

## Mechanical Holiness . . .

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart," (II Chronicles 25:2).

Mr. Webster would tell you that the word "mechanical" pertains to manual skill; or, doing things as if by a machine. So, we have in the above Scripture passage, reference to a man we know as Amaziah—one of the kings of Judah, who reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem.

Amaziah began his reign well, worshiped the true God, kept the temple service going, punished the enemies of righteousness, and encouraged religion in his kingdom. He seemed to know the art of being king so well that the things he did were right in the sight of the Lord, just as a master mechanic would turn out a good piece of work on the machine he operates. But there is one thing said of him that goes far toward discounting all the good which he did; and that was, that his heart was not perfect. He would correspond very well with a model Pharisee in a later dispensation; or with a modern Pharisee of this day. Not that his good works were to be discounted, for they were well recognized, but his good works were discounted by himself, in that his heart was not perfect toward God. He was like the church of Laodicea, which had everything but God.

When Samuel was given the task of anointing one of the sons of Jesse to be king over Israel, God said unto him: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Back of this, when Israel clamored for a king and God finally yielded to their plea, He chose a man whom He knew would please them: a man of a comely countenance, tall, strong, portly, and outstanding in many ways. This was King Saul, whose sun went down amidst dark clouds. But when God chose a king to please Himself, He chose David, a man after His own heart. Though David was rather insignificant in the estimation of his own kindred, so much so that no arrangement was made even for him to attend the ceremony when one of his brothers (so they thought) was to be anointed king, God was looking upon their hearts, and He saw that they were all too big in the flesh and too little in the spirit to be king over Israel. So David was brought in and anointed king.

Now, the perfection implied in the text is not absolute perfection, for absolute perfection belongs to God alone—a perfection which cannot be improved. But when God speaks of perfection as it relates to men, the citadel of this perfection is in the heart. Thus, when David gave advice to his son Solomon, who was to become king in his stead, he said: "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind." It is well for us that He did not say, "a perfect mind," for this is beyond the reach of the finite. But when the Bible speaks of a perfect heart, that refers to a heart that is set perfectly free from all sin—a heart that is perfectly indwelt by the Holy Ghost who is the very embodiment of purity and spiritual refinement; a heart made perfect in love to the extent that it will suffer long and still be kind. Such a heart has no envy within; it is never exalted

## KREISLER'S VIOLIN

The story is told how Fritz Kreisler, the famous violinist, secured his treasured violin, which he calls "Heart Guarnerius."

One day he was in an antique shop and heard someone playing a violin in the room behind the shop. Charmed with the pure, liquid, penetrating tone of the violin, he asked if he could buy it. The dealer told him it was not for sale, that it had already been sold to an Englishman who had a passion for collecting old violins.

After handling the violin, Kreisler said: "I must have this; I will give you all I have for it." Then he asked, "What will this collector do with the violin?"

"Oh," said the dealer, "I suppose he will put it into a glass case and keep it for people to look at."

"This is not an antique to look at," said Kreisler. "It is an instrument to bless the world with."

Still determined to get the violin, he went to see the Englishman who had bought it. Week after week he called upon him, to plead with him to sell it to him. One day the Englishman permitted the violinist to take the instrument out of the case and play it.

"I played that violin," said Kreisler, "as one condemned to death would have played to obtain ransom." When he finished playing, the Englishman was so moved, he said, "I have no right to keep it; it belongs to you. Go out into the world and let it be heard." And Kreisler used it as a medium for his wonderful music.

Our lives can be useless or useful—it all depends whether we allow the Lord Jesus Christ to use us. It is only when we become instruments for Him to use that the finest music is heard in our lives, and blessings are brought to other people.—Selected.

## BRING GOD IN

How often we get into circumstances which God did not choose, and suddenly we find we have been calculating without God. He has not entered in as a living factor. The one thing that keeps us from the possibility of worrying is bringing God as the greatest factor in our calculations; putting Him first in the practical issue of our lives.—Oswald Chambers.

in itself, and thinketh no evil, as in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians. This goes beyond the realm of mechanical holiness. Not that there will be any lack in the outward manifestations of holiness, but that real Bible holiness is an internal possession and condition of heart, first, with an outward manifestation that is correspondingly holy.

After all, it is only heart devotion and heart service that really count. Amaziah served God officially, and with his lips and hands, but not with a perfect heart. Consequently, he tired of it all in a few years, turned to the left, and died in disgrace.

How many today are dragging their bodies through all the forms and ceremonies of full salvation whose hearts are cold and indifferent! We should ever keep in mind the fact that only holiness of heart and life will ever get into the White City of God.

—Church of Christ Advocate.

## The Campus Corner

### CLASSIFIED THOUGHTS

#### BORN

An idea—Young people's societies may assist the Moncton Society in an important project.

Congratulations to the Moncton Young People's Society, which has started to build a "university," that is, they have made the first donation this year to our school library. This gesture is a beautiful illustration of young people helping young people.

#### LOST

Lost interest—twenty churches which have made no response to their school budgets. If found, notify the school treasurer.

#### FREE

Pocket calendars—published by Bethany Bible College and sent to all pastors for distribution to laity. If you have not received one of these attractive little calendars, ask your pastor for one.

#### STRAYED

The article which was supposed to have appeared in this issue. It will appear at a later date.

### PENTECOST IN THE PRINCIPALITY

(Continued from Page 2)

- 2.—Should there be anything doubtful in your life, give God the benefit of the doubt.
- 3.—Obey the promptings of the Spirit.
- 4.—Publicly confess the Lord as your Saviour and Lord.

These are, of course, truths emphasized to this day in our holiness and spiritual life conventions.

Evan Roberts believed that his mission was **in the first place to the Churches, and then to the unsaved.** "My mission," he often said, "is first to the churches. When the churches are aroused to their duty, men of the world will be swept into the Kingdom. A whole Church on its knees is irresistible."

When God's people refuse to respond to the message God has given them, they hinder the unsaved seeking for themselves an experience of God's grace, for a dead Church is the greatest obstacle in the way of sinners coming to Christ. In a circular, issued at the time of the 1904 awakening, the Free Church Council at Carmarthen said, "We cannot justly expect sinners to be saved, and our places of worship to be filled, by those from the outside, until we ourselves get right with God: and this can only be done by an absolute surrender of our whole lives to Jesus Christ as King, and a faith acceptance of the Holy Spirit." An awakened Church always creates an atmosphere in which it is easier for sinners to decide for Christ. Evan H. Hopkins, one of the founders of the Keswick Convention, said in this connection: "What we are witnessing today is the Divine power working through the Church in its corporate capacity on those who are unsaved." He spoke of the great 1904 awakening. Why should not a similar outpouring of the Holy Spirit be ours today?—Holiness Mission Journal.