life of self-denial, that happy and satisfied life which so few know anything about. Holiness of regeneration that makes one appear beautiful and righteous outwardly, as well as that inward beauty of meekness. Holiness of regeneration, that gives victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, and causes the one thus saved to love the fellowship of mature Christians, to love the secret place of prayer, to gladly bear the reproach of those who are still of the world, and to hate the evil and love the good.

The finished work of holiness needs to be preached by men and women who have the experience and live the life of holiness. That further work of the Spirit in which the bent to sinning has been purged by the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, subsequent to initial holiness, the first work of grace. Entire sanctification and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God needs to be clearly sounded out in these days of unsound doctrine. Such preaching, if attended to with the same attention and crowds, as the modern popular way is attended, would witness its glorious results, far surpassing the most glowing reports of today. Pentecost, the Samaritan revival, the Ephesian revival, the Caesarean revival, the Wesleyan revival, the Welsh revival, and other mighty revivals of the last century and the early part of this century, were revivals the results of the preaching of holiness in its fulness. Such a revival today would cause our youth and others to clearly distinguish the difference between untempered mortar and the tempered mortar of divine truth. It would create within the breast a longing for something far beyond a mere signing of a card, taking the preacher's hand, or making a decision. It would increase church membership with dynamic youth who could pray the glory down upon the services. They would be a mighty asset to the church and not an alarming liability. Can we hope to see such a revival before Jesus comes? We may not but we can pray the prayer of John Fletcher, who cried out in the anguish of his soul, "Lord let me see a New Testament church on earth—if not let me see it when I get to Heaven."—G. A. P.

Rev. Jack Shuler, Methodist evangelist, recently concluded a four weeks series of revival meetings in Louisville, Kentucky, in which 2,204 persons sought the Lord for salvation. A tavern owner sold his two taverns; a bookie gave up his window at the race track and the local newspapers supported the revival until Shuler opened up his heavy artillery against the liquor traffic. From then on the newspapers practically boycotted the revival.