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Take Me! Seal Me Thine Now and Forever

In our Consecration, we must watch that we have no flaw or blemish or spot upon it. God demands our best, not our second best. The consecration God delights in is that in which our all, and the dearest things we have go upon the altar. This was Paul's kind of consecration. Phil. 3:7. This is what it meant to Jonathan Edwards. He wrote in his diary: "I have this day solemnly renewed my consecration and self dedication. I have been before God, so that I am not in any respect my own. I have given myself quite away and have not retained anything as my own. I have given every power of God."

To Dr. Daniel Steele, in consecration, "Christ became so unspeakably precious that I instantly dropped all earthly goods—reputation, property, friends, family—everything in the twinkling of an eye, and my soul cried out:

"None but Christ to me be given. None but Christ in earth or heaven."

J. B. Taylor said as he sought the Lord, "I was delightfully conscious of giving all up to God. I was enabled, in my heart, to say, here God, take me; take my whole soul and seal me Thine, now, and Thine forever."

"THEY GO TO CHURCH"

One day as a certain pastor was entering a store he overheard a man and his wife inviting a young lady to visit them the next Sunday. They asked her to bring some of the other members of her family with her. She replied, "They go to church on Sunday."

Wouldn't it be fine if we all had such a reputation that people about us would know that we put our church before the pleasures that are offered us? One of the sad facts facing our churches is that "falling away" that Paul said would come in the last days.

Of course we appreciate those who still put the church first in their lives, and, unless they are providentially hindered, will be present when Sunday comes. But there are so many who should be vitally interested in the success of God's work and the salvation of souls, who are letting trivial things keep them away from the church at service time.

If only secular and material things were involved we might excuse ourselves. But when we realize that the welfare of our own souls, the salvation of others and the interests of God's cause are at stake, we are reminded that we cannot treat lightly our duties to God and the church.

We owe it to ourselves, to our homes, to our church and our community to do all we can to keep the spiritual fire burning while the enemy of men's souls is doing all he can to hinder the progress of righteousness in our midst. And we especially owe it to our boys in service to be faithful as Christian parents and loved ones. They are depending upon our prayers and faithfulness to bring them through. So, when we are tempted to stay away from church, let's remember our responsibility to ourselves and others.—W. C. Lovin in Wesleyan Methodist.

Our Place Is At The Battle Front

We are in a holy war. The fight is on. With the world about to be wrapped in flames let us get out of the land of make-believe. Let us anticipate war, and war only. Perish every Pearl Harbour of false peace; Pearl Harbour complacency may be in order for the sleepy and the sluggish, for those in soft clothing. But it is not for us! Those in soft clothing are in the king's houses. Our place is at the battle front.

Let us then prepare for war. Let us build for war. Let us count on nothing less than "total war." The world has gone mad, not only bad but mad, mad after badness. And we Christians have "goose-stepped" so long to the devil's music that we have lost all sense of separation. With the world we eat and drink and dine—hoping to hold the young people. But the night comes on apace. The handwriting is on the wall. The Philistines of judgment are on the march.

Weighed in the balances of discipleship we are found wanting. The darkness deepens. The clouds of persecution threaten the very life of the Christian faith. Our position is that voiced by one of Napoleon's officers who cried to his General, "We can hold this position no longer." To which Napoleon replied: "Then advance." What a word! And how good for us! Our half-baked position we can holds no longer. A mere defensive will win no war. Faith means to go on—to advance.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart

The fire falling from heaven indicates the acceptance of the burnt offering or consecration. When the offering is complete, the consecration absolute, the fire will fall. Joseph Cook, in his lecture on "conscience," has said: "I assert that it is a fixed natural law that when you yield utterly to God, He streams into you, gives a new sense of His presence and imparts a strength unknown before. I affirm that if you yield utterly to God, He will stream through you." Multitudes have proven this to be so.

The disciples at Pentecost had given up all to God in those ten days of waiting and their offering was accepted by fire and they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Dr. Upham has said: "Consecration is the incipient, the prerequisite act. It is laying ourselves upon the altar; but it is not until God has accepted the sacrifice and wrought upon us by the consuming and restoring work of the Holy Spirit that we can be said to be 'accepted in the Beloved.' It is true the one may immediately follow the other; and this will be the case when faith in God is perfect."—George W. Ridout. A SELFLESS, BLEEDING CHRISTIANITY

The Church must adopt austerity measures if she is to match the brand of communistic consecration that is changing a world. Suffering, personal sacrifice, and sentimentalism are nothing to communists. A revitalized, bleeding, sacrificing, selfless, praying, militant Christianity is the only answer to the world's need of Christ and Him crucified.

A battle of ideologies is on and the fate of the world trembles in the balance with communism about to take over. We must match sacrifice with sacrifice, zeal with zeal, selfdenial with self-denial if the tide of communistic aggression is to be stemmed.—Clay Cooper. It means you and I must say, each to his own heart: "You may pay a fearful price, you may suffer, you may bleed and break before you bless but you must go on." Prayer Partners, let us believe and pray and fight the good fight till the tide of battle turns for many souls. JOIN US—NOT TO ENJOY BUT TO ENDURE; NOT TO JOY IN FELLOWSHIP, BUT TO JOIN IN A FIGHT.

But how begin? That is simple. Begin! Awake to duty. Do something! Do it today. Keep on doing. Cry aloud. Spare not. Be hot for God. And then hotter. Stir into flame the gift that is in thee. Refuse to cool off. Burn for God!

Go and sell. Speak and sing. Pray and testify. Put your hand to the plough—and the purse. Push the battle. Let everything count for eternity.—L. E. Maxwell.